

I strongly support the administration approach to this problem and urge your expeditious action on it.

I think you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Mr. BLATNIK. Congressman, I want to commend you for a very concise, pertinent, and very informative statement, based on personal experience. It is obviously very intense personal interest and participation.

COSPONSORS OF H.R. 16559

I want the record to show that the Congressman, as he has mentioned, is author of H.R. 16559 and is joined by his colleagues, Mr. Boland, Mr. Bates, Mr. O'Neill, of Massachusetts, and Mr. Halpern, Mr. Halferman, Mr. Dulski, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Blackburn, so you have quite a team supporting the two amendments, which I think are very, very well taken, plus other aspects that you raised.

These and others will be given very detailed and full consideration in what we hope will be an effort to come out with sort of an omnibus bill, the financing section, the oil pollution aspects, the clean lakes program; we will hear testimony in just a minute on that by Mr. Henry and other very important areas of the comprehensive water pollution abatement program.

We learn more as we go along. We have learned a lot in these past 10 years, especially in recent years. We appreciate the special efforts which you have obviously made to prepare your statement to be with us here this morning and make your presentation.

Mr. KEITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would hope that you would not delay action on this particular bill until such time as you have completed the overall approach.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. HOWARD. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Howard.

Mr. HOWARD. I would just like to state that I certainly agree with Congressman Keith. I think that his testimony certainly is one of the most important that we have had and will have in discussing, considering, this bill. I know that the Congressman from Massachusetts is probably one of the foremost experts in the oil pollution field. I thought I would be active myself in attempting to track down this problem, but wherever I went I found that Congressman Keith and I were overlapping in our visits. In Cornwall I found his tracks on the beaches; he had been there before I had arrived. I believe that his interest and his area is very much the same as many of us who represent seashore areas.

I want to thank you for coming and making this statement and to assure you that when we get into Executive Session, your two amendments will have as strong a champion in the Executive Committee as I can make it.

Mr. KEITH. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, and I trust he agrees with me that this problem is divisible and should be broken into two parts and the oil pollution of the seas resolved more promptly, because of its relative simplicity.

Mr. HOWARD. I certainly agree.

Thank you.

(At this point Mr. Dorn assumed the chair.)