

concept on which the mandatory oil import program was established and determine whether the program as now amended and administered does threaten to impair the national security.

Specific guidelines to assure compliance with the program as it was intended could put the program back on the track to restore confidence and vigor to a vital but ailing industry.

H.R. 10696, my bill, and more than 40 similar bills now before the Ways and Means Committee would serve that purpose.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to appear.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Price, for bringing your views to the committee. I commend you for doing so. Any questions?

Mr. PRICE. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Our next witness is the Honorable Omar Burleson, also from Texas. Mr. Burleson, we appreciate having you with us today and you are recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. OMAR BURLESON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS**

Mr. BURLESON. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I express to you my appreciation for the opportunity of appearing before you. I shall be brief. On May 22, 1967, I introduced H.R. 10178, and later introduced H.R. 10705 on June 8, 1967.

This measure has to do with strengthening and closing loopholes in the foreign oil imports program.

Mr. Chairman, unless provision is made to prevent circumventions of the oil import program, at the heart of which is the national security provision, it will become meaningless. As a matter of fact, the import ratio of 12.2 percent to domestic production has already been circumvented to the point that the limitation is greatly exceeded.

Although the oil import program is a separate program from our General Trade Act, time being of the essence in this session of the Congress, it would seem advisable if the committee would see fit to make the proposal or proposals above referred to a part of legislation which you may produce out of these hearings.

As a matter of fact, it is my understanding that our colleague, a member of the committee, Mr. Herlong, will, in the near future, introduce a general bill which will bring the separate oil imports program, the separate textile import program and others under a single measure. I expect to join him in the introduction of such a measure.

Mr. Chairman, I ask your permission to have included in the record at this point a statement by the West Central Texas Oil & Gas Association.

Thank you for hearing me.

(The statement referred to follows:)

**STATEMENT OF D. L. McDONALD, PRESIDENT, WEST CENTRAL TEXAS
OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the 1,100-member West Central Texas Oil & Gas Association is very much concerned with the present status of the domestic petroleum industry, particularly the independent segment of this industry. This is an association made up *entirely* of independent oil men, with *no major company* participation, operating in a predominately independent oil province of west-central Texas.