

on either a company aggrandizement basis or a local area aggrandizement basis.

Mr. BUSH. One of the references in one of the papers was to—I believe the word was—threats. I recall a couple of years ago I think it was where the Secretary, at least it was my impression, used the concept of increasing oil imports under his voluntary program in order to do something about domestic pricing.

Is that a realistic recollection on my part and, if so, has it happened again?

Mr. McCLURE. Congressman, you do recollect correctly. There have been definite instances, and one was a case in point where gasoline was moved from Puerto Rico to the west coast in the amount of 10,000 barrels a day and it was granted primarily on the basis of the Secretary using this to hopefully influence prices on the west coast.

Mr. BUSH. That hasn't happened again, has it?

Mr. McCLURE. They withdrew the 10,000 barrels from the west coast upon substantial complaints and then took the same 10,000 barrels a day and brought it into the east coast. It is this type of thing that is very distressing.

Mr. BUSH. I have two very brief questions.

You had a graph showing the decline in the number of rotary drilling rigs. This would mainly be small business, would it not, in terms of the way we think of large business?

Aren't mainly the rotary drilling rigs owned by independent operators so that we are talking about a loss of small business in this country?

Mr. McCLURE. The answer is yes to your question. Most of the contractors who operate rigs of this nature operate one, two, three, a maximum of five or six. There are several what we might call contractorwise slightly larger companies, but they are all in the small business category within the United States.

Mr. BUSH. I have one last question and that is related to the production in Pennsylvania.

One of the arguments you hear by people in the Congress is what we ought to do is shut in our existing production, use foreign crude; then if we get into a bind we can open the tap on our domestic production. We have saved all the reserves therefore and we have availed ourselves of lower prices because of the foreign crude.

Now, as a dramatic way of refuting this, is it appropriate to suggest that, if you shut in those wells in Pennsylvania, you just wouldn't get them back on except for tremendous expense and work or whatever is required to go back in those retired wells and get them producing again? Isn't that a fallacious argument?

Mr. McCLURE. Congressman Bush, I have been on a lot of those type of wells that you speak of. Mr. Jones is our expert from Pennsylvania who will respond to it. It isn't a case of going back and opening them up again. These wells, once they are shut down, are abandoned and forgotten. I had occasion to be in Pennsylvania recently. Some new techniques presently being applied to the Pennsylvania production indicate they may have a possibility of recovering as much as an additional 25 percent of the reservoir reserves that are in this Pennsylvania area.