

is impossible, in my judgment, to do that in the time we have, if all those who have requested time actually appear.

Over 700 people have asked to testify. The committee is going to make arrangements this afternoon and tomorrow to provide additional hearing space, but I hope everyone and every organization realizes the tremendous pressure this committee is under to recognize and hear as many people as possible.

The other thing I would like to say is this, and I think I can probably speak for Lloyd Meeds as well as myself: I am not going to follow the usual practice of asking questions and of recognizing and introducing distinguished people in the audience that would be customary at a congressional hearing. We just do not have time for that. This room is full of distinguished officials of the State and county level. Some of the most important organizations in our State are represented here, and I hope everyone will realize that we are not going to go through the very pleasant and customary practice of making an introduction for those who testify because of the shortness of time. We are going to ask fewer questions than we would otherwise ask because of the shortness of time, in order to allow everybody to be heard.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TAYLOR. Thank you, Congressman Foley.

Chairman ASPINALL. May I add my commendation to this young Member of Congress who received a great deal of training as a committee staff member and who serves so ably on our committee. I can advise the Congressman, at this time, that no final decision will be made on this legislation until a hearing is held on the eastern side of the mountains—the part of Washington which is affected by this legislation. It is very difficult to work these meetings into our schedule, but the committee should give the congressional district involved a chance, at least, to have some local hearings.

Mr. TAYLOR. Our next witness is Mr. Bert L. Cole, commissioner of public lands, State of Washington.

Chairman ASPINALL. I just wish to say this, Mr. Chairman, as Mr. Cole takes the witness podium, that he is one of the very fine, cooperative members of the Public Land Law Review Commission of which I am chairman. I am glad to have him as a witness. I wish to thank him for the wonderful work he is doing on the Advisory Council and also as the Governor's representative.

Mr. TAYLOR. I happen to be a member of that commission also and I support those statements.

You have 5 minutes, Mr. Cole.

As I call the witnesses, I am going to say "on deck." That just means you will be next. I hope when a person's name is called, he will come up to the front and take a front seat so that there will be no delay in getting to the witness stand. On deck is Representative Beck.

STATEMENT OF BERT L. COLE, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS, STATE OF WASHINGTON

Mr. COLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to make a very brief statement and then