1	EXECUTIVE SESSION
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3	SEPTEMBER 25, 1979
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5	United States Senate,
6	Committee on Finance,
7	Washington, D. C.
8	The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:20 a.m. in
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	Long, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.
11	Present: Senators Long, Talmadge, Ribicoff, Byrd, Gravel,
12	Bentsen, Matsunaga, Baucus, Boren, Bradley, Dole, Packwood,
	Roth, Danforth, Chafee, Heinz, Wallop, Durenberger.
14	The Chairman: The Committee will come to order, please.
15	The first order of business today will be the debt limit
16	bill.
17	Mr. Shapiro, suppose you tell us what the situation is
18	with the debt limit. It is still in the House right now, is
19	it not?
20	Mr. Shapiro: Yes, it is.
21	The present debt limit is at \$830 billion. That consists
22	of a permanent level of \$400 billion and a temporary limit of
23	\$430 billion, which includes the \$830 billion total. However,
24	the temporary limit expires on September 30, 1979. That
25	reverts it to the permanent level of \$400 billion.

- The House tried last week, in the bill reported to the
- <sup>2</sup> Ways and Means Committee to carry the debt ceiling through
- $^3$  1981, May 31, 1981, a \$99 billion increase on the House floor
- $^4$  that was reduced to a lower level, \$885 billion, through July
- $^{5}$  31st. However, the House Floor defeated that bill by 200 to
- 6 215. It was defeated.
- So the Ways and Means Committee had to go to Committee
- $^{8}$  yesterday and reported out a second debt-ceiling bill, this
- $^{9}$  one raising it by \$49 billiion, up to \$879 billion, so it is a
- $^{10}$  \$49 billion increase, taking the temporary level from \$430
- $^{11}$  billion to \$479 billion, and that would go to May 31, 1980.
- So what the Ways and Means Committee reported yesterday
- $^{13}$  was a \$49 billion increase, up to \$879 billion through May 31,
- 14 1980.
- The second item in the Ways and Means Committee bill is an
- 16 increase in the amount of the authority that the Treasury can
- 17 issue longterm bonds above the 4-1/4 percent ceiling interest
- 18 rate and that is by an additional \$10 billion.
- Presently, the Treasury has the authority to issue \$40
- 20 billion above that ceiling. These long-term bonds in the Ways
- 21 and Means Committee would give them an additional \$10 billion.
- 22 Originally the administration asked for \$15 billion additional
- 23 authority through September of 1980. However, when the Ways
- 24 and Means Committee reduced that date to May 31st, as I
- 25 understand it, the administration feels that the \$10 billion

- 1 is sufficient for its purposes through May 31st.
- The third item in the House bill is a major change in
- $^3$  House procedure in dealing with the debt process. As you
- 4 know, for the last several years, the House has had a
- <sup>5</sup> difficulty in passing debt-ceiling bills. Therefore, what
- <sup>6</sup> they are trying to do is not to have a vote on the debt
- $^{7}$  ceiling as such, but to have a process in which when the
- 8 Budget Resolution is dealt with, they vote on the Budget
- 9 Resolution, and it would be treated as a vote on the debt
- 10 ceiling.

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- This is a change in the House rules only, as I understand
- 12 it, it does not affect any procedures or practices in the
- 13 Senate. The only difference is that when the Senate deals
- 14 with the debt ceiling, you will be dealing with a Joint
- 15 Resolution rather than an H.R. bill number.
- The way the procedure would work, when the House deals
- 17 with the Budget Resolution and adopts it, it has the effect of
- 18 having passed the debt ceiling.
- 19 In the Budget Resolution, as you know, the increase in the
- $^{20}$  debt ceiling, if there is a deficit in the budget it would
- 21 increase the debt ceiling in the Budget Resolution. It would
- 22 instruct the enrolling clerk to put into a Joint Resolution
- 23 the amount of the debt ceiling and treat that as having passed
- 24 by the House by the same vote as the House-passed Budget
- 25 Resolution and send that to the Senate.

- That is a change in the House rule only. It is not a
- <sup>2</sup> change in the Senate rules.
- When that resolution comes to the Senate, it is dealt with
- $^4$  in the same legislative action that would be dealt with by an
- 5 H.R. bill that would come to the Finance Committee. You would
- 6 report out a bill; you would report out any amendments that
- 7 you would have. It would be debated on the Senate Floor. If
- 8 it is different than the House bill, you would have a
- 9 conference.

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- The House figure, that is. You would have a conference on
- 11 it. Ultimately the House may have to vote on it again, if you
- 12 have a conference, or a difference.
- The only change in this, the first time the House takes up
- 14 the debt ceiling it would not vote on the debt ceiling, as
- 15 such. It would vote on the debt ceiling in the Budget
- 16 Resolution.
- Once again, this is not a change in anything in the Senate
- 18 rules, but only in the House rules. I have discussed the
- 19 matter with the Senate Parliamentarian, because I wanted to be
- 20 sure it s clear. From his point of view, this does not affect
- 21 any prerogative of the Senate, or the Finance Committee.
- He has assured me that that is the case.
- There is one question, however. The House bill used the
- 24 word "enrollment" as well as "engrossment." He is concerned
- 25 about the world "enrollment" so the Senate Parliamentarian and

- 1 House Parliamentarian are discussing the issue right now,
- 2 whether the word "enrollment" may be taken out in the House,
- $^{3}$  or there will be legislative history in the House to make it
- 4 clear what the House means when they use the word
- 5 "enrollment."
- Other than that one issue, the Senate Parliamentarian has
- $^{7}$  indicated that he feels there is no change of anything in the
- 8 House proposal here that would affect the Senate.
- I think it might be appropriate to have that, possibly in
- 10 writing. I know that Senator Byrd has discussed this matter
- 11 with the Senate Parliamentarian, and it is his subcommittee
- 12 involved with the debt bill and I think Senator Byrd would
- 13 like to have something in writing to confirm what I understand
- 14 the Senate Parliamentarian has indicated to me orally, and to
- 15 Senator Byrd.

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- 16 The Chairman: How much time will we have to act on this
- $^{17}$  bill responsibly by the time it gets to us. This is far from
- 18 the course. It is the story of our lives here.
- I am not criticizing the Ways and Means Committee in this
- 20 respect. It is not their fault they have to take two or three
- 21 falls before they can get that debt limit bill through the
- 22 House.
- 23 How much time will we have to act responsibly before the
- 24 government starts paying the price for delay in passing this
- 25 debt limit bill?

- 1 Mr. Shapiro: The earliest that the bill would be passed
- $^2$  by the House is Wednesday. It may not be that it is not
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  m 3}$  passed until Thursday. It will not be dealt with on the House
- <sup>4</sup> Floor today. As we understand the schedule set, the earliest
- $^{5}$  possible time would be tomorrow.
- 6 That is not set yet. I am saying it could be tomorrow.
- 7 You could expect it either here Wednesday or Thursday.
- 8 The Chairman: All right, now. The debt limit expires
- 9 October 1, is that right?
- Mr. Shapiro: The debt limit expires September 30th, and
- 11 what the Treasury tells us is that they could possibly carry
- 12 through next Thursday. That is about October 4th. That is as
- 13 far as they go, without causing financial management problems.
- The Chairman: Treasury could hold out until October 4;
- 15 after that, they are in trouble.
- Mr. Shapiro: That is right.
- 17 The House has also a scheduled recess next week, as I
- 18 understand it. It is tentative depending on other legislative
- 19 acts that have not been passed. They do have a scheduled
- 20 recess starting at the end of this week.
- 21 Senator Packwood: On a tangentially related subject, if
- 22 they are taking a recess next week, what are they planning to
- 23 do with the Budget Resolution?
- 24 Mr. Shapiro: As I understand it, they would like to pass
- 25 the Budget Resolution next week. They intend to bring it

- 1 tomorrow.
- The Budget Resolution, the debt ceiling, the Panama Canal,
- $^3$  the legislative appropriations, the four bills the Speaker has
- 4 indicated must be passed before they have their recess.
- 5 Senator Packwood: Further, do they plan to take the
- <sup>6</sup> recess even if there is no budget conference that has reached
- $^{7}$  any kind of harmony and the budget will be put off for ten
- <sup>8</sup> days while they are gone?
- Mr. Shapiro: It may very well be that they will have
- 10 their recess. What they have done in the past, the conferees
- 11 have met even though the House has been in recess. I do not
- 12 know their present plans on that in regard to the budget,
- 13 however.

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- 14 The Chairman: Could we have a statement from the Treasury
- $^{15}$  about what is the potential cost if this thing is delayed for
- 16 a few days over there? Suppose you cannot get the bill
- 17 through by October 4th?
- Can you give us some ideas what problems and what the cost
- 19 of it would be to delay passing it further after that date?
- 20 Mr. Blum: Well, Mr. Chairman we would run into problems
- 21 that would be serious beginning with October 1, because we
- 22 have two securities that are maturing on September 30 in the
- 23 amount of \$5.3 million, which normally we would refinance on
- 24 October 1, September 30th being on a Sunday.
- We would be unable to do that.

- 2 three four-year note options scheduled for today and tomorrow
- $^3$  in order to refinance that debt coming October 1.
- We also will have to, beginning on October 1, suspend the
- <sup>5</sup> sales of United States savings bonds involving sending notices
- $^6$  to 40,000 different issuing agents, banks and others
- $^{7}$  throughout the country telling them they can never sell a
- $^{8}$  savings bond, because the debt limit has expired that will
- 9 have to have been beginning on October 1, Monday.
- The Chairman: For purposes of brevity, let me suggest
- 11 this.

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- 12 I would like to ask you to get us a letter from your boss,
- 13 Secretary of Treasury, Mr. Miller, signed by him stating his
- 14 view of the urgency of this matter and what the potential cost
- 15 is if this matter is delayed a day, three days, or a week, ten
- 16 days, two weeks, so that we can present it to the Senate and
- 17 the Senate can join this committee in trying to appreciate the
- 18 urgency of acting.
- 19 There is nothing new about the problem. We ought to have
- 20 a current statement from the Secretary of Treasury to explain
- 21 to the Committee, and to the Senate, what the problem is, as
- 22 he sees it.
- Now, my thought is we cannot really do much about the
- 24 House. They have their difficulties. They are going to do
- 25 the best they can, as the good Lord, in his light, will see

- 1 it. It is difficult to understand why they act as they do.
- $^2$  Maybe, if you served over there, you can understand it better.
- 3 I have only visited a few times.
- From the point of view of a Senator, it is hard to
- <sup>5</sup> understand how they do business over there.
- 6 Senator Dole: They have the same view of us.
- 7 The Chairman: In any event, this is something we cannot
- $^{8}$  act on until they send the bill to us because the time will be
- 9 so short when it gets here, when the bill, if we have the bill
- $^{10}$  go to the Committee, then we report out, we are then
- 11 confronted with that three-day layover rule and a single
- 12 person can object to waiving it.
- 13 It is in the interest of the nation that we decide what we
- 14 want to do about it at the earliest moment and we try to move
- 15 as expeditiously as possible, because that is the responsible
- 16 thing to do.
- I would like to suggest to the Senators that we stop the
- 18 bill at the desk as has been done on other occasions and we
- 19 will be meeting this week to talk about the other legislation,
- 20 but we can talk about debt limit whenever the bill is over
- 21 here. Then we will see what it is and we can propose any
- 22 suggestions that we want, reserving everyone his right to
- 23 offer his own version of the debt limit bill, or whatever
- 24 amendments he wants to.
- That will then maybe save a day or two in acting on this

- $^{1}$  bill and we will be acting under pressure as is often the cae  $^{2}$  on this type of bill.
- 3 How does that strike you, Senator Byrd?
- Senator Byrd: I think we would want to expedite this bill
- 5 as much as we reasonably can. I want to certainly work with
- 6 the Chairman in that regard.
- 7 Could we delay this momentarily while I confer briefly
- 8 with the Chairman and Senator Dole?
- The Chairman: Yes, sir.
- 10 (A brief recess was taken.)
- 11 The Chairman: I would suggest that Senator Byrd tell us
- 12 what he was telling me, and Senator Dole, so we know what he
- 13 had in mind.
- 14 Senator Byrd: There are two aspects of this, one that I
- 15 discussed a moment ago with the Chairman and the Ranking
- 16 Republican Member and the second one I will discuss later.
- The first one is many members of this committee,
- 18 particularly Senator Dole and the Senator from Virginia, have
- 19 considered offering as an amendment to this debt-increase
- 20 legislation the repeal of the carryover basis provision of the
- 21 estate tax law.

- That is something that has to be done. The existing
- 23 legislation providing for carryover basis in the tax law now
- 24 is unworkable. It cannot be administered, it cannot be
- 25 complied with, so it must be repealed.

- There has been a great deal of interest on the part of
- 2 many in presenting that proposal as an amendment to the debt
- $^3$  limit legislation. However, in talking to the Chairman and
- 4 others, Senator Dole and I are willing to withhold presenting
- 5 a carryover basis repeal amendment to this bill and instead
- 6 will offer it in committee as an amendment to the windfall
- 7 profits tax bill if that would meet with approval, as to
- 8 procedure, with the Chairman of the Committee.

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- The Chairman: Let me just explain this. Any Senator can
- <sup>10</sup> offer any amendment he wants to, any revenue amendment he
- 11 wants to certainly, to any tax bill that is in this committee.
- I would hope that the committee would limit itself to
- 13 germaneness in dealing with the windfall tax issue.
- 14 It has been well understood for months now that at some
- 15 point the Senator from Virginia, the Senator from Kansas or
- 16 both, are going to offer an amendment to repeal the carryover
- 17 basis rule, the carryforward basis rule. We have an agreement
- 18 out there on the Senate Floor when such a measure is proposed
- 19 that there will be a limitation of debate on both the bill and
- 20 the amendment so that the matter could be voted upon.
- Now, I would think that if this matter is offered on the
- 22 windfall bill, we should not insist on that unanimous consent
- 23 agreement because I think that some people might feel that
- 24 while it was agreed that there was no limit on what bill the
- 25 amendment could be offered to, some could say that we did not

- <sup>2</sup> feels that he was not there to protect his rights, or
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  m 3}$  something. I think that the amendment should simply be viewed
- 4 as any other committee amendment, if it is agreed to by the
- <sup>5</sup> Committee, and I suspect that it will be, and we could simply
- 6 let the Senate work its will.
- We may have to vote cloture anyway to pass this bill, if
- $^{8}$  that is the case, if the amendment is on that bill when it
- 9 emerges. Of course, it would be a part of what the Committee
- 10 would vote on when that occurred.
- I have tried to make it clear to people who discuss
- 12 matters with me that my impression was that the Senators from
- 13 Virginia and Kansas were planning to bring this issue to a
- 14 head in connection with the windfall profits tax. I hope that
- 15 no one will be taken by surprise. I have done what I could to
- 16 inform them that that is going to happen.
- Mr. Dole?

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- 18 Senator Dole: Well, I share the views expressed by both
- 19 Senators. I think that, for the record, it was our intent
- 20 about six months ago to offer this as a countervailing duty
- 21 measure. We were persuaded not to do that by the eloquence of
- 22 the then-Ambassador Strauss.
- We have not been pressing, or trying to frustrate,
- 24 legislation. We would not want to do that with the debt
- 25 ceiling.

- $^{2}$  discussions on the Floor last week in relation to the Budget
- $^3$  Resolution which might be subject to a point of order. So it
- 4 seems to me that we have a right to offer the amendment to the
- 5 windfall profits tax, a fair-sized horse to carry a small,
- <sup>6</sup> insignificant rider.
- 7 A repeal of the carryover basis, we could forego offering
- 8 it in lieu of the debt ceiling.
- 9 There are 240 House members, 30 Senators, that advocate
- $^{10}$  repeal, with some minor change in the amendment to take care
- 11 of the election question.

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- 12 I would certainly be willing, as Senator Byrd has
- 13 indicated, to offer it at an appropriate time when the
- 14 so-called windfall profits tax comes.
- 15 Senator Byrd: Mr. Chairman?
- 16 The Chairman: Yes, sir.
- 17 Senator Byrd: I think you raised a good point. If this
- 18 amendment is offered by Senator Dole and myself -- and we do
- 19 plan to offer it in Committee on the windfall profits tax bill
- 20 -- that it should not be used as a means of preventing Floor
- 21 debate on the windfall profits tax bill. That would not be
- 22 the purpose of it at all.
- I would join with the Chairman, and I am sure that Senator
- 24 Dole would, in changing the unanimous consent agreement that
- 25 now exists which puts the time limitation on the debate of

- 1 that particular bill on which this amendment might be
- $^2$  attached. I think that should be changed if -- and I hope the
- 3 Committee will put it on the windfall profits tax. I will
- 4 join with you in recommending that change.
- The purpose was not, as I recall, to put a limitation on
- <sup>6</sup> the bill itself but the agreement provided as a result of not
- 7 presenting the measure at that time, the agreement provided
- <sup>8</sup> that the repeal of the amendment repealing the carryover basis
- 9 would not be subject to a filibuster or to other amendments.
- 10 That was the purpose, not to put a limitation on the bill
- 11 itself.

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- The Chairman: We had better leave that unanimous consent
- 13 agreement stand until we can get an agreement in place.
- There is a problem involved here. Once the Budget
- 15 Resolution is passed, the way I construe it, there will be
- 16 precious few bills to which that carryforward basis, could be
- 17 offered. It would reduce the revenues and it would have to be
- 18 a bill that raises revenue and it would have to be offered in
- 19 committee.
- 20 So the Senators could be very easily shut out by the
- 21 Parliamentary situation plus the Budget Resolution if they are
- 22 not careful in protecting their rights. The last thing I want
- 23 to do is deny any Senator the right to offer his amendment and
- 24 have a vote on it.
- Then, with that undertanding, if there is no objection

- 1 from any member of the Committee, I will undertake to stop the
- $^{2}$  debt limit bill at the desk and I will ask the Committee what
- $^{3}$  it wants to do about the bill at the first meeting thereafter,
- 4 so we can talk about what amendments that the Senators might
- $^{5}$  want to offer and if the Committee wants to agree on a
- 6 Committee amendment, or a series of committee amendments, that
- 7 will be the Committee's privlege.
- 8 The only difference would be that we would simply save
- $^{9}$  some time by calling the bill up on the calendar.
- That being the case, we would not have a Committee report
- 11 as such, a printed Committee report. We would offer a
- 12 Committee amendment and an explanation in the record to
- 13 support the Committee amendment.
- 14 Senator Byrd: Mr. Chairman, I think the Committee
- 15 probably today ought to give a little more consideration at
- 16 this point to a fundamental change which is being proposed by
- 17 the so-called Gephardt amendment to the debt limit proposal.
- Mr. Shapiro has touched on that. Let me ask, if I may,
- 19 several questions, Mr. Chairman.

- In reading the sheet here that says, summary of Gephardt
- 21 proposal on new house debt limit procedure, the third
- 22 paragraph says, the enrolled Joint Resolution shall be signed
- 23 by the Speaker and sent to the Senate for final legislative
- 24 action. After a final passage by both Houses, the enrolled
- 25 Joint Resolution shall be submitted to the President for his

- <sup>1</sup> signature.
- Now, does that in any way involve the Budget Committee in
- $^{3}$  the process of dealing with the debt limit legislation in so
- 4 far as the Senate is concerned?
- Mr. Shapiro: Senator, what happens, you have an earlier
- $^{6}$  version of our summary. There is a new version that does not
- $^{7}$  have the word "enrolled" in it. The bill was changed since
- $^{8}$  the first summary came to take care of part of that problem.
- Therefore, we revised the summary, the new summary before
- 10 you. However, there is still a potential problem, even though
- 11 when it was introduced, again, to deal with the problem you
- 12 are touching upon, the Senator Parliamentarian still takes the
- 13 view that a technical and literal interpretation may give the
- 14 impression that when an enrolled bill comes from the House,
- 15 the Senate has no choice but to either agree with that bill or
- 16 not agree with it, but to not make changes.
- That was not the intent of the House. The House and
- 18 Senate Parliamentarians discussed the matter and there are one
- 19 or two course of action to clear up this question that was
- 20 raised by the Senate Parliamentarian that you are referring
- 21 to.

- One is to have legislative history on the House Floor that
- <sup>23</sup> clearly amplifies --
- 24 Senator Byrd: I think it should be in the legislation.
- 25 If the House does not intend to do that, why does not the

- Mr. Shapiro: I discussed that with the House
- $^{3}$  Parliamentarian yesterday. He is taking it under advisement.
- <sup>4</sup> He is talking to the Senate Parliamentarian.
- I have taken the position as a staff member in this regard
- 6 to let the Parliamentarians decide as to what the
- Parliamentary procedure is.
- 8 I have not done any more than understand their concern.
- Senator Talmadge: If the gentleman would yield at that
- $^{10}$  point, do I understand you to say that the bill would be
- 11 enrolled and the Senate can vote it up or down, but cannot
- 12 amend it?

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- Mr. Shapiro: That is a concern that the Senate
- 14 Parliamentarian has taken. The House indicates that is not
- 15 their view. They are sending over an engrossed bill and an
- 16 enrolled bill. The engrossed bill is what will be acted on.
- 17 The enrolled bill means that after the end, it would be
- 18 enrolled.
- 19 However, the concern that Senator Byrd is raising is a
- 20 question raised was raised by the Senate Parliamentarian and
- 21 one that the House Parliamentarian is reviewing.
- The last that I talked to him last night, he wanted to
- 23 take it under advisement during the evening.
- Senator Talmadge: If that is true, it would change
- 25 completely the Senate Finance Committee's procedure dealing

- 1 with the debt limit. We could not amend, we could only vote
- 2 up or down. There would be no conference committee to adjust
- Mr. Shapiro: You will actually get an engrossed bill. 3 differences, or anything else.
- 5 What they are saying, an engrossment that the language causes
- 6 the concern. It is one that is being discusssed right now,
- 7 Senator Byrd, and the point you are making, Senator Talmadge,
- 8 is appropriate. It is being discussed, as to how this
- The two Parliamentarians are going to deal with it either 9 language is interpreted.
- 11 by having the word "enrollment" taken out of this bill or
- 12 revise in the way it comes up, or have it clarified in the
- 13 language on the House Floor that the Senate Parliamentarian
- Senator Byrd: It seems to me that the Senate Finance 14 agrees in.
- 16 Committee would be very foolish to agree to any such proposal 17 as indiated here. We might as well do away with the Budget
- 18 Committee as invading the prerogatives of the Finance
- 19 Committee pretty much anyway. This would be another invasion,
- 20 not only another invasion by the House on the prerogatives and
- 21 the responsibilities, more than the prerogatives of the
- The Chairman: As I understand the matter, what the House 22 Finance Committee.
- 24 seeks to do here involves a change of their rules and they
- 25 have a right to do that independently without sending the bill

- 1 over to the Senate to do that, do they not?
- Mr. Shapiro: That is right, Mr. Chairman. The main
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  m 3}$  concern that Senator Byrd is bringing up, in the change in the
- 4 House rules, they have used the term that the enrolling clerk
- <sup>5</sup> of the House of Representatives shall prepare an engrossment
- <sup>6</sup> and an enrollment of a Joint Resolution. The word
- 7 "engrossment" is fine. That is the way the bills usually come
- 8 over. If that is all it said, it would cause no problem.
- The fact that it says "and an enrollment" gives the
- $^{10}$  impression that what the House sends over is an enrolled bill
- 11 as well as an engrossed bill, and then the Senate would not
- 12 have the right to make any changes. It could only agree to
- 13 the action that the House has done.
- That is clearly not the intent of the House, but read
- 15 literally, you can read that into it.
- The question the two Parliamentarians of both the Senate
- 17 and the House are discussing right now, since that is not the
- 18 intent and the Senate Parliamentarian has a real concern. The
- 19 House Parlimentarian feels it is not a major issue. The House
- 20 did not intend it, and it should not be reads that way.
- Notwithstanding that, the Senate Parliamentarian wants to
- 22 protect the Senate, and he feels he would like the word
- 23 "enrollment" either out, or clarified in the House, as to how
- 24 it changes the rules, and what it is intended to do. They
- 25 were going to discuss it this morning as to how they were

- 1 going to deal with it.
- I just do not have -- I am not sure whether they have
- $^{3}$  talked yet. I have not had the opportunity to talk to them to
- 4 see how they came out on it.
- The point, Senator Byrd is raising is one that has to be
- $^{6}$  taken care of, either specifically in the legislation or
- $^{7}$  through clarifying language that satisfies the Senate
- <sup>8</sup> Parliamentarian that it carries out what the Senate feels
- 9 would carry out its jurisdiction in all respects.
- Senator Byrd: It is one thing for the House to change its
- 11 rules, but another thing to see the Senate's rule.
- Mr. Shapiro: That is right.
- Senator Byrd: To hamstring the Senate.
- 14 The Chairman: I am not familiar -- I knew they were
- 15 trying to work out some procedure to make it easier to get a
- 16 debt limit bill over here. I do not know whether it is going
- 17 to do that or not.

- Right now, they have two bills, one they are having a
- 19 great difficulty passing. One is the Budget Resolutin; the
- 20 other is the debt limit.
- I do not see that it is going to make it any easier to
- 22 pass two very difficult bills to combine them all in one. It
- $^{23}$  seems to me, if you do not have the votes to pass either one
- 24 of them, for th life of me, I do not see where you will get
- 25 more votes to pass it if you put it in one package.

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- I can see Senator Byrd's position. The last thing I would
- $^{2}$  want to agree to is something that would deny this Committee,
- $^{3}$  or deny the Senate the right, to amend the House-passed bill.
- 4 Mr. Shapiro: The point is, the House is saying that is
- $^{5}$  not what it intends. The literal language of the words could
- 6 have that interpretation, although the House Parliamentarian
- 7 says it is stretching the interpretation.
- 8 He is looking at the House point of view, and the Senate
- 9 Parliamentarian is looking at it from the Senate point of
- 10 view.
- 11 Senator Byrd: If it is not their intent, why can they not
- 12 write it in the bill?
- Mr. Shapiro: That is being discussed. That issue came up
- 14 just yesterday. I discussed it with Congressman Gephardt. He
- 15 is willing to make any changes going through the Ways and
- 16 Means committee once the two Parliamentarians have worked it
- $^{17}$  out, and I have relayed the concern of this committee that I
- 18 gave last night.
- 19 It is my interpretation if the House does not change it,
- 20 the Senate will change it. If that is the case, we are
- 21 talking about House rules. The House should change its own
- 22 rules rather than having the Senate to do it to protect the
- 23 Senate in that regard.
- I anticipate that by the time the Finance Committee deals
- 25 with this issue when the House has passed it, this will be

- 1 clarified in the legislation.
- The Chairman: Well, I certainly hope so. Is there any
- <sup>3</sup> further discussion on that issue?
- Senator Byrd: Mr. Chairman, if the bill is kept at the
- <sup>5</sup> desk, could this be done? Agree to the Chairman's proposal to
- $^6$  hold the bill at the desk unless this issue is not adequately
- <sup>7</sup> taken care of prior to that time?
- I assume from what Bob says that it can be worked out, but
- <sup>9</sup> if it is not worked out, it seems to me we might want to have
- $^{10}$  it come to this committee so that we can deal with it more
- 11 appropriately.

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- The Chairman: Yes, that is fine.
- If some situation should arise that would require us to
- $^{14}$  discuss the bill further in Committee, I would be willing to
- 15 have it referred.
- I think we probably could be doing it without having it in
- $^{17}$  committee by offering the Committee amendment. We could
- 18 achieve exactly the same effect, the only difference is you
- 19 would not have a committee report lying out there printed on
- 20 the Senator's desk.
- With that exception, you could still have the committee
- 22 that Senator Byrd conducted and any additional hearings
- 23 someone may want to hold on that subject so we can get the
- 24 information and make it available ot the Senate.
- 25 If there is no objection, we will proceed on the basis of

- 1 stopping the bill with the proviso suggested by Senator Byrd
- 2 that, for some reason, he or other members, feels that
- 3 something has arisen or the way the thing has developed, it
- 4 requires that the bill be referred to the Committee and we
- $^{5}$  will reconsider that decision and do what the Committee wants
- <sup>6</sup> to do about it. All right.
- Now, I suggest that we proceed to discuss the crude oil
- 8 tax. Let me just suggest to Senator Packwood, because he is
- 9 interested and wants to vote on other matters that he
- 10 submitted to us previously that I would like to meet with the
- 11 Senator and discuss his amendments with him and also some of
- 12 the cost factors before we vote further on it, if it is all
- 13 right with the Senator. We will return to his amendment,
- 14 perhaps tomorrow morning, or perhaps after it is voted.
- 15 Senator Packwood: Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to
- 16 arrange a time to meet with you this afternoon. I have a
- 17 list of priorities even within the business credits, some
- $^{18}$  better than others. Cogeneration is as good as any single
- 19 credit involved.
- 20 On every one of these I realize that there is going to
- 21 have to be a reconciliation -- I have to use that word in
- 22 terms of the Budget Committee concept -- there is going to
- 23 have to be some consideration of how much money the crude oil
- 24 windfall profits tax will raise, and how much do the credits
- 25 and production subsidies cost.

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- I do not foresee we are going to have a tax as high as all
- $^2$  of the production credits and other credits. There is going
- $^{3}$  to have to be a reconciliation.
- I will meet with you. Some of the business ones I feel
- <sup>5</sup> more strongly about. I hope we can consider them tomorrow, or
- <sup>6</sup> no later than Thursday.
- 7 The Chairman: I would like to ask the Committee to
- <sup>8</sup> consider joining me in requesting that the Committee might
- 9 meet during the session of the Senate tomorrow and on
- 10 Thursday, hoping, if need be, we might make more progress and
- 11 expedite the consideration of this bill.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Chairman, the case tomorrow afternoon, you
- 13 have set a hearing on Senator Bradley's proposal. It is true
- 14 there is also a hearing that Senator Bentsen is going to be
- 15 chairing on the meat quota. Both hearings are for tomorrow
- 16 afternoon. Perhaps we could make it for Thursday afternoon.
- The Chairman: Let's talk about it Thursday, if we can.
- 18 Tomorrow would not be appropriate.
- 19 Senator Wallop: Mr. Chairman, I have no objection at all
- 20 to the process. Senator Bradley and I and Senator Matsunaga
- 21 both sit on the Energy Committee. That is meeting at the same
- 22 time and would like to be protected in matters of personal
- 23 interest during those afternoon sessions.
- I would not try in any way to delay it, but if attendance
- $^{25}$  is necessary in both cases, if it is understood we could come

- 1 back and make our own case.
- 2 The Chairman: Yes, sir.
- 3 Senator Dole; We can protect your interests in those two.
- The Chairman: We will try to protect everybody.
- The Committee has been very considerate of one another up 6 to now.
- 7 Last, we were on the subject of the tax and Senator Dole
- $^{8}$  had an amendment pending. He was in the process of offering
- $^{9}$  an amendment. I think I will recognize the Senator, if he
- 10 would like to offer his amendment.
- 11 Senator Dole: I cannot remember precisely when it was the
- 12 first day we met on the mark-up. We talked about the
- 13 exemption of newly-discovered oil and I have since discussed
- 14 this with Senator Bentsen and others who have an interest in
- 15 that, based on the agreement that Senator Packwood -- you sy
- 16 agreement, discussions he will have with Senator Long, because
- 17 in our regular morning meetings with Republicans we were under
- 18 the impression if we just finished the tax credits on the
- 19 business side, if the prime mover has no objection, then I
- 20 would like to return to my amendment on the exemption of
- 21 newly-discovered oil and I would also like to address the need
- 22 to change the definition.
- There are two options in changing definitions. The fact
- 24 that the original rationale for that exemption, it is pretty
- 25 hard to say. There is a windfall profits tax on something

- 1 that has not been discovered. The cost is not particularly
- $^2$  high and it does underscore the need and emphasize production.
- We have been addressing the conservation side through
- 4 credits and the production side through the Talmadge-Danforth
- $^{5}$  tax credit, but this would be the first effort to really
- $^{6}$  address the production side with reference to new production
- $^{7}$  and it would seem to me that it would be one of the first
- <sup>8</sup> signals that we would want to go forth from this committee
- $^{9}$  that we had acted favorably on that exemption.
- I discussed this morning with Senator Bentsen. I am
- 11 certain he has some additional comments.
- The Chairman: Senator Bentsen?
- Senator Bentsen: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
- <sup>14</sup> Actually, as the Senator said, we are talking about one of
- 15 those items that costs less than some of the other items,
- 16 substantially less. What we are trying to do is not put
- 17 any disincentives on the production of new oil, or the
- 18 finding of new oil in this country. We are trying to have
- 19 every incentive that we can.
- We should not be trying to deter it.
- 21 If you put the windfall profits tax on discovery of new
- 22 oil, that means you are just going to pass up that much of
- 23 those reservoirs that are small, that are not profitable to
- 24 that extent. It means that you will drill that fewer of deep
- 25 wells that have to be drilled to bring on production in this

- 1 country if we are going to bring about this balance of trade,
- <sup>2</sup> and try to take care of the further devaluation of the dollar.
- 3 I just left the chairing of the Joint Economic Committee
- 4 on the CPI which says now the dollar is further devalued and
- 5 inflation now is up at an annualized rate of 14 percent, 13
- 6 percent less now, 14 percent. That means that the dollar in
- 7 1969 was worth a dollar's worth and that the dollar is worth
- 8 45 cents now. In another ten years it will be worth a quarter
- 9 of that.
- Part of that is our balance of trade. It just does not
- 11 make any sense at all to discourage the finding of new oil in
- 12 this country.
- We ought to do everything we can to not impede it but to
- 14 try to assist it and to pass a windfall profits tax on oil
- 15 that has not yet been found.
- I frankly fail to see the logic in it and I very strongly
- 17 join in and cosponsor with my distinguished friend from Kansas
- 18 on this particular amendment of his.
- 19 The Chairman: Any discussion?
- Senator Chafee: I support the Senator's amendment. I
- 21 have a bill, 731, that does the same thing.
- Does he change the definition? What do you use for a
- 23 definition?
- 24 Senator Dole: I want to discuss that with staff. I think
- 25 there should be changes in the definition. There are a couple

- 1 of options.
- One would be to conform the definition of the pricing
- 3 regulations. It seems it ought to have different definitions.
- 4 That would simplify the bill.
- Another one would expand the definition, take the
- 6 definition used in the natural gas policy act for on-shore
- 7 production wells. That particular definition, as I understand
- <sup>8</sup> it, is the production-oriented definition, one that the
- 9 Senator from Wyoming is familiar with and has more knowledge
- 10 about that particular definition.
- Again, it is putting the emphasis on getting people to go
- 12 out and look for new production.
- And I would hope that we could broaden the definition in
- 14 one of those two ways.
- 15 Senator Wallop indicated a moment ago that he might have
- 16 some information on that.
- 17 Senator Wallop: Mr. Chairman, as the Senator from Kansas
- 18 said, the broadened definition that would include the
- 19 reopening definition. There is a very compelling argument to
- 20 be made for it, in terms of production.
- Again, I think that the cost of it, if we are going to
- 22 exempt it at all, is miniscule and the benefit of it is
- 23 enormous.

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- Mr. Shapiro: Mr. Chairman, we have distributed to each of
- 25 the Senators a series of outlines on the six categories of

1 oil. Category 3, newly-discovered oil.

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- The packet of information you have has the various points.
- 3 After each one is a table on the revenues that shows various
- 4 options you may have. The newly-discovered oil is

okay, as long as you had no production in '78.

- point number three in the materials that you have. It shows the definition that the House has on newly-discovered oil.
- First of all, let me start off by saying what the definition is under the regulations, under price decontrol.
- The definition is a very simple one that DOE has, a property in which there is no commercial production in 1978.

  Literally it means that if you had production in '77, it was
- The Ways and Means Committee was concerned about the

  potential problems. They were not sure of it. As a result of

  their concern they revised their definition, that is, the

  definition that is on your outline here, that says, "oil

  produced on a property that did not produce between 1969 and

  the end of 1978 except behind the piped oil."
- Senator Ribicoff: Would you please explain what you mean?

  Mr. Shapiro: Where you have a reservoir, if you penetrate

  that reservoir, you have had the well drilled through that

  reservoir, produce commercial quantities from oil that could

  have been produced in that reservoir that is behind the pipe.
- The pipe goes right through that reservoir to another reservoir. If you could have produced from the reservoir the

- 1 House says that would not be included as newly-discovered oil.
- 2 So the House essentially made two changes. One, instead
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  m 3}$  of saying what the administration did, that you get a
- <sup>4</sup> decontrol price on newly-discovered oil, as long as you had no
- <sup>5</sup> production in 1978, the House extended that to say no
- <sup>6</sup> production between '69 and '78.
- Second, the House said, even if you went through our
- 8 reservoir, and you could have produced from that, that is not
- 9 treated as newly-discovered oil because you went to another
- 10 reservoir.

- I should point out for simplicity purposes, having the
- $^{12}$  same definition for price control and the windfall profits tax
- 13 does share some of the concern you have and some of the
- 14 Senators are expressing their view on that.
- They would like to have the same definition for price
- 16 control purposes as for the windfall profits tax purposes.
- 17 Senator Dole: We are not talking about any great deal of
- 18 revenue there.
- 19 Mr. Shapiro: Our understanding is we are not. The House
- 20 made the changes because they were not sure if there were any
- 21 holdbacks, if you had productions in '77 and 1976 and you did
- 22 not do anything in '78. Therefore, newly-discovered oil on
- 23 which you really had some production earlier.
- There is no information. DOE did not have any information
- 25 during the Ways and Means mark-up as to whether that was a

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- 1 potential loophole of the definition. The Ways and Means
- <sup>2</sup> committee, when they looked at it, were trying to cover a
- $^{3}$  potential conserve, and therefore excluded from the definition
- 4 any property on which there was production between '69 and
- 5 178.
- Since the Ways and Means Committee acted, we have not been
- $^{7}$  made aware that there is any particular loophole there that
- <sup>8</sup> would have a significant amount of oil.
- I think DOE may want to respond as to whether they have
- $^{10}$  information they do not have. If that is the case, it may be
- $^{11}$  appropriate for simplicity that the Committee may want to do
- 12 what the Senators have been indicating, have the same
- 13 definition for both purposes.
- Maybe DOE wants to respond to whether or not there is any
- 15 additonal oil there that we have not been made aware of.
- The Chairman: Let us hear from the administration
- 17 spokesmen on that.
- Mr. Lubick, do you want to respond?
- 19 Mr. Lubick: I might say --- then I would like Mr. Smith to
- 20 get into some of the more technical aspects.
- 21 Basically our concern in the definition of
- 22 newly-discovered oil is to preserve a definition that gives
- 23 any special incentive to that which has not been discovered.
- 24 If we already know that the oil is there, that it is there to
- 25 be extracted, there is no need to give that special incentive.

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- 1 But one has to take into account the problems of
- $^{2}$  administration in this area, and our original definition was
- $^{3}$  somewhat more liberal than that included in the House bill.
- 4 On the other hand, we agree with the rationale of the House in
- <sup>5</sup> adopting the provision that it did in trying to confine that
- <sup>6</sup> which is newly discovered to preserve the incentive to that
- 7 which is not known to exist.
- I would like Mr. Smith to talk about some of the history of this.
- Mr. Smith: As has been pointed out, the administration,
- 11 in regard as to whether a property produced in the past,
- $^{12}$  proposing a simple cut-off date, if it did not produce in
- 13 1978, it would be eligible for newly-discovered oil. The
- 14 House Committee was obviously concerned that there might be
- $^{15}$  some properties that were arbitrarily shut down in 1978 that
- 16 were perfectly capable of producing, were known, and therefore
- 17 those should not be, by virtue of those having started up
- 18 again in 1979, eligible for an exemption -- I mean, for the
- 19 newly-discovered treatment.
- In my judgment, I do not think that there are a great
- 21 number of properties that were not producing in '78 and did
- 22 produce in '77.
- I think for the most part, once the property does go into
- 24 production, people tend to keep it in production. There may
- $^{25}$  have been a few that were abandoned in '77 and thus did not

- $^2$  but where there was an abandonment, it generally was for
- $^{3}$  econome grounds and one could argue that that could qualify it
- 4 as newly-discovered.
- 5 The Chairman: Is this not the case, Mr. Smith, if you are
- 6 producing -- assuming you have the ordinary situation where
- $^{7}$  someone gets the lease, is not drilling on his own property.
- <sup>8</sup> He gets a lease from the government if it is offshore; he gets
- $^{9}$  a lease from an individual for property onshore. He drills
- 10 and he produces.
- When he ceases to produce -- I see you nodding. You are
- 12 familiar with my point.
- When he ceases to produce, he loses his lease. He is out
- 14 of business.

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- Somebody might want to go in and take over and see if he
- 16 could get some more oil out of there. He might lease it to
- 17 somebody else.
- Generally speaking, it is not to a person's advantage to
- 19 cease to produce as long as there is oil down there in
- 20 commercial quantities because he loses his lease. That is a
- 21 typical situation.
- I think that is how it would be, 99 times out of 100. He
- 23 has got to produce as long as there is something down there of
- 24 commercial value that he can make a profit on.
- 25 Mr. Smith: That is correct, sir.

- To restate my position, I do not think there is a great
- <sup>2</sup> deal of revenue or oil, either way.
- 3 Senator Wallop: The reason it was put up in the Natural
- <sup>4</sup> Gas Act, the Long amendment that we are talkig about, was to
- $^{5}$  produce gas. The same can be said of this.
- As Mr. Smith suggests, I do not think we are running a
- $^{7}$  substantial risk for a variety of reasons that the Chairman
- $^{8}$  pointed out in terms of losing leases, and other things.
- The other complication is what happens if that oil is not
- 10 taxed as newly discovered or not treated as newly discovered?
- 11 What tax treatment would it get?
- 12 This would simplify the whole thing on the basis that we
- 13 are trying to get at.

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- Mr. Smith: My comments related to the 1978 or 1969
- 15 through 1978 nonproduction period to qualify for
- 16 newly-discovered oil. I have not spoken yet to the amendment
- 17 suggested by Senator Dole in relation to broadening the
- 18 definition of newly-discovered oil to include onshore
- 19 production oils as in the Natural Gas bill.
- 20 if I could just discuss the behind-the-pipe thing very
- 21 briefly, as Mr. Lubick pointed out, the rationale of the
- 22 House, that was derived from the Natural Gas Policy Act
- 23 history that the newly-discovered category should not go to
- 24 those reservoirs, or those areas, or at least that could have
- 25 been produced from an existing well, even though there may

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- 1 have been a delay in production because you want to produce
- <sup>2</sup> your lower reservoirs first.
- Again, I do not think that there is any evidence that
- 4 there is a great amount of oil involved either way behind the
- $^{5}$  pipe exclusion. I think it is more commonly a problem with
- $^{6}$  respect to gas than it is oil. It is oil that has been
- 7 discovered that, by definition, could have been commercially
- 8 produced through that particular well.
- That is the rationale that the House relied upon.
- The Chairman: Let me ask you this. If it is primarily a
- 11 problem with regard to gas that the issue has been decided in
- 12 favor of the producer where the big problem exists, that is,
- 13 with regard to gas.
- 14 If that is the case, would not logic compel that we
- 15 provide the same answer with regard to oil that we provide
- 16 with regard to gas?
- Mr. Smith: It has been decided, I guess adversely for the
- 18 producer, I guess, that the gas bill in the House bill
- 19 narrowed the definition of newly-discovered cil to exclude the
- 20 behind-the-pipe category.
- 21 Senator Dole: What about the provision in the Natural Gas
- 22 Act? If we are talking about production, why not the same
- 23 definition of newly-discovered oil as we have for
- 24 newly-discovered gas in the Natural Gas Act?
- 25 Mr. Smith: For the newly-discovered gas, that which gets

- $^2$  defined in its overall definitional impact than the proposals
- $^{3}$  that the House adopted. Newly-discovered gas basically has to
- <sup>4</sup> be a new reservoir under the gas bill, a newly-discovered
- $^{5}$  reservoir, whereas under the administration proposal in the
- $^{6}$  House bill, all it needs to be in the cae of oil is oil from
- $^{7}$  a property that has not produced, so it can be the same
- 8 reservoir.

- 9 Senator Dole: I am talking about the definition for
- $^{10}$  onshore production, definition of new onshore production oil
- 11 as is the purpose of this section, a new onshore production
- 12 well, any new well other than on the offshore continental
- 13 shelf begun after January 1, 1979.
- Mr. Smith: That is correct.
- 15 That is the definition of the new oil production category
- 16 that does not receive the new natural gas price under the
- 17 natural gas price act. It receives an intermediate price of
- 18 \$1.75 plus inflation.
- 19 Senator Wallop: It is a little bit apples and oranges.
- The Chairman: I would just as soon leave that out and
- 21 vote on it subsequently. That way there cannot be any
- $^{22}$  confusion as to what we think. I know how a person goes about
- 23 deciding whether to shut a well down, or an abandoned one.
- Senator Wallop: If there is money, you shut it down.
- The Chairman: If you have never been involved in it. I

- $^{1}$  can explain it to you. When somebody wants to go in there and
- <sup>2</sup> rework that well, let us assume there has been enough sand and
- $^3$  paraffin accumulating in the pipe so it is no longer
- 4 producing. You have to clean the thing out to make it
- 5 produce. So before you do that, if it is one of these
- $^6$  marginal wells, go out there and see what it will cost you to
- 7 rework that well.
- 8 Let's assume it costs \$5,000 to go in there and rework
- 9 that well and then you take a look and see how much oil you
- 10 have got out of it since the last time you have reworked it.
- $^{11}$  If all you have got out of it was \$4,000, you have lost \$1,000
- 12 by reworking the well last time.
- There is less oil down there now than there was then, so
- 14 that is a good time to abandon for some concrete in the bottom
- 15 of the hole and forget about it. You are losing money on it.
- As I understand it, is this not true. Even under the
- 17 House-passed bill where you have an old abandoned ffeld, they
- 18 would get the deregulated price?
- Mr. Shapiro: Senator, the way that works, under the price
- 20 contol, as long as there was no production in 1978, they would
- 21 get a deregulated price under the definition of the windfall
- 22 profits tax. If they have production in 1969, 1978, even if
- 23 it is abandoned today, as long as they have production between
- 24 '69 and '78, they would be subject to the windfall profits
- 25 tax.

- One of the problems that we have here is we are talking
- <sup>2</sup> about a number of different things that it may be helpful if
- $^{3}$  we at least isolated them, talking about them individually, or
- 4 understanding them. The original point, the definition of the
- <sup>5</sup> decontrol price, you have no production in 1978. That means
- 6 that would include behind-the-pipe oil but would not include
- 7 new wells on existing reservoirs.
- That is where the problem is, where we start talking about
- 9 gas. That is the definition of decontrol price.
- The Ways and Means Committee has changed that definition
- 11 for the windfall profits tax. They have made two changes. In
- 12 addition to not having in 1978, what the Ways and Means
- 13 Committee has done and what the House Floor has done, you have
- 14 no production between 1969 and 1978.
- In addition, they say the windfall profits tax does apply
- 16 if you have behind-the-pipe oil. One of the suggestions is if
- 17 you conform to the definition for decontrol price, go to the
- 18 original administration proposal that says that you have no
- 19 production in 1978, even if you had it between '69 and '78,
- 20 even if you had behind-the-pipe oil.
- 21 Going back to the original administration proposal, we do
- 22 not think there is much of a revenue effect or a change or
- 23 anything and you would have simplicity by having the same
- $^{24}$  definition for both the decontrol purposes and the windfall
- 25 profits purposes.

- Senator Dole: Stop there.
- 3 Senator Bentsen: I think Bobby has given us the proper
- <sup>4</sup> approach to it. I frankly would like to support the original
- 5 administration proposal. It is one on decontrol and one that
- 6 they proposed on the windfall profits tax. That would mean
- 7 you are talking about 1978.
- 8 They have owned the property. No oil was produced in
- $^{9}$  1978. That becomes new oil in addition to that
- 10 behind-the-pipe that always gets into a controversial subject,
- 11 that behind-the-pipe oil remains as new oil in that kind of
- 12 situation as long as it was not produced in 1978.
- Mr. Shapiro: That is correct.
- 14 Senator Wallop: It would certainly relieve enormous
- 15 administrative complications.
- 16 Senator Bentsen: As Bobby says, there is not much
- 17 difference in revenues.
- Mr. Shapiro: Very little.
- 19 Senator Bentsen: Virtually none, you would say?
- 20 Mr. Shapiro: We have no estimate, but it is our feeling
- 21 there is there is very little.
- 22 Senator Bentsen: That is a lot cleaner approach, a lot
- 23 simpler.

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- 24 The Chairman: If that is the case, you should change the
- 25 definition, talking about newly-produced oil, not talking

- 1 about you had some situations where you knew the oil is there,
- <sup>2</sup> but you were not getting it.

- 3 Let me give you an illustration that you have here.
- When you drill down to find oil, let's assume that you
- <sup>5</sup> start out. Most people know what they are trying to find.
- $^{6}$  They either have a name for the sand, and a name for the sand
- $^{7}$  they hope to produce. It is usually named after the area
- 8 where they first discovered the petrochemicals in that sand.
- For example, the Tuscaloosa sand must have been discovered
- 10 somewhere around Tuscaloosa Alabama. That is where they first
- 11 discovered that particular formation, because they usually
- 12 name it after the location where they were when they
- 13 discovered it. In Louisiana, we talk about the Cotton Valley
- 14 sand. The discovered it in Cotton Valley. They drilled down
- 15 whatever depth, 6,000, 7,000 feet and found a producing field.
- 16 So they called that the Cotton Valley sand. That is a
- 17 structure in that particular level that happened back in that
- 18 eon of time in the formation of earth.
- 19 If you are drilling down in the Cotton Valley Sand, you
- $^{20}$  think that is where you can make some money. On the way down
- 21 there, you might find two or three other little things that
- 22 will produce something. Maybe you have a foot of paydirt at
- 23 3,000 feet and you have three feet further down and you get on
- 24 down. You have 20 feet down in the Cotton Valley.
- What you tend to do is to put your pipe down, shoot the

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- 1 holes in it where you've got the big pay, the Cotton Valley,
- 2 but you have some other gas or oil at a shallower depth.
- You can do a completer well. Your outside pipe is called
- 4 the casing. You can put the casing down, produce in the
- 5 casing, inside it, and shut off what is below it and you can
- 6 produce from the tubing at one level and from the casing at
- 7 another. I have never heard of a well being a 8 triple-produced, or triple-complete, even though conceivably
- The way you could pretty well anticipate, if somebody 9 it might.
- 11 knows that they have the potential of producing at a different
- 12 level, ordinarily the level that he is shut off and not
- 13 producing from, does not have much. It is the one he is
- 14 producing, the one that has it will pay the best.
- What he has got there, he is in a position to wait you
- 16 out. He can hold his lease by producing from where he is
- 17 right now and the probability is he will just sit there and
- 18 just wait you out with this oil that they call behind-the-pipe
- 19 oil, producing it from two different levels. He could produce
- 20 from a third level. He will just sit there and wait you out
- 21 on that one because usually it is a marginal well at best.
- 22 The hell with it. He will just let it sit there.
- Senator Wallop: Mr. Chairman, there is one additional
- 24 thing, too. A lot of properties in Wyoming, other exploration
- 25 has demonstrated deeper structures that people did not know

- 1 existed on the same property. That is one of the reasons why
- $^2$  the House definition is totally inappropriate on that
- <sup>3</sup> instance. Even though you had production there, you would not
- 4 be able to get newly-discovered treatment for something that
- 5 was deeper, other exploration had discovered for you, even
- 6 though it was on the same property.
- Senator Dole: It seems to me the least we can do is to
- $^{8}$  conform the definition to the pricing definition, the same
- <sup>9</sup> thing Lloyd just suggested. We are still waiting on revenue
- 10 definitions.
- If we broaden new producer, no additional costs, we are
- 12 talking about conformity. I am hoping we could pass the
- 13 newly-produced oil with that change in definition.
- I would make that motion, unless there is further
- 15 discussion.
- 16 Senator Bentsen: I second.
- Mr. Lubick: Mr. Chairman, if I might speak briefly, to
- 18 give the administration's position on the amendment and why we
- 19 are opposed to a general exemption for newly-discovered oil.
- There is, we submit, an element of windfall to the extent
- 21 that future rises in prices and the world price of oil which
- 22 are fixed not by the operation of a free market, but by the
- 23 foreign cartel, may provide very substantial amounts of wealth
- 24 to producers beyond the incentive that the price itself gives
- 25 to exploration and the fundamental case is that we have a

- 1 situation here where you have rapidly escalating prices in
- $^{2}$  many cases without the operation of a free market to the
- $^{3}$  extent that we have a base price adjusted for inflation.
- 4 Indeed, in the House bill, adjusted for two percentage points
- 5 beyond the rate of inflation.
- 6 That provides an adequate incentive and the differentials
- 7 beyond that price ought to be subject to some windfall profits
- 8 tax in order that those funds may be used for the development
- 9 of these very important additional sources of energy that are
- 10 needed to achieve our energy security goals.
- I think that is basically the case in a nutshell as to why
- 12 we are opposed to Senator Dole's amendment.
- The Chairman: Let me ask Mr. Smith over there from DOE a
- 14 question.
- 15 Senator Nelson sat there earlier in these meetings and
- 16 said that the companies are doing more drilling and finding
- 17 less oil. Can you explain why that is?
- Mr. Smith: I think there are two reasons. One is the
- 19 quality of the resource base is declining, consequently you
- 20 have to drill more footage to find a given amount of oil.

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This has caused people to pick up marginal prospects more than they would before, and they find fewer reserves per foot drilled.

The longterm trend certainly is you are going to overrun

the quality of the resource base for the quality of activity,

the amount of drilling for a given amount of oil. It is going

to have to continually increase over time.

The Chairman: I think that you are totally in error, for this reason. Let me tell you why I think it is, and I think that what I am going to say makes more logical sense than what you said.

Here is what I think it is.

Most of your production in America is on salt dome

structures. The best place to look for more oil or gas is by

drilling deeper on the same structure where you are already.

If you have a lease, you can hold that lease, I do not care

whether it is a Federal government lease, you can sit there

and hold that lease as long as you are producing on that lease

in commercial quantities.

You do not have to drill deeper to hold it. As long as we are playing this Catch-22 game, you start out when the Arabs put their boycott on. You said it would be an outrage that these people would get the price the Arabs are going to get for their oil. All the old oil was held at the old price, discounted for inflation.

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In 1973 dollars, they are getting \$3.18 because that is
what they are getting then for that old oil, the production at
the time.

You said for the new oil, we will let you get the price
that is pretty much in line with what the energy would cost
to buy from the Arabs at this moment. Then later on, when the
Arabs raised the price some more and OPEC raised their price,
too bad, you are out. We will not let you have what you made
at that point.

Then you come along and say, we will let you have a price.

We will put another tier into it, put the price at what the

oil is now. If it goes up, you cannot get that.

As long as you are playing that kind of Catch-22 game with
them, if anybody has much choice about it and they have a
producing field, they have a lot of incentive just to sit on
it and just produce where it is and not to drill any deeper to
find any more, just to wait you out.

You people will not be there forever. Some day, people who will want to provide some incentive to produce more energy, at that point they will get a better price.

Now, our staff has pointed out to me, well, after all, if
you give this price that we are talking about giving, which is
a more attractive price than the old price, most people ought
to take that incentive and go ahead and produce more.

That is not the way the average producer, certainly the

- average independent, is going to look at it. As far as he is
  concerned, when he finds that new oil under the way you want
  to do business, that oil has been condemned. It is going to
  be held to the price that they were selling for when he found
- it. The longer he delays finding it, the better price he will receive.
- So you have a built-in incentive for the fellow to avoid

  \$ \$10 billion of Federal regulation that we spend over in the

  Department of Energy just not to drill from the new oil. He

  is in the business, but he does not get himself condemned when

  he drills some offset wells to produce in the pool that
- As long as you have this thing, it will be this way. He has a duty under that lease to drill offsets.

is already subject to the regulations.

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- His incentive is not there to drill down and find
  additional production. Most of these major companies are
  going to go ahead to find new oil anyway. They have to keep
  trying to find new production. They have to put it through
  their refineries. When a major oil company runs out of oil,
  it is out of business.
- As far as most of these independents, and they have been
  finding about 70 percent of the oil, maybe more -- Bob Dole
  says it is more. Let's assume it is 70 percent. If they are
  finding 70 percent of the new discoveries, you have a

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Senator Bentsen: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your
argument. You know the logic of what is happening here, of
what the administration is proposing really escapes me. It
seems to me that a barrel of oil whether it comes out of coal
or whether they do it out of grain or whatever, they dig it
out of the ground, bring it out of the ground. It has the
same value to this country in helping us in our balance of
trade.

What have we been doing here? We have been giving tax

subsidies day after day to try to develop oil shale, to bring

on coal. I am all for that. I am supportive of that.

1 Then to turn right around and say, we are going to put a 2 tax penalty if you go out and find the real thing, new oil, and bring that on, I do not understand that. It does not make sense to me. 5 I think that we should not impede it, not ask them for a tax subsidy, not impede it by putting an additional tax on. 7 You know, the administration convinced me the first time 8 around when they talked about the definition of new oil and 9 they did it by deregulation and they talked about any 10 production on a field that has not produced since 1978. 11 convinced then and I am convinced now of what they said then 12 and I really believe that this inconsistency in switching the 13 position is a mistake on their part. I think we ought to go 14 ahead and accept the original, what the original definition 15 was on deregulation for new oil. 16 Senator Ribicoff: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Mr. Shapiro 17 or the administration would have any counterargument to 18 Senator Long, or Senator Bentsen's, point of view? 19 We certainly do not disagree that the price Mr. Smith: 20 that the independent producer otherwise sees is what motivates 21 him to go out and get more oil. Unlike the price system that 22 prevailed in the past, we are not proposing to freeze the 23 producer at a given level of price in relation to the price 24 that he finds the oil. We are simply proposing a tax that 25 shares a portion of the increase in revenues derived from

- future world oil price increases with the United States
  government and ultimately with the U.S. taxpayer.
- We believe that the incentive reduction, if you want to put it that way, which results in this tax is modest,
- acceptable, and we believe that the cost of totally exempting newly-discovered oil, as opposed to the treatment that was given it in the House bill is far greater than the benefits that would be gained in the short run.
- Furthermore, the oil is not going to disappear. It will be produced in due course as the tax price continues to rise under the terms of the House bill.
- So we believe that total exemption of newly-discovered oil is not warranted at this time.
- The Chairman: Well, we have got the figures. If a person is in a 70 percent tax bracket and he is not doing more drilling, this tax works out to be a 90 percent tax, if you put this tax on top of the other tax, which is the way it works out.
- If he takes everything that he makes and puts that back in the ground and continues drilling -- do you have that figure?

  That was the letter that Mr. Lubick agreed with Mr. Cowan on to show how much a person would have left if he puts it all back in.
- Mr. Shapiro: Looking at the tables prepared by the
  Chamber of Commerce and submitted to the Committee, the

- ' Treasury Department reviewed the figures and agreed with them
- that for every hundred dollars in the case of new oil where
- you have a 50 percent windfall profits tax, the individual
- 4 producer would keep \$17 out of the \$100 and would have to pay.
- between Federal and state taxes, approximately \$83 and keep
- \$17, assuming they re-invest it all.
- If they do not reinvest it, they get to keep \$11 and pay
- approximatly \$89.

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- The Chairman: Senator Gravel?
- Senator Gravel: Mr. Chairman, I am struck by something
- the administration stated. This proposal is a device to share
- the revenue. If it is a question of sharing the revenue,
- there is no cognizance taken of what it costs to produce the
- 14 item that then produces the revenue because there is an
- asumption that revenue is profit. Of course, revenue is not
- 16 profit. It is inside of that.
- To focus merely on the revenue aspects of it, we forget
- the balance of the economics involved in the search for oil.
- The next statement that was made, the oil is going to be
- produced anyway. There is no given that the oil, because it
- is there, is going to be produced. It is only going to be
- produced if somebody can make a profit on it.
- If you do not make a profit on the oil, it is not going to
- stay there and you can go into solar and start squeezing rocks
- and get some oil from that, but the oil that nature put there

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that could be placed at our disposal is not going to be touched, becaues there is not going to be a profit.

I would hope that this discussion, Mr. Chairman, could focus a little bit on two points: one is how much oil will this exemption produce? It is not a mathematical exercise that we are undergoing there. We are undergoing the exercise to find more energy.

So if the release of new oil from taxation, the fundamental question should be asked, how much new energy — if this amendment, as put forth by Mr. Dole and Mr. Bentsen — how much is going to be produced. That is the question we want to have answered, not make an exercise in some mathematical computation, that will keep the bureaucracy of this nation busy for the next decade.

The next question that that would lead us to is something that Senator Baucus has repeatedly stated. Is this the best way to get that unit of energy or are there cheaper ways?

The market tells us that there are no cheaper ways, but maybe we, in government, can find a cheaper way with credits and gassification and a whole bunch of other things. Maybe there are.

I would like to see us focus on those two points. How
much oil is this going to produce? Two, is this the cheapest
way to get that unit of oil or unit of energy to the American
consumer?

- Senator Boren: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
- 3 Looking over the figures of the Joint Committee, I would
- 4 like to ask if I have this own correctly. I think they are
- operating on DOE figures.
- It was assumed without decontrol -- this was in the
- original justification for decontrol -- we would have
- 8 something like 2.8 million barrels a day of newly discovered
- production in 1990. That was approximately the figure,
- without decontrol?
- Mr. Shapiro: Approximately.
- Senator Boren: With decontrol, and arguing for decontrol,
- something in the neighborhood of 4.1 million barrels, 4.2,
- something like that, by 1990.
- Mr. Shapiro: Yes.
- Senator Boren: We are assuming decontrol would produce
- significant production of newly discovered oil in the supply
- elasticity of 1.5, is that correct? You would have to take
- the difference between the 2.8 and the 4.1 and you would have
- to take that as the production brought on by decontrol?
- Mr. Shapiro: That is correct. Those are approximately
- 22 the same estimates we use in terms of revenue estimating as
- 23 well.

- Senator Boren: Based upon DOE estimates?
- Mr. Shapiro: That is right.

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1 Senator Boren: So what we are hearing here is it seems to 2 me we are showing when the administration argued for decontrol, they argued that there was a very high elasticity here in terms of supply response which would have come from decontroling newly discovered oil. If that is true, surely there must be a high supply elasticity response in terms of exempting it from the tax. You cannot have it both ways. If this is one of the most promising supply responses because of decontrol, we cannot say, as we try to do with natural gas, 10 you have a supply response until you have \$1.75, then you have 11 no more. 12

Obviously, the administration has made the argument itself. It is a little confusing to me.

14 They use it as an argument for decontrol, if we get a marvelous supply response here in terms of decontrol, in terms to response of price for newly discovered, but if you exempt it from a tax of 50 percent you will not get a supply elasticity. It cannot be both ways.

19 What we are dealing with here is an area that will get us 20 a supply response, get the country the energy that it needs at a cost after one-third, probably what the synthetic cost would I would urge the Committee to think about that and see that the argument was being made both ways, and going back to what was said earlier, I fail to see how we can have an inventory profit -- that is what the excess profits was

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- based upon -- when something has not been produced yet. certainly for it and I would be added as a cosponsor.
- Senator Ribicoff: What I am curious about, that neither the proponents of the Dole amendment or Mr. Shapiro or our 5 experts have said how much new oil would there be if you give 6
- 7 I would like to hear any figures.

this additional incentive?

- 8 Senator Dole: 380,000 barrels by 1985. That is much 9 higher than the administration's estimate. That is one 10 estimate.
- 11 They keep that very low, obviously, because they do not 12 want production.
- 13 Mr. Smith: As I indicated when I addressed this issue 14 several weeks ago before this committee, the key questions you 15 have to ask are what kind of tax base price are you assuming? 16 What kind of world oil price are you assuming? Because those both obvoiusly affects what the producer can recover and 18 affects the enthusiasm by which he goes after new projects.

But again, if we take the Joint Tax Committee staff

assumptions as to world oil prices which is a 1 percent real 21 oil price increase each year, the difference in projected 22 production between that with or without a tax compared with the House bill in 1985 would be 150,000 barrels a day, if you take a 2.4 percent real price increase as you assume the world oil price is the difference between the House bill and no tax

- would be 210,000 barrels per day.
- If you assume a high rate, 4 percent real growth, and
- assume further the producer can foresee and rely upon that,
- you would expect 250,000 barrels a day as a projected
- 5 production response in 1985.

- 6 Senator Ribicoff: What is the amount in 1985? What would
- 7 that bring in in dollars?
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  Mr. Smith: 150,000 barrels a day in the 1 percent case.
- 9 Senator Ribicoff: Is there anybody that really thinks
- that that is all oil is going to go up, 1 percent a year?
- Mr. Smith: That is the assumption the committee has made.
- Senator Ribicoff: I do not know where that assumption is.
- Mr. Smith: 1 percent below inflation.
- Senator Ribicoff: Is that all?
- Mr. We,tzler. Senator Ribicoff, it may be helpful to discuss
- how DOE's model works. They do not take into account Senator
- Long's point. They just look at the price received for the
- oil, subtract the tax, and look at the tax as a price change.
- They are not taking into account the psychological factors for
- the producer that Senator Long was referring to earlier, and
- 21 the reason why DOE's model has such a small supply response is
- because the tax on the newly-discovered oil in the tax bill is
- 23 a relatively small tax.
- Under the price assumptions we are using in 1990, the
- 25 price of oil is going to be about \$50 a barrel. The tax on

- newly-discovered oil in the House bill will be \$3.50. You are talking about a relatively small price change.
- Senator Long makes the point even a relatively small price tag like that has a bad psychological effect on the producers
- because they think somebody is going to come along and exempt
- 6 that oil sometime in the future. If they wait, they will be
- able to produce that oil with no tax at all.
- 8 In fact, the House bill exempts newly-discovered oil
- after 1990. If all the Congress did was adopt the House bill,
- every producer would have the signal that they waited for 1990
- to produce or they would be able to get it tax free. Even a
- relativley small tax could have a discouragement in
- production.
- Those sorts of psychological effects are not taken into
- account in DOE's model. DOE's model does have a fairly
- generous supply response, if you measure it.
- For example, if you compare the exemption for
- newly-discovered oil with the original administration proposal
- of the 50 percent tax on a \$16 base where you have a much
- bigger tax and you assume a rapid price growth and take things
- out to 1990, even DOE's model would give you some pretty
- 22 generous supply responses.
- The Chairman: I think you were present when Helmut
- Schmidt told us, the Chancellor of West Germany, he told some
- of us that the price of oil will double and then it will

double again. He says it is very simple why that will be the case. He said that before the last increase, the last 60 percent, when he was in Washington last.

He said there was a very simple reason why that is the case. You have nothing to hold it down, but we do not either.

We are going to have to buy it whether you like it or not. He says it will double and double again.

Now, the administration did not favor the House amendment, that Jones-Moore amendment over there, but they are here supporting a bill that says in ten years there will be no control on new oil. So you talk about incentive just to sit there, the price is going up. It is going to keep going up. It is going to go up far more than inflation on the average and ten years from now you will be free to get any price that the world market at that time would give you under the House bill.

Mr. Lubick: Mr. Chairman, we favor a modification of the House bill to make this tax permanent. That is important for the reasons you suggest. I think when you are dealing with the question of psychological reactions, it will be a different one. If we have a permanent tax, applying it at a reasonable level to capture real portions of real increases induced by the cartel, not inflationary increases, that was our recommendation.

The Chairman: That is right, yet you could not sell that

- even to the House Ways and Means Committee, that they were
- explaining on the Floor that they had a bill tougher than they
- wanted because the Finance Committee may be more favorable to
- the industry than they were.
- If you could not sell it to that committee, how did you
- expect to sell it to the Senate?
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  Mr. Lubick: We sold the notion of a permanent tax to the
- <sup>8</sup> Ways and Means Committee. It was a Floor amendment that
- changed that.
- Senator Ribicoff: From an economic standpoint, the only
- 11 way you are going to keep the price of OPEC oil down is
- finding additional oil somewhere else in the world available
- to the West, basically, is that not true?
- Mr. Lubick: And developing alternative sources.
- Senator Ribicoff: That is one thing to keep it down.
- Senator Dole says 385,000 barrels. You say 250,000,
- 200,000. What is it going to cost us to produce a barrel of
- 18 synthetics under the President's program that they are talking
- 19 abot? What is that going to cost?
- 20 \$40 to \$50 a barrel?
- Mr. Lubick: We are talking in terms of \$35 to \$40 at the
- 22 present time.
- Senator Ribicoff: At the present time, so that is going
- $^{24}$  to go up. So how would that compare with the 300, say a
- compromise between you and Senator Dole?

- Senator Dole: If you took the 380 it would be \$8.93

  barrel. If you took the the low-low estimates, it would only

  be \$23 a barrel. That is 150,000.
- So if you took something in the middle, we are talking about \$12 to \$13 a barrel, which seems to me to be a bargain.
- Senator Ribicoff: Are you not in a situation -- let us

  assume that the oil producers are the most selfish segment of

  the American economy. Let us go on that assumption. The big

  problem that you have are other factors -- the factors of
- inflation, the price of the dollar. What happens to the
- American economy? What happens to other producers of energy
- around the world over whom you have no control whatsoever?
- So you have a question of balance. What is the best program that will be most helpful to the American economy and the American system.
- You are not working in a vacuum. You are working on some very, very grim factual situations.
- What is the best for the country?
- Is not the objective here to get more energy irrespective
- of how you get it, as against the question of raising taxes?
- You are really talking about the survival of the American
- economic system. Is that not what you are talking about,
- instead of the different theories? Is that not what we are up
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   against practically here?

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Mr. Lubick: I think you are correct, Senator Ribicoff. I

- think that is exactly the question. In weighing the balance,
  it is very important to the extent that we can that we develop
  a measure of independence from relying on foreign imports. To
  that extent, it is necessary to give some subsidization to the
  development of these alternative sources of energy which, as
  you point out, may cost more per barrel in terms of actual
  cost to produce, that we have to get some of that production
  onstream and online.
- It may be worthwhile to pay that extra premium to develop that additional source.
- Senator Ribicoff: Why not pay that extra premium if you

  are going to pay it through synthetics or otherwise? Why not

  pay it for whoever gets the normal supply of energy whether it

  is oil or gas or any kind?

- 15 Mr. Lubick: It is a question, again, of balancing, to the 16 extent -- and quite obviously, we do not want to discourage 17 exploration for newly-discovered oil. That is important, but 18 in evaluating the cost -- and we were using the \$22 to \$23 19 barrel assumption -- that we believe that that \$22 or \$23 can 20 better be used in the longrange interests of the nation in 21 building this fund, in developing the alternative sources of 22 energy.
- To the extent that there are greater increases in price
  there is going to continue to be more incentive, most of which
  will be kept by the producers to develop the level of taxation

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that we are talking about is still less than most of the oil-producing countries are imposing on their production.
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- Senator Ribicoff: I know. It is not a question of taxation. It is not the basic issue that we are wrestling
- with here.

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- How do you get more energy of any kind than you are

  producing at present irrespective of costs? If the profits

  are there, let us say, should you not give an incentive to

  anyone who produces anymore energy of any kind? Free him from

  a windfall profits tax, as long as they produce energy of any

  kind?
- Mr. Lubick: I do not think that is quite true, because I
  think that there is a great importance for us to develop
  sources that are uniquely within our control and as
  alternative sources of energy, to bring them onstream and into
  making a substantial contribution to our energy supply has an
  importance over and above normal economic considerations.
- Senator Ribicoff: If, at the same time, you are deterring the production of normal sources of energy, you will not be getting the funds to get the alternative synthetics?
- Mr. Lubick: You are correct, but --
- Senator Ribicoff: The thing that bothers me, the basic problem that we have is how do we get more energy, not how do we get more taxes.
- Senator Heinz: If you would yield, I just want to ask a

- follow-up question, which is, I do not think you answered
- Senator Ribicoff's question fully, which is what is wrong with
- developing domestic sources of energy?
- You gave an answer to his question. It was very
- ambiguous. You said well, we want to develop sources of
- energy that are dependable.
- What is there? What do domestic sources of energy lack in
- 8 dependability which is the term that you were using to
- 9 differentiate among them.

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- Mr. Lubick: There is involved, in the production of
- alternative sources of energy the knowledge to develop new
- technologies, to which these technologies are viable. We have
- to give more into those to develop new sources.
- Senator Ribicoff: If what yo are saying is so, you are
- talking about something that will come onstream ten years from
- now. I have confidence that American technology and American
- drive ten years form now will solve that problem.
- But the big problem the country has is what do we do for
- the next ten years? These are the really crucial years.
- The only way you are going to do anything within the next
- ten years is by using conventional energy sources and getting
- conventional energy sources.
- What you want to prevent is deterring the development of
- 24 conventional energy sources during the next decade. That is
- what is bothering me.

Senator Heinz: If I might add to that, Senator Ribicoff,

it bothers me to hear that the sources of energy that you

describe as synthetics is necessarily more dependable.

Senator Ribicoff and I, and a lot of others, have considerable

concern over something called the greenhouse effect. How

dependable is it to build equipment to produce or plans to

7 produce 2.5 million barrels a day of synthetics to find out it

8 puts so much carbon dioxide in the air that you have to shut

them all down? Is that dependability?

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Senator Wallop: I would like to point out one other thing, that Mr. Lubick overlooks.

The argument that you are making is based on the fact that there will be no other revenue return other than the windfall profits tax. I do not think you can honestly state that there will be no other money left for the government to carry on some of the programs and support them quite handsomely outside the windfall profits tax unless that is the attempt by the government to balance the government to the expense of one segment of the American industry.

Mr. Lubck: At this point, Senator Wallop, I might point
out, using the Committee's assumptions, the net revenue effect
of what the Committee has done, we are down over the
eleven-year period about \$36 billion and the exemption of the
newly-discovered will get us down to \$14 billion, so we are
down to \$22 billion net so far.

- The Chairman: Mr. Dole and Mr. Danforth both have their
- <sup>2</sup> hands up.
- 3 Senator Dole?
- 4 Senator Dole. Well, first of all, it is pretty difficult
- to understand how we are deregulating new oil and turn around
- and put a tax on it. It seems to me that we are taking away
- with one hand and that we say we are giving with the other.
- In any event, I have to be on the Floor in about a minute
- to offer an amendment and I would hope that we could vote on
- this before we lose a quorum. I think Senator Roth has
- indicated -- I can vote aye for him, and so has Senator Heinz.
- It would seem to me that this would be one where we are
- not going to convince the administration. We can stay here
- 14 all day long. You are not going to yield, are you?
- Mr. Lubick: I might trade it for carryover.
- Senator Dole: That's a thought. That would be some
- 17 progress. I would just hope we could vote.
- If not, I wonder if I could vote aye on my amendment?
- The Chairman: Senator Danforth?
- Senator Danforth: Mr. Chairman, on the expenditures side
- of what we are doing we have not gotten to some of the more
- 22 expensive items such as help for the poor, transportation, and
- the Energy Security Corporation. I do not know what we are
- 24 going to do on that.
- But so far, just on tax credits, I think we are about \$60

- billion more liberal than the administration's program so we
- would spend about \$60 billion more without touching these
- other items yet.
- With respect to the revenue side, so far we have decided
- we are going to do away, we are going to exempt the tax, on
- heavy oil and that would lose about \$5 billion and now this
- newly-discovered oil, if we exempt that -- maybe it is a great
- idea. That would be another \$14 billion.
- And just looking at the list here, I was wondering if
- anybody was planning to exempt any other kinds of oil. We
- have tertiary, stripper, Alaskan, Tier II, Tier I. Just so we
- can get the picture, is this the last one, or are we going to
- proceed onward and downward?
- Senator Gravel: I would certainly hope to offer an
- exclusion for the Alaskan oil.
- Senator Danforth: Alaskan oil, at least we are going to
- deal with that stripper -- stripper people are going to offer
- Alaskan on that. Then there is the small producer exemption.
- We are going to be dealing with that.
- It seems to me we are for every credit, and also for every
- 21 exemption. I would think for each one of these, every
- 22 exemption would at least theoretically or arguably lead to
- increased production. Every credit would, at least
- theoretically, lead to increased production or better
- conservation, which is the same thing.

- The Energy Security Fund would theoretically lead to
  increased production and several weeks ago, Senator Boren
  asked for some sort of charter letter that would indicate to
  us how much additional production we could get.
- We are still debating what the price is going to be.

  Nobody knows, but the President at the White House a week ago

  Monday said that the Administration was assuming 2.4 percent

  over the inflation rate.
- Is it just too much to ask that we get this all down on one piece of paper, or must we vote on all of this seriatum because I really think ---how can anybody vote against everything? Everything is going to cause increased production. It is just what we are after and comparatively and we will end up a tax of zero and an expenditure of \$2 billion.
- Senator Gravel: If the Senator would yield, that is the reason that I earlier brought up the point that it is fine to want the production of energy, but someone should ask the fundamental question, is it cheaper to use one unit of energy for one thing, then another thing?
- If we cannot answer that question, you are right. We
  should vote for all of the things that will produce energy and
  all of the things that would produce that. That is a safe
  thing to do. What else should we do?
- But if we do have a chart that says for a given effort,

you are going to produce X number of barrels of oil and that
will cost you \$15 a barrel, but for a given effort in another
area it will produce X number of barrels of oil but it will
cost you \$20 a barrel, then I want to vote for what costs \$15
a barrel because I want to be in good shape with the consumer,
like you do.
So until we have that chart I do not know how we can make
any kind of any intelligent decision in this Committee.

The Chairman: Senator Bradley has been patiently sitting there. He asked for recognition some time ago.

Senator, you are recognized.

Senator Bradley: Mr. Chairman, I think we might find ourselves in the position, as with the exemptions, as we did with the alternate energy tax that Senator Packwood was proposing where we approved the idea in principal but had to come back to a final reconciliation to see if we had the money to pay for it. Now, we are in the reverse circumstance. We have proposed a great deal of tax credits. I certainly have some other suggestions in that area as well and we might end up where we might have to have a reconciliation on the other side on the tax side.

If we are simpy going through the process now of saying in principal is the idea of exempting newly-discovered oil practical, acceptable to the Committee subject to a final reconciliation of credits versus revenues derived, that seems

- to me to be acceptable as far as I am concerned, but I am not
- sure that that is the way we are going.
- If we are not, I would like to have some idea as to
- 4 whether I should get my tax credits in now before we exempt
- 5 newly discovered oil.
- The Chairman: Senator, fortunately for you, it does not
- 7 cost much. It does not squeeze yours in.
- 8 It does not cost much in this oncoming year.
- Well now, is the Committee ready to vote? Call the roll.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Talmadge?
- 11 (No response)

- Mr. Stern: Mr. Ribicoff?
- Senator Ribicoff: Aye.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Byrd?
- (No response)
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Nelson?
- (No response)
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Gravel?
- 19 Senator Gravel: Aye.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Bentsen?
- 21 Senator Bentsen: Aye.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Matsunaga?
- 23 (No response)
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Moynihan?
- 25 (No response)

- Mr. Stern: Mr. Baucus?
- (No response)
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Boren?
- Senator Boren: Aye.
- 5 Mr. Stern: Mr. Bradley?
- Senator Bradley: Aye.
- 7 Mr. Stern: Mr. Wallop?
- 8 Senator Wallop:\* Aye by proxy.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Packwood?
- 10 (No response)
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Roth?
- Senator Wallop: Aye by proxy.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Danforth?
- 14 Senator Danforth: Aye.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Chafee?
- Senator Chafee: Aye.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Heinz?
- 18 Senator Wallop: Aye by proxy.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Wallop?
- 20 Senator Wallop: Aye.
- 21 Mr. Stern: Mr. Durenberger?
- 22 Senator Durenberger: Aye.
- Mr. Stern: Mr. Chairman?
- The Chairman: Aye.
- Thirteen ayes, no nays. We will leave this vote open so

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1
   the absentees can record themselves. I know how one or two
 2
   will respond, but I will ask staff to contact them during the
   day.
 4
        In view of the fact we are not going to be able to keep a
5
   quorum here any longer today, I suggest that we break now and
6
   come back at the usual time, 10:00 tomorrow morning.
7
        Thank you.
8
        (Thereupon, the committee recessed, to reconvene
   Wednesday, September 26, 1979 at 10:00 a.m.)
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