

after the *Torrey Canyon*, that the U.S. Government might see their way to do nothing on this particular point until the organization, on which their own Government is represented, has made their recommendations; and it would be hoped that the recommendations that they would make would be acceptable to your Government and all other governments.

Mr. McCARTHY. We also have other responsibilities. I mean, I can see our State Department is represented on that committee, but we have the people of the United States to think about. Here we have this latest incident in Hawaii, the very day that we opened these hearings.

We asked Great Britain not to do anything about any panic legislation after the *Torrey Canyon* incident. Now we have this. You ask us to wait. Then we will have another incident, and we will ask somebody else to wait; and it seems to me somebody has to break this cycle. And to do so, we must have a pioneering effort in law to establish the principle, and I think most members of this committee accepted, before you sort of disillusioned us, that a government of a nation has a right to clean up a spill and to assess the cost on the person who is responsible.

We have had adequate legal opinion that preceded the introduction of these bills, that this is a sound principle and I do not see any reason for us waiting. I think eventually this country, and every other nation affected is going to come to this position just to protect themselves; and allied with this is the point that you make, that there should be a ceiling on the liability.

Well, the *Torrey Canyon* is just a rowboat compared to some of these huge ships that are being built, I understand, in Japan; so that if anything, it seems to me that the liability, the potential for damage is increasing rather than decreasing.

I do not see how this committee can just wait around until next autumn when we would get a report. I think we have waited long enough. We wanted to do something at the time of the *Torrey Canyon*, and people said wait, wait, and now you are saying to wait.

I think that someone ought to act, and this committee has a responsibility to 200 million Americans, and people do want action. They are criticizing us for waiting and waiting and waiting. They say, why don't we do something; and now you say don't do anything at all until autumn.

Mr. SHEARER. Mr. McCarthy, I do appreciate the result of this particular position now in Puerto Rico and the other one down in the Caribbean, and the latest one in Hawaii. There is tremendous pressure upon the U.S. administration to do something. There are two things which could be done in this respect.

Either the U.S. Government, via its representative on IMCO, could, as I see it, tell IMCO that unless something was done sooner than the autumn, you would act unilaterally, which might have an effect on them; and if it did not have an effect on them, I can see that you would wish to act.

The second point you raise is the question of the increasing liability on these enormous tankers.

Now, I think my colleague, Mr. Peter Miller, will explain to you that it is just because this liability is increasing that the world insurance market available for coverage is decreasing.