

The industry can, then, devote its energies to consider ways and means of strengthening the program instead of expending its efforts in combatting its deterioration.

Secondly and finally, if our industry is to remain free and healthy, it must operate within the limits of a program that provides constructive guidelines and incentives. Placing the program under statutory regulation is a solution, but I have not advocated legislation because it could introduce an undesirable degree of rigidity. In my judgment the best solution is a return to and a reinforcement of the program's original objectives and principles. This must be accomplished. If it will not or cannot be done by administrative actions, further legislative action is the only alternative.

SUMMARY

One thing is absolutely certain—the nation must have an effective oil import control program. Its purpose—national security—is as clear today as it was in the beginning. In a large way we find ourselves back at the same point in history that the nation faced in 1959. The program needs to be restored and “nailed down,” with a firm commitment to the sole purpose of the Program—national security. We have the nails, the shoes, the horses and if we work together this nation will not be lost for want of a horse.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Matsunaga, we appreciate having you with us and we are sorry to have held you so long.

You are recognized.

STATEMENT OF HON. SPARK M. MATSUNAGA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I appreciate this opportunity to appear before your committee. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I appear before you to express myself with respect to a bill which I have introduced and which has been referred to this committee, H.R. 12437, to exempt the State of Hawaii from the mandatory oil import program.

Mr. Stark Fox stated a few minutes ago that the program was designed for the security of all 50 States. We agree that it was so intended. It was for this reason that Hawaii raised no objections when the program was first instituted. However, the experience of the past 9 years has proven that Hawaii ought to be exempted—that it was a mistake to include Hawaii in the program, in the first place.

Congress has in many instances recognized the unique situation of Hawaii. Only recently, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, you will recall that the House passed a bill exempting Hawaii from the strict requirements of the Farmers Home Administration Act, which restricted loans to owners or prospective owners of land, and allowed loans to leasehold owners of land in Hawaii only.

There are many other instances where Hawaii, because of its insularity, its uniqueness in its geography, and its uniqueness in its heritage, has been recognized by the Congress to be deserving of exemption from general laws otherwise applicable to all 50 States.

I was somewhat amazed by the statement of Mr. Fox that had it not been for this program, Hawaii would not be the westernmost bastion of the United States but the easternmost bastion of Japan.

I will remind the gentleman that the mandatory oil import program came into existence with the issuance of Presidential Proclamation No. 3279 on March 10, 1959, long after the end of the war with Japan.