

STATEMENT OF JOHN CABANISS, COUNSEL, UNITED AGRICULTURAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA MARKETING CO-OP, WACO, TEX.

Mr. CABANISS. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is John Cabaniss, Waco, Tex., attorney for the United Agricultural Transportation Association of America Marketing Co-op, of which Mr. Howard Mecom is the general manager. And if I may, I am appearing in his behalf. I will take about 2 minutes of the committee's time. We are trying to help on this. We are against the bill.

Mr. Brady, Mr. McCormick and a number have summed up some of the objections which we have and selfishly we would like to state this for the record, that the board of directors of our co-op has directed us to let the Interstate Commerce Commission inspect the records at any and all times, which they have done and which they have been doing since September 21, 1966 when we were incorporated.

Now, in aid of this committee's work we would like to present one thing. I knew of this as an attorney about Sunday, when I caught a plane. So I grabbed something out of my briefcase that has been of invaluable aid to me. I would like to mention the author's name because I think it is deserving.

He is a law student in Hastings Law School out in California. He is a young man. His name is Charles B. Wiggins. He wrote an article called "Non-Farm Backhauls for Non-Members of Agricultural Cooperatives: Impact of the Northwest Decision."

If you have ever done a little graduate work, in the paper that the professor called for he wants a good style paper and wants you to give a little background and go into historical interpretation of the particular topic you are on, you know how important it is to have someone who can sit down and lay out cold turkey for you. This young man does it.

Mr. FRIEDEL. Would you like to have it printed in the record?

Mr. CABANISS. I would like to, sir.

We thank you for your time.

(The documents referred to follow :)

STATEMENT OF HOWARD MECOM, GENERAL MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION OFFICE, UNITED AGRICULTURAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, MARKETING CO-OP, WACO, TEX.

Mr. Chairman, my name is Howard Mecom and I am the General Manager of the Transportation Office of United Agricultural Transportation Association of America, Marketing Co-op, Los Angeles office. We are a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Texas and are a non-profit cooperative.

Our co-operative consists of members who have banded together to market and transport farm commodities under Section 203(b)(5) and 203(b)(6) of the Interstate Commerce Act. We have, under present laws, transported members' products economically to the market places of the United States and are able to use non-member freight for return of the vehicle back to the point of origin. This method has proved economically sound and has helped keep the cost of farm commodities from drastically increasing.

I am here to state our opinions and views on Bill HR-6530 about which we are extremely alarmed and concerned. This bill, in its present form, will limit our trucks to haul only 15% non-member freight on the return haul, meaning that 85% of the return haul would have to be dead head. This, I am sure you can see, would be economically impossible to do without causing a tremendous increase in the cost of farm products and commodities.