

Mrs. MAY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TAYLOR. Thank you for a very forthright statement. Our colleague, Mr. Udall, has to go to a conference and I yield to him.

Mr. UDALL. Mrs. May, you are always charming and persuasive, and as one who has taken interest in this and followed it for months, I am glad to hear your current ideas and listen to you because I hope we can make a decision on it this year.

Mrs. MAY. We sincerely hope so.

Mr. UDALL. Is any of this area in your congressional district, and if so, how much?

Mrs. MAY. I cannot think of one acre, sir. I was in a nice objective position to represent the State and not get any of my colleagues in trouble.

Mr. UDALL. I understand this. I thought it was in Mr. Meeds' and Mr. Foley's district and I wanted to confirm it. We have several well-thought-out plans before us. We have the administration plan, which is close to what Mr. Meeds has offered, Mr. Pelly has offered a very ambitious proposal, the Senate bill, and you have a plan. Obviously we have to choose and maybe we will end up taking some of the best features of all of the different plans. I guess what I want to know is how much flexibility there is in your position. How far do we go from your plan before you might feel you would have to oppose the bill?

Mrs. MAY. That is a tough question, Mr. Udall. At this point, as you say, there are so many alternatives.

I have tried to encompass this. I am certainly not inflexible, naturally, because we are all together on wanting something done about this area, and that includes the Governor. So you would almost have to put the actual proposition before me and say how far have we deviated on what these diverse groups have agreed upon. I think I am representing the overall picture here, or trying to, and not just the opinion of Catherine May. I would try to represent their views.

Mr. UDALL. There was the Governor's posture and I recognize the difficulties he has and he made a strong case in Seattle on this bill. I asked him there, if we were to get down to the case where it is either something like the Senate bill or nothing, would it be so bad that the people of your State who studied it or you would feel that we have no bill and leave it alone or do you think we should go ahead although it is not what you, the Governor, is officially for. He said he hoped that circumstances would never arise but he would go ahead with something like the Senate bill.

Mrs. MAY. I have a recent assurance in the form of a phone call just a few minutes ago from the Governor going over the support of his plan and why, but he reiterated that he stays with the answer he gave to you, Mr. Udall, in the field hearings—if it came down to nothing at all, because we all feel strongly that something should be done here, and we all sincerely hope as he does this would not be that kind of a do or die choice.

Mr. UDALL. I don't want to suggest that I favor the Senate bill or I don't think it ought to be modified or another approach taken, but I hope the decision to be made will be in the next few days. I wanted to get your best advice on it.

I thank the chairman.