

Had these wells been abandoned, or where leases have been prematurely abandoned, the expense of going back and redrilling and placing these on production is sufficiently onerous that the job isn't done and the oil is permanently left there.

I was raised under a stewardship concept that these resources are great God-given resources and that we do have responsibility to steward them, and to leave any amount of this reserve in the ground wantonly is just as bad as wasting it on the surface.

So that these wells don't remain in existence. It is almost like taking an ice cream cone on a hot summer day and walking 2 miles in the sunshine. When you get home, the ice cream is gone. It has melted in your hand if you haven't eaten it on the way home. This is what happened to the oil. It will be a rare occasion that they will go back in and redrill these reservoirs at excessive cost to get the oil.

Those who espouse it are the theoretical economists, and we don't think their concept is valid.

Mr. BUSH. Do you witnesses at the table all take the position on the exemption of this in-and-out oil from down in Brownsville, Tex.—this stuff where you can put it in bond, run it across the bridge, and bring it in? Are you unified in your position on that?

Mr. McCLURE. We have taken a position on that, and it is an exception, and we don't feel that those types of gimmicks that are developed for the specific purpose of evasion or avoidance of the mandatory import quota are in the best interests of the Nation, and our only purpose in testifying here today is not a question of whether our company or any company continues to exist, but whether this Nation has a strong base of petroleum resources.

Mr. BUSH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WATTS (presiding). Are there any further questions?

I want to ask one. I got here a little bit late. I am assuming you are not appearing here to do away with the import quota. You like that, but you don't like the exemptions to it.

Mr. McCLURE. As it is administered. This is our problem; yes, sir.

Mr. WATTS. But it would take legislation then to prescribe certain conditions under which exemptions could be granted. It is wide open now, isn't it? It must be, if your testimony is that they make exceptions every now and then.

Mr. McCLURE. The proclamations that have been signed by the President have given the Secretary of the Interior very, very broad powers under the mandatory oil import program, and we feel that the Secretary has not used good discretion in administering those proclamations which have been handed to him or in searching out some of those proclamations from the President.

Mr. WATTS. There is no way that this committee or Congress can deal with demand for discretion except eliminate it.

Mr. McCLURE. That is correct. We feel that we would like to receive from the Congress of the United States some direction in this regard.

Mr. WATTS. Have you proposed any directions?

Mr. McCLURE. We have indeed, sir. There are 46 bills now before the Congress that cover this particular item. There is also a Senate bill which we feel will give the kind of direction that is necessary for the industry to go ahead and do its job in the next decade.