

the right to tax is the right to destroy. We do not need anything from Congress. But because we were pushed into a corner the Alaska Federation of Natives wrote a bill—I don't know what the House title is—the Senate title is S. 2020 and I would like to know from anybody what is wrong with that bill. That bill says that the Court of Claims shall decide what we have lost, and we will be paid for it. It will also decide what we still own. Concerning that there will be delineation of what that quantity is.

Gentlemen, that is the reason why the Governor of Alaska and others are against the bill, because they do not want our property line defined. I think I have said enough.

Thank you very much.

Mr. HALEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Paul.

The gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. ASPINALL. Mr. Chairman, I have heard Mr. Paul several times. I think this is the most elegant and succinct statement he ever made.

Mr. PAUL. I did better than that one time when I was told to give a 2-minute speech. It was the best speech I ever made.

Mr. HALEY. Short speeches are good speeches.

I have a letter signed by Frank W. Rogers, Western Oil & Gas Association, who asks that this be made a part of the record and without objection, it will be so ordered.

(The information follows:)

WESTERN OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D.C., July 11, 1968.

HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The attached statement expresses the views of the Western Oil & Gas Association with respect to H.R. 17129 and related bills dealing with the Alaska native claims problem.

It is submitted for your committee's consideration with the request that it be made part of the record of the hearings on this matter. Your consideration of this request will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK W. ROGERS,
Washington Representative.

STATEMENT OF THE WESTERN OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION

ALASKAN NATIVE CLAIMS LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the announcement of a hearing to be held on July 11 on the pending bills for settlement of the Alaskan native claims, at which only witnesses from Alaska will be heard, we submit this statement for the record.

We are interested in the pending legislation because various member companies of this Association have extensive interests and operations in Alaska under oil and gas leases issued by the United States and by the State of Alaska. We believe that the Alaskan native claims should be settled on a fair and equitable basis, and we favor the enactment of legislation to that end as soon as practical. Legislative resolution of these claims, and the lifting of the administrative land freeze imposed by the Department of the Interior, are clearly in the interest of all concerned—the natives, whose needs and moral claims should be equitably dealt with; the State of Alaska, whose revenues, land grants, and general economic development are being adversely affected; persons who have homestead, mineral, and other rights and interests under the public land laws and who have applied for such rights and interests, but are subjected to some uncertainties and delays because of the claims; and the public generally.

This statement is limited to matters in the legislation which particularly concern us and our members. We do not presume to speak on the many other matters covered by the pending bills on which we have no particular information or com-