

made by TVA or agreed upon as a result of condemnation proceedings are insufficient to compensate them adequately for their property. It is significant, however, that numerous letters have come from persons who have not been involved in any manner with acquisition of land by the TVA. These letters were prompted by a firm belief of the writers that jury trials are fundamental to the American judicial system and that it is inconsistent with this system to treat disputes over values of property in a different manner, even though these controversies involve an agency of the Federal Government.

I do not wish to imply that providing jury trials in itself will result in satisfactory and equitable settlement of every controversy over property values. The fact is, however, that trial by jury is the soundest and fairest manner so far devised for determining equity for all parties concerned. Certainly, citizens of this great country who own property in the Tennessee Valley should be accorded treatment in land value disputes which is the best American system has been able to establish.

The Senate already has enacted Senator Baker's bill, S. 1637, with an amendment which would provide for handling of such disputes under rule 71A of the Rules for Federal Procedure. Although application of rule 71A would permit a jury trial upon request of the landlord, the final decision as to whether such a request is granted would be made by the court.

The people in my district and those in the entire TVA area earnestly desire a guarantee of their right to jury trials as a means of reaching equitable settlement of property valuation disputes. In fairness to them and in keeping with the traditional operation of the American judicial system, I respectfully recommend that this subcommittee favorably report my bill, H.R. 11269. A trial by jury is needed in any case involving the condemnation of real property by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Mr. Chairman, Congressman Bill Brock, as the author of this measure, should have preceded me. I want to thank him for allowing me to be first, since I have a meeting in the Rules Committee and, if there are no questions, Mr. Chairman, and you will excuse me, I will go on to my next committee meeting.

Mr. JONES. Thank you for your fine statement. It is always good to have you back to visit with us.

The next witness is our colleague from Chattanooga, Bill Brock. Bill, as you recall, you were the first to introduce the bill on this subject; is that correct?

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM E. BROCK, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mr. BROCK. That is correct, Mr. Chairman, and thank you.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of this bill. I am delighted to appear before you and the distinguished members of the committee to urge favorable action on this legislation which would amend section 25 of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 to permit appeal, in TVA land condemnation proceedings, to a trial jury on the issue of just compensation.