

If that vessel had been broken up, its value would be nominal under the present law.

Mr. WRIGHT. Notwithstanding, it would be some help, would it not?

Mr. FINNEGAN. Yes, it would.

Mr. WRIGHT. It might be thoroughly adequate help in many cases?

Mr. FINNEGAN. That is right.

Mr. WRIGHT. It strikes me as something we might think about so long as we are concerning ourselves with this particular phase of the overall pollution problem.

PROPOSED APPLICATION OF OCS REVENUES TO OIL POLLUTION CONTROL

Now, certainly I believe that we must do everything within our power to strengthen the capacity of the Federal Government to clean up any such problems rapidly, to require the ship or vessel that is the cause of it to pay for it, the owner of that vessel, and otherwise to develop such research and other controllants as may be developed to improve our technology.

I understand the Government receives about a billion dollars a year in leases for offshore drilling. I wonder if it could be a feasible proposition to dedicate some portion of that money to this particular fight against pollution by oil from vessels and otherwise in the offshore areas?

Mr. FINNEGAN. Mr. Chairman, I think you are referring to the Outer Continental Shelf. I believe the United States does get under the leasing program revenues.

Mr. WRIGHT. That is right.

Mr. FINNEGAN. I might add, in a recent report by the Senate Interior Committee, the Department was asked to look into the possibility of dedicating these revenues, or a portion of them, for this purpose.

The bill that you have before you, both the Senate-passed bill and the companion, H.R. 15906, provides for the establishment of a fund, revolving fund, and for the payment of direct appropriations for this purpose.

If you use Outer Continental Shelf revenues, that would be a continuing source of revenues. You would probably be building up a large amount of money in the fund that couldn't be used for any other purpose and whether or not he would have oil spills often enough that would use this money might be questionable and we would hope that they would not occur on a rapid basis.

PROPOSED FEDERAL CONTROL OF OIL DISCHARGES FROM SHORE INSTALLATIONS

Mr. WRIGHT. There is one thing. The previous witness, Mr. Oeming, who is the executive secretary of the Michigan Water Resources Commission, made a statement which I expect you heard. This statement seems to reflect the feelings that we hear from most States. He says we do not agree with the expansion of Federal authority in one area of oil pollution control, that of shore installations. He said vessels engaged in interstate commerce should and must be under Federal authority and that is understandable. But control of oil pollution from