

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, I do not think that there would be anything that would be out of line, because I think that most of the trucking concerns realize their difficulties in operating equipment that is not safe, and they do not like to do it. I think that all of our organized trucking lines operate under license and franchise in our State and in interstate traffic do a pretty good job in regulating the size, the width, and the length, and have the proper insurance upon their vehicles. And their accident rates are very carefully developed.

Mr. ROBERTS. I thank the gentleman for his fine statement.

Mr. Cramer.

Mr. CRAMER. Just one question, Mr. Chairman. It is true is it not, that under present law, 1956 act, there is no limitation?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is right.

Mr. CRAMER. And there is no limitation proposed in the legislation before us?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is right.

Mr. CRAMER. And that means, of course, that it is within the State jurisdictions to determine what in their discretion the proper length limit should be, is that correct?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Mr. CRAMER. That is all.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you.

Mr. ROBERTS. Now it is our pleasure to hear from our distinguished colleague from Hawaii, Mr. Matsunaga.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT OF HON. SPARK M. MATSUNAGA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I thank you for this opportunity of appearing before you and expressing my views on legislation which would increase the weight and width limitations for vehicles using the Interstate Highway System.

Earlier this year I introduced a bill, H.R. 15191, which contained provisions for amending title 23 of the United States Code relating to motor vehicle weight and width limitations similar to the provisions of S. 2658 which is presently under consideration, having passed the Senate on April 4, 1968. I fully support S. 2658 even if it provides for an increase of vehicle weight and width limitations of a lesser extent than is contained in my bill.

A revision of the Federal size and weight limitations for motor vehicles using the Interstate System is long past overdue. These limitations were based upon standards proposed by the Association of State Highway Officials in the period 1944-46, and were already 10 years old when included in the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. Width limitations were included which dated back to 1932. These limitations on size and weight were prescribed for the purpose of protecting the Federal investment in the Interstate System.

These limitations were included as a temporary measure and the department of Commerce was directed to make a study and recommend changes by 1959. However, the report was not submitted by the Department until 1964. The limitations proposed by S. 2658 are similar to those recommended by the 1964 report.