

In a way, I have made them public today in front of this committee.

Mr. BLATNIK. That is all I have, thank you.

Mr. WRIGHT. You mentioned the serious question with respect to certain countries. Does that include the United States, do you know?

Mr. SHEARER. Do you mean are they represented on IMCO? I do not understand you.

Yes, they are represented, but I am not quite sure whether I have your question in mind.

It has been pointed out to me, sir, that there are people from your own State Department on the IMCO committee.

Mr. WRIGHT. The question in your statement submitted on page 8, where you say it is the opinion of many countries that as the law presently stands there is grave doubt as to whether any government has the right to recover such costs.

To your knowledge, is that being held in legal circles in the United States?

Mr. SHEARER. I do not know the answer to that question immediately, but I can find out on the spot from my advisers.

I am advised by the lawyers who are here with me today, the position of the United States is much the same as in England; but it is grave doubt as to whether protective measures, such as were used by the British Government, the cost of bombing, et cetera, will ever be recovered.

Mr. WRIGHT. Thank you.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you very much.

Mr. SHEARER. I should also mention the two cases which I mentioned earlier, the French and British Governments.

In one case, the French Government performed the task without being asked, and we paid them immediately; in the other case, we particularly requested, first of all, the American Navy to try to help us, and then the British Navy, and then the Portuguese, and then the British Navy finally did the job.

Mr. WRIGHT (presiding). Mr. McCarthy, do you have any questions?

Mr. McCARTHY. Thank you.

Mr. Shearer, I found your statement very interesting. Actually, I read it this morning on the Associated Press wire. You would be interested to know that you topped one of five Americans, out of 200 million, who might be a President of the United States. Your statement was carried ahead of Governor Rockefeller.

SHOULD CONGRESS WAIT FOR INTERNATIONAL BODY TO ACT?

Do I understand you correctly to say that we should not do anything until next autumn? Is that when the IMCO report comes out?

Mr. SHEARER. I can understand, sir; your view that you want to do something as quickly as possible.

Mr. McCARTHY. I did not say that.

Mr. SHEARER. I am sorry if I misunderstood you. I think the view of other maritime countries would be to express the hope that in the same way that the British Government did not rush into legislation