

trends except to say that my district, as well as the entire State of Texas, is experiencing similar downward adverse trends in exploratory drilling, employment, and the addition of new reserves of oil.

The Department of the Interior over 2 years ago issued a report concluding that in the years ahead we must increase our discovery of new reserves by 50 percent over recent experience.

In contrast with the declining trends in the U.S. industry, I am advised that the industry in the Soviet Union is undergoing rapid growth, their production having quadrupled since 1955. Oil has become a principal weapon in their worldwide economic and political expansion.

These adverse trends in our domestic industry must be reversed if we are to regain a strong and viable petroleum-producing industry capable of contributing to improvement in the overall economic posture in this Nation.

I would like to highlight two most important factors—national defense and this Nation's international trade deficits.

The President in 1959, in establishing the mandatory oil import program, cited as the one and only reason for the program: "The certified requirements of our national security which make it necessary that we preserve to the greatest extent possible a vigorous, healthy petroleum industry in the United States." This pronouncement came after a comprehensive study by a special Cabinet Committee which concluded:

"It is clear that there is a direct relationship between the Nation's security and adequate and available sources of energy. Oil and gas account for two-thirds of all the energy that is consumed in this country. Furthermore, there are no adequate substitutes in sight for the foreseeable future. Therefore, we must have available adequate supplies of oil."

The decision to establish as a national policy the maintenance of a vigorous and healthy petroleum-producing industry was reached only after careful study. Three presidents have recognized the need to limit oil imports into the United States.

In viewing the world as we find it today it has always been a source of comfort to know that this Nation has had adequate oil reserves whenever needed. However, I am now deeply concerned. If the deteriorating conditions that have persisted for 10 years are permitted to continue, this industry will not be able to meet future emergencies.

I have grave doubt under existing trends whether this Nation could meet the challenges as it did in World War II when more than half of all the tonnage shipped from the United States to our military forces consisted of petroleum products. During World War II, America was called upon to fuel not only its own fighting machine but also the forces of its allies.

Now in Vietnam, oil comprises in the order of 70 to 75 percent of the tonnage required to prosecute this conflict.

Mr. Chairman, during the past 2 years frequent changes have been made in the mandatory oil import program for reasons other than national security, such as the stimulation of employment and economic conditions in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; to promote beautification and conservation; and to solve the air pollution problem. These are worthwhile objectives but the import program should not be used as a tool to solve them.