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## HEARING ON MESCHINDANESCE CHARLES DELLS

Wednesday, August 9, 1978

United States Senate,
Committee on Finance
Washington, D. C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice at 10:00 a.m. in room 2221, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Abraham Ribicoff presiding.

Present: Senators Long, Moynihan, Bentsen, Gravel, Byrd, Ribicoff, Talmadge, Curtis, Dole, Danforth and Packwood.

Senator Ribicoff. The committee will come to order. Senator Pell is here and we told him we would give him an opportunity to make a presentation. I think you could do that now, Senator Pell.

Senator Pell. Thank you, Senator Ribicoff.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your courtsey in hearing me at this time since I was unable to be here with you at the regular hearing session.

I am here to ask for your favorable consideration of H.R. 10161 which is a bill to permit a very small business firm in my own state to recover \$17,000 in excess customs duties erroneously collected from that company.

The Customs Service agreed these excess customs duties were collected because of an erroneous appraisal, but the Customs

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Service contends it is barred by law from repaying them because the company did not file what they considered a timely protest on IN WEITHER a form required by law.

The fact is the company did protest the excess duties? and within the time limitations, but it was not construed to be a formal protest in the exact form required by the regulations. This company, Eastern Telephone Supply Manufacturing, Incorporated, is a company with only 18 employees and annual sales of less than \$600,000.

Recovery of \$17,000 in excess customs duties is a matter of great importance to this small company and I hope very much the committee could find it possible to grant relief.

The bill before you would simply permit Eastern Telephone to file its formal protest to excess customs duties within 60 days of passage of the bill, thus to my mind, bringing justice and equity to this little company.

I do not want to burden you with any more words on my behalf, but I do implore you on behalf of this small company.

Senator Ribicoff. Your entire statement will be inserted in the record.

(Committee insert.)

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The Chairman. I think you made a good case. It would be justice and equity for your manufacturer. I would like to cooperate, but you know the cooperation is a two-way street. Some of us need some justice and equity.

For example, we need modern equipment to answer mail in my office. I appeared before the Rules Committee recently because we find this IBM six is by far the best equipment to answer mail with and your committee authorized Senator Cranston -- on some kinds of basis, experimental or otherwise -- to put some IBM six equipment in and I do not want to go to this outdated equipment that you put in 50 other senators' offices.

The IBM stuff is far superior. All I want to do is wipe out discrimination. Can your committee work it out so I get the same consideration Senator Cranston got?

Senator Pell. Senator Cranston is having a test run with his equipment. We tried to persuade you to do another kind of test -
I forget the name of it. All I can assure you -- obviously I am

not going to engage in a quid pro quo here'-- is to assure you of

as fair a hearing as we can and full consideration.

The Chairman. I did not get a chance to attend the meeting the day the decision was made because I was busy on the Senate floor. We do not need six months for people to think about something in your committee.

Senator Pell. We do not agree with you about your judgment on it. We have to look at it from the viewpoint of the whole

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If everybody gets his own equipment we will get barnyards full of equipment back when Senators leave.

It would be a good idea to restrict yourselves to two or three kinds of equipment. We are proceeding to try and find the best kinds. Many senators disagree with you and feel CMS equipment is excellent.

We do not happen to use it because we are a small office. Maybe your IBM equipment is good. We are going to give it a test for the next six months in Senator Cranston's office, see how it goes and if you would like to be included in that test -- I cannot give you assurance now.

The Chairman. My proposition is this, I will take it out of my clerk hire. I will reduce the amount of money I would be otherwise using for clerk hire and use that to buy what is the best equipment, by the way. I used IBM equipment. Now it is just stuff that is no longer manufactured.

You are not going to be able to get spare parts for the stuff the government is providing the Senate. All I am asking is to quit using the stuff they no longer make.

Senator Pell. This equipment is modern, is being used and is satisfactory to most offices. Your colleagues from Florida, for example, where they have many people who write letters and are retired are doing very well with it.

The kind of equipment you are talking about may check out to be the best. We are doing the best we can to give it a fair test,

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The Chairman. Senator, I am willing to give your bill a fair test, if you give my modern equipment a fair test.

Senator Pell. I am not relating one to the other. want to turn my bill down, turn it down. But I do assure you whether you turn it down or not, whatever happens to my constituent, I will give you a fair hearing and do it as fairly as I can, but I am not going to say pass this and I will give you your equipment.

The Chairman. Let us understand. In my judgment I am being discriminated against and it seems to me if you only had one senator -- and I am not complaining about him having something except it seems to me if it works for one senator it should work for others.

If you are going to let one senator buy the latest equipment, IBM six, it seems to me other senators have a right to the same consideration. That is what I am asking for.

Senator Pell. My recollection is that Senator Cranston is going ahead with it on his 10-percent allowance. We have given him this clearance to do it. If we start saying every senator can do this on an experimental basis, this equipment or that equipment or the other equipment, it will not be a practical measure.

All I can say is we are doing our best. We have excellent technical people They know more than I know about it and maybe even more than you know about it. We are trying to be fair and I will continue to operate the way I think is fair.

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If you want to turn my measures down in a quid pro quo arrangement, that is your privilege.

The Chairman. As far as your constituent is concerned, as far as I am concerned, we are going to treat him fairly. You do not need to worry about that.

I do feel as I say -- one committee chairman talking to another committee chairman -- I think we ought to give your bill and the needs of your constituent every consideration. I think he is entitled to it.

As far as I am concerned, you have it but I think in the spirit of good will I have a right to call on you to say we have some problems and you take a look at ours.

Senator Pell. We will take a look at them, but I can give you no assurance.

The Chairman. Thank you.

We will be looking at tariff bills today. I would like to ask staff to put in a call for our Republican colleagues and see if we can get some of them here.

Mr. Cassidy. There is one piece of miscellaneous business you might want to consider. The staff has been in discussions with the International Trade Commission on an analysis of multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva. They are prepared to do an extensive study of the different aspects of the negotiations, but they need a letter requesting a study under Section 232 of the Tariff Act. We have the letter here and we need your approval and signature.

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The Chairman. If there is no objection, we will sign the letter on behalf of the committee.

Suppose we start considering some of these tariff bills you have here.

Mr. Cassidy. The document I will be working on is attachment C, entitled "Miscellaneous Tariff and Trade Rules." first bill on the --

The Chairman. Item C?

Mr. Cassidy. Item C. The first bill is H. R. 5044, to suspend duty on strontium nitrate until the close of January 3, 1980. This would temporarily permit, until January 3, duty-free entry of imports from most-favor-nation countries. Strontium nitrate is a chemical that gives a yellow color to fusees, flares, tracers, explosives. It is presently dutiable at 6 percent ad valorem. "

There is only one company, FMC Corporation in California, which produces this product. Imports, up to today at least, have been small, 2 to 4 percent of domestic consumption from West Germany.

The Administration opposes H. R. 5044 because the duty reduction should be accomplished in the trade negotiations. They also say FMC has capacity to meet domestic demands. The Pyrotechnic Signal Manufacturers Association supports this bill. They are the people who consume the product, and we understand also that the loss would be less than \$5,000. Furthermore we understand there

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Senator Talmadge. I think Mr. Cassidy stated the situation correctly. Treasury is opposed to this bill and so am I. We have a firm in Cartersville, Georgia, that has made application to the State Environmental Protection Administration to construct a plant there.

We are opposed to it. If this is agreed to, the principal beneficiary will be Germany. They already have practically all of the dollars in the world. We need to keep as many home as we can. I move to table the bill.

The Chairman. Why don't we pass it over.

Next.

Mr. Cassidy. Next is on page 2, H. R. 5265, "Temporary Suspension of Duty on Importation of Fluorspar." It would suspend duty on fluorspar to June 30, 1980. Duty now is \$2.10 or \$8.40. Fluorspar is used to make different kinds of steel alloys used in production of aluminum, fluorocarbon chemicals, glass, et cetera.

During the hearings we heard favorable testimony; we also heard objections from the Frontier Mining Corporation, which is a U. S. company that produces fluorspar. Fluorspar imports have

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dropped from 1 million 3 in '74 to 900,000 tons. Imports account for 85 percent of U. S. consumption right now. Mexico is the principal source of imported fluorspar.

The Chairman. What do you use it for?

Mr. Cassidy. It is used in production of steel, aluminum, fluorocarbon chemicals, glass and cercamics. In steel it is used as a flush to take impurities out of the metal. Those are the two different grades.

The Chairman. Does this remain a part of the steel? Mr. Cassidy. I don't know, sir, no.

The Chairman. Suspend the duty. Any objection? Without objection.

Mr. Cassidy. Next, on page 3, H. R. 5551 is to suspend until close of June 30, 1980, duty on 2-methyl, 4-chlorophenol. rently this product is dutiable at 1.7 cents per pound plus 12.5 ad valorem. PCOC is a chemical catalyst that is used in production of herbicides which are used on grains.

The only consumer we are aware of is a company in Tuscaloosa, There is no domestic production of this product. Imports come from the United Kingdom, and the revenue loss associated with this is about \$450,000 annually.

The Administration supports the bill. We have heard no objections.

The Chairman. Without objection.

Mr. Cassidy. Next, H. R. 7108, at the bottom of page 3, to

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suspend duty on Yankee Dryer cylinders until the close of December 31, 1981. Yankee Dryer cylinders are machines which are used to give a certain texture to paper, tissue paper, toilet paper, writing paper. Whatever kind of finish you want on the paper, the cylinders impart the finish to the paper.

They are presently dutiable at 3.5 percent ad valorem. are no U. S. producers currently. The cylinders come from various countries, including West Germany, Britain, Sweden and Finland.

We have heard no objections to the bill, we received favorable testimony and the Administration favors enactment. Annual revenue loss would be about \$200,000.

The Chairman. Any objection?

Without objection, the bill will be reported.

Mr. Cassidy. Next, H. R. 8755, middle of page 4. make specific provisions for ball or roller bearings, pillow, block, flange, take-up cartridge and hanger units.

This provision would have no effect on the revenue; it takes a basket category that covers all of these things and breaks it down into specific units so better statistics can be collected on imports.

I believe we have an example of this product here so you can These units essentially are for the convenience of manu-Rather than being given loose ball bearings, they are given units which already have the ball bearings mounted and then you can insert it into a machine more rapidly.

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We have heard no objections to the bill, we received favorable testimony and there would be no revenue effect.

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The Chairman. Without objection then the bill is reported. Mr. Cassidy. Next, middle of page 5 H.R. 9628 to suspend until the close of June 30, 1980 duty on nitrocellulose. would permit duty-free entry of imports from most Favored Nation countries of nitrocellulose. Present duty is 9.7 cents per pound. Nitrocellulose is a product which is used in fast drying lacquer coatings and paints by the paint industry and the principal consumer is the furniture industry.

There is one U.S. producer of this product, Herculose Company They understand we support enactment of this bill. The source of the imports is France, West Germany and Japan. We have received favorable testimony. We have heard no objections and the administration has no objections to the bill. Annual revenue loss would be negligible.

The Chairman. Without objection the bill will be reported.

Senator Curtis. Mr. Chairman, I apologize for being here late. I had the privilege of being called on by about a dozen Japanese farmers. Since we wanted to sell and not buy I couldn't I have here a matter relating to tariff that the Committee has approved twice and it has passed the Senate. in the House. It is a bill relating to mixed feed. It passed this committee twice and passed the Senate. It would accord mixed animal feeds containing soy beans the same treatment as feeds containing grain. That is duty-free.

Mixed animal feeds containing soy beans have higher quality

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protein than similar feed containing equivalent amount of grain.

The company involved incorporated soy beans in its product because of erroneous advice from U.S. Customs Service that soy beans would be treated like grain for tariff purposes.

Soy beans used are of United States origin. No foreign flours are included in the animal food. No other product or company would be effected in the amount of the trade and revenue effected. We approved it before. I want to be frank with you.

It is dog food. Soy beans were treated as grain and then a different finding was made.

George, there is nothing retroactive in this. We approved it -- which tariff bill should it go on?

Mr. Cassidy. This is the same provision you offered last year, Senator?

Senator Curtis. Yes.

The Chairman. Is there only one manufacturer who uses it in the country?

Mr. Cassidy. We held hearings last year. At that time there was only this one company, the Allan Products Company who we could find who would be using this provision. We haven't more recent information than last July.

The Chairman. Do we have any objection from the Departments?

Mr. Cassidy. They have no objection so long as we are sure

it is written to make certain that animal feeds containing dairy

products are excluded and that is Okay with Senator Curtis.

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The Chairman. Excluded.

Mr. Cassidy. Excluded because we have quotas.

The Chairman. It is all right with me, with this understanding, that we don't bring up other amendments at this time. I would like to go through these House bills first.

Without objection we will approve that one. What is next? Mr. Cassidy. Next on page 7, H.R. 9911 to continue until close of June 30, 1981 the existing suspension of duties on certain forms of zinc. Currently zinc waste and zinc bearing ores and so on are dutiable at .67 to .75 cents per pound. suspended between August '75 and June 1978. The principal sources of this product are Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Thailand, Australia and Peru.

During the hearings we heard favorable testimony from the Zinc Producers Association. The Administration favors enactment of the bill and the annual Customs loss would be not more than \$1.9 million.

The Chairman. You say there is no objection from the --Mr. Cassidy. We have heard no objection from the Administration.

The Chairman. No objection to the bill. The bill will be reported.

Mr. Cassidy. On page 8 is H.R. 10161. This is a private relief bill for the Eastern Telephone Supply and Manufacturing Company in Rhode Island. The facts behind this are that during

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February to December of 1974 Eastern brought in telephone equipment which it had purchased from Bell in Canada. Customs alleges Eastern never sufficiently documented the value of that equipment in the first instance which was in effect \$235,900.

After Eastern brought the equipment into the country they inspected it and discovered it was defective. They went to Bell and reached an agreement that the equipment was only worth \$40,000. Eastern went to Customs again and they got rebates on their tariffs in two ports but in a number of other ports Customs refused to give them any rebates.

Customs point out Eastern failed to file a timely protest which is the legal triggering mechanism for an administrative and judicial review of a Customs problem and this bill would give Eastern 60 days from date of enactment to file a protest.

If they are successful either administratively or in court they could get as much as \$17,500. Customs agrees Eastern did overpay but the Administration strongly opposes the bill because Eastern failed in the first instance to comply with the rules and regulations there.

Senator Packwood. May I ask a question? Eastern is not a big company, it has about 20 employees.

Very small. Mr. Cassidy.

They brought in this material through Senator Packwood. three or four different points and assumed it was worth \$235,000. It was a number of days later when they opened it up they discover-

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it was not. They went back to the first Customs port and complained after they got their agreement with Bell and got their money back at the first point they went to, thereupon I think they thought since the first Customs Director gave it back to them they would get it from the others.

Two refused to make the back payment even though they had been filed timely.

Mr. Cassidy. They had two separate problems with Customs. First the Customs said they never supplied adequate documentation to prove even \$235,000.

Mr. Packwood. When they went to the first port they got their money back so I think they thought dealing with the same agency although at different ports, having done what they did at the first port would be sufficient for the other ports.

It turns out from the very same agency that I got different It is a company with 20 employees, buys its equipment, reconditions it and sells it. It is a classic example of a small business thinking they had done what was proper, having gone to one agency and the agency saying yes, going to the same agency at a different port and having them say no.

Senator Ribicoff. I think they are entitled to get administrative and judicial review.

Senator Talmadge. I think that is fair.

The Chairman. Is there objection to reporting the bill. Without objection the bill will be reported favorably.

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Mr. Cassidy. Next, on page 10, H. R. 11409, to make permanent the existing temporary suspension of duty on certain dyeing and tanning materials. Between 1957 and June of this year such materials have been provided duty-free treatment. These are chemicals made from plants and trees which are used to treat leather.

This bill would make the duty suspension a permanent part of the law. There is no domestic production. The imports come principally from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru and France. This would result in an annual customs revenue loss of about \$200,000.

The Chairman. Any objection?

Without objection, the bill will be reported. What is next?

- Mr. Cassidy. The next one is on page 11, H. R. 12165. It

is to extend until the close of June 30, 1981, the existing suspension of duties on certain metal waste and scrap, on raw metal and other articles of metal.

Since 1942 virtually continuously until June 30, 1978, the duties on these scrap metals have been suspended. This will would extend that suspension until June 30, 1981. It would also extend the duty suspension to a new kind of scrap; that is scrap which will be imported for various processing methods rendering imports fit only for the recovery of their metal content.

In other words, you can't bring in a used car and then refit it and use it as a car. You have to cut it up and use it as scrap metal.

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The Administration favors this, we have heard no objections and the annual duty loss is about \$3 million.

The Chairman. Any objection?

Without objection, the bill will be reported.

Mr. Cassidy. On that one, Mr. Chairman, I think the committee should make a technical amendment to make clear that the suspension applies retroactively to June 30, 1978, when the existing suspension expires.

The Chairman. Without objection, that will be done.

Mr. Cassidy. Page 12, H. R. 12739, to suspend duty on live worms until the close of June 30, 1981. This would temporarily suspend the duty on most-favored nation imports of live worms, which are presently dutiable at 3.5 percent ad valorem.

Essentially all of these worms, which are night crawlers, come from Canada, and the U.S. wholesalers are the people who would like to see this, U. S. bate houses.

Senator Curtis. What do the fishermen think about it? Mr. Cassidy. I am sure they like it.

The Chairman. That might be a good bill to slide something through on.

If there is no objection, we will report the bill.

Mr. Cassidy. The next bill is on page 13. It is to modify the tariff schedules with regard to certain articles used in carnivals and parades. It would provide permanent duty-free treatment for imports of jewelry and other articles of personal

adornment to be distributed free to spectators in parades, carnivals and similar events.

Most of these products come from Hong Kong and the bulk of their consumption in the U. S. is the Mardi gras in New Orleans. Senator Long has in his hand an example of a product. Hong Kong, by and large, is a beneficiary, developing country which would be eligible for duty-free treatment on this product, except they supply more than one-half the imports, so they are now subject to the duty. The present duty ranges from 18 percent to 35 percent ad valorem.

The Administration is opposed to enactment of this bill for a number of reasons. They say duty reductions should be accomplished in the multilateral trade negotiations. They point out that this product is already included on GSP but not for principal supplier, which is Hong Kong. We think the significant comment they make is that it would be hard for countries to administer this because they don't know at the docks whether a particular piece of jewelry will be used to distribute to spectators in parades, carnivals and similar events.

In order to cure this problem, we recommend that you amend the bill to provide for permanent duty-free entry for necklaces valued not over 30 cents per dozen, composed of plastic shapes mounted on fiber string.

This would reduce the revenue loss slightly and, with this amendment, the bill would cost \$475,000. I suspect the

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Administration would still object to it but am not sure.

The Chairman. I don't think anybody could ever participate in a New Orleans Mardi gras and object. Frankly it is the greatest joy you would ever have, to ride in one of those floats. I did it once. What they do is, they buy these things and they load enough of them on a float to fill the whole back of this room, so they have a big parade and will have about as many as 20 floats and each float will pribably have 10,000 of these things or maybe 50,000 of them and they throw them out to the children.

By the time you start out, some tall man with a big family grabs up everything and little kids can't get anything. But after he gets loaded down with them, then everybody gets some.

They haven't always thrown these gifts off those Mardi gras floats but some years ago they started and it was so enormously popular with all the children that if you have a parade and you don't throw these things out to the kids, people think that you are really a tightwad; you could afford to have that float but you don't throw anything out.

Senator Bentsen. I am for the little children and I think we should pass it.

The Chairman. I can only say anybody that would put a tariff on something that the people voluntarily provide as a gift to little children have to have a heart of stone or he has to be totally ignorant.

Senator Curtis. You have suggested that, instead of trying

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to determine what it is going to be used for, you cover that by fixing a value that would confine it to the type used for this sort of activity?

Mr. Cassidy. Yes, sir.

Senator Curtis. Repeat what that value is.

Mr. Cassidy. Not more than 30 cents per dozen for necklaces.

Senator Curtis. Is that enough?

Mr. Cassidy. According to the people who buy the beads for the service organizations in New Orleans, that is enough.

Senator Curtis. That would make it easy to administer, wouldn't it?

Mr. Cassidy. Yes.

Senator Curtis. I can't think of a better way to create friends in New Orleans.

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Anyonewho has ever stood in the crowds and The Chairman. seen the children enjoy that could not do anything but cooperate. It is a great idea. It is not called a form of charity, but it is in a high sense that type of thing. It provides a wonderful thing It is something they can take home. for all the children.

Senator Curtis. I move it be approved.

The Chairman. Without objection.

Mr. Cassidy. The next item, page 14, S. 3171 to amend the tariff schedule to the United States with respect to tariff treatment accorded certain gloves and trousers.

The Chairman. Hear is the gloves.

Senator Curtis. These are gloves and trousers especially designed with inserts, of a very strong material to protect forestry people so if they happen to get near a moving saw they have a chance of their hands bouncing off before it is cut off, they tell us.

According to the testimony we have received, there is a conflict in one point. According to the United States International Trade Commission, there is no known domestic source of the trou-They say, however, that some domestic manufacturers do produce gloves which do incorporate special safety features,

However, they are not the same as these gloves and trousers. We did hear objections from the Work Glove Manufacturers Associ-They state that there was one firm in Wisconsin which could make these special gloves and, secondly, that the tariff item is

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is an end-use provision which is to say it requires the products to be used in the forestry industry. In the case of necklaces, countries might not know at the docks what they are going to be used for.

The administration is opposed and that is all the information we have. It would result in a very negligible customs loss.

Senator Curtis. What is the special property these trousers are supposed to have?

Mr. Cassidy. Thay are made out of ballistic nylon which is a very strong material. Say if you get near a chain saw, your hands, the nylon will not rip and your hand will tend to bounce off at first.

Senator Curtis. That is the glove.

Mr. Cassidy. Both, the gloves and trousers. The trousers have padding in them so if you get hit by a branch or by a saw, it will tend to protect your body.

Senator Curtis. The way this is drawn, will it have an adverse effect on new industry that we have in this country? There is being manufactured a jacket -- they can make anything they want out of it -- that is total protection against mosquitos and other insects for fishermen and hunters and people like that.

Mr. Cassidy. This applies only to gloves and trousers and the special qualities of these gloves and trousers are their protective features against trauma. If you get hit or cut -- not insects or something like that. These products all come from

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Canada.

There are objections to the bill from the Work Glove Manufacturers Association.

The Chairman. There is objection to this. I take it there is a negligible revenue effect, but the bill is objected to, is that right?

Mr. Cassidy. What they said in summary, the Work Glove Manufacturers Association, is that there is one firm in Wisconsin which has the know-how to make special gloves identified in the bill.

We have had that contradicted by the American Pulpwood
Association who say for several years we have tried to persuade
domestic manufacturers to offer this protective clothing, but have
not met with success because they did not agree with our estimates
of market potential.

Senator Curtis. Is it permanent suspension?

Mr. Cassidy. There is permanent suspension. I suppose if the committee wanted to approve it, it could be made temporary.

The Chairman. Why do we not make it a two-year suspension?
Senator Curtis. You say it is Wisconsin?

Mr. Cassidy. A Wisconsin company.

The Chairman. Are they objecting?

Mr. Cassidy. Someone is objecting on their behalf. It is the Work Glove Manufacturers Association. We have not heard from this company.

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The Chairman. Why do we not agree to report it with a twoyear suspension? Meanwhile, if someone else wants to protest, I will take it up to the committee again, without objection,

Mr. Cassidy. That will be until June 30, 1980.

The Chairman. Just make that a two-year suspension.

The next item, on page 15, S.3326 to suspend Mr. Cassidy. the duties on freight cars until the close --

Senator Talmadge. I ask that that go over until we get further comments from the textile industry,

Mr. Cassidy. On S. 3246?

Senator Talmadge. Yes.

Mr. Cassidy. Next will be 3326, at the bottom of page 15. That is to suspend the duty on freight cars until the close of June 30, 1982. The problem that that bill is addressed to relates to generalized system of preferences.

Before March 1, 1978, Mexico which was a beneficiary developing country under the G.S.P. was able to export to the United States boxcars duty free. However, in early this year, the Canadians who are their only principal competitors developed their own freight car shortage such as we have now in the United States and essentially the Canadians dropped out of our market.

This meant that the Mexicans were supplied more than 50 percent of the imports of freight cars which means they are not eligible for G.S.P. and that their exports to the United States became subject to 18 percent ad valorum duty, March 1, 1978.

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This bill would suspend that duty until June 30, 1982.

Senator Bentsen. Mr. Chairman, I would like to amend that to 1980 because of some concerns I have heard as to possibly overcoming the shortage by that time and ask that the Federal Railroad Administration do a study of the availability of railroad cars and the needs and in turn there was a proposal by Congressman Phithian, closing a potential loophole that I think the staff could address itself to, that we could accept as an amendment. That was as I recall on the importation of kit cars that were not assembled and in turn would require these be assembled.

Mr. Cassidy. Congressman Phithian also had, in addition to the kit cars, he also had an amendment which related to the effective date. What it said essentially was if you signed a contract after March 1, but before the date of enactment, then you would not get this duty-free treatment because it would be "windfall" profit to somebody who had sold them with the expectation of paying the duty and then he found out he did not have to pay the duty.

That is the only other difference between your bill and Mr. Phithian's bill.

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of someone.

Senator Bentsen. What is your comment on that, Mr. Cassidy?

Mr. Cassidy. We don't know if any contracts were signed. Our information is the Mexicans did not sign any contracts in that period and we don't believe it would have any effect.

As to the windfall profits question that is something for the committee to decide. What the concern was was people would contract to sell goods thinking they would have to pay a duty and this law would not alleviate them of that liability and they would get the money back.

Senator Bentsen. Effective date would be when?

Mr. Cassidy. Under this you could bring in any freight cars if they were contracted for before March 1st or after the date of The contract was signed before March 1st or after date enactment. of enactment. If it was signed between that period you get no duty free.

Senator Curtis. Who buys box cars besides railroads? Mr. Cassidy. Leasing companies.

Senator Curtis. And some individual industries.

Mr. Cassidy. An individual industry and there are also partnerships of individuals who buy box cars who lease them.

Senator Curtis. I am for the legislation but I think that sometimes we often punish some individuals and some concerns by creating a period that the duty will not be available. But I think that is necessary to prevent an injustice on the part M

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Mr. Cassidy. Our information as of now -- it is not complete -- our best information is there have been no Mexican box cars that would be covered by this special duty-free entry rule. There may be some Canadian or English or French box cars. We just don't have the information.

Sen. Bentsen. I would assume the duty does not apply to the Canadians. The 18 percent. They don't fall into that category do they?

Mr. Cassidy. They do now. If this bill passes they won't but they have not shipped many box cars to us.

Senator Bentsen. If they don't know of any places where it would be applicable, then we would have a conformance with the House provision and we would get this thing enacted.

Mr. Cassidy. They House provision does have that feature. Senator Bentsen. I would go along with the House feature on that.

The Chairman. Is that an amendment you are talking about? Mr. Cassidy. It would be an amendment to Senator Bentsen. Senator Bentsen suggested a series of amendments. One to reduce duty-free period to two years. One would be to change the effective date period to conform to what the House bill which is not vet before this committee says.

Another would be to take care of a situation where we understand that Rumania has shipped 300 kits, freight car kits which will be assembled in the United States and people did not believe

they should be permitted duty-free treatment.

Then of course the Administration asked the Federal Railway
Administration to make a study of the shortage and see if this
suspension should be continued in the future.

The Chairman. Without objection let's report the bill.

Mr. Cassidy. The next bill is at the bottom of page 16.

H.R. 3329 and is to suspend duties on mixtures of mashed or macerated hot red peppers and sale until June 30, 1981.

The Chairman. Gentlemen. The principal competitor with this product -- it is produced in Louisiana. We favor suspending the duty because we can't produce enough of this to go around.

We are exporting it all over the world. This is the best product made. I used it to spice up my "C" rations all through the war. It really does the job. It comes in duty-free from all the GSP countries like Colombia and Honduras but Mexico is not a GSP country.

In order to make enough red peppers to use to manufacture this hot sauce we are shipping all over the world we have to produce some in Mexico. So the part that comes in from Mexico would be duty-free. The consumer bill is to reduce the cost on the part of the consumer. That is basically the whole idea about suspending duties on tariffs, is that the local producers will be able to stand the competition.

As far as we are concerned we can't produce enough red peppers in Louisiana to meet the demand for the product.

Senator Curtis. Notice the estimated loss in revenue is \$20,000 a year. They can't administer a law like that. If they have one clerk and gave him a typewriter and an office, we would end up losing money almost.

Senator Laxalt. What is in the big bottle, Mr. Chairman? Senator Curtis. That is something special.

The Chairman. That is a concentrate from which this is made.

No objection we will agree to that amendment. We have to find the bill to which we can add these amendments.

Why don't we report each one of these bills out with an amendment and keep half of the bills in the committee so that you can put a committee amendment on. I believe that will still be enough so you will only have to put one committee amendment on one bill.

Mr. Stern. You have approved five amendments other than the House bills and you approved 11 House bills so you could report out six bills each of which would have about two amendments. You would have, for example, H.R. 5265. Fluorspar and you would put the text of H.R. 5551, 2-methyl, 4-chlorophenol in that and also Senator Curtis' amendment dealing with animal feeds containing soy beans and the second bill could be H.R. 7108 Yankee Dryer Cylinders to which you would put ball bearings and which is H.R. 8755 and the Mardigras plastic jewelry S. 2847. The third bill would be H.R. --

The Chairman. For public relation purposes I think you want

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to take the one that has the best name that seems to be most attractive in the trade -- put the ball bearing thing up front and put the other as an amendment.

Then the third one -- you want to put zinc as the The zinc bill H.R. 9911 would be reported with amendname here. ments, the text of 9628, nitrocellulose and the text of S. 3171 as amended, gloves and trousers.

The fourth bill would be the Rhode Island Telephone Company with the amendments being H.R. 10625, natural graphite and S. 3326 freight cars as amended.

Then the fifth bill would be H.R. 11409 dying and tanning terms with amendments being 12739, live worms, and then the last bill would be H.R. 1165 scrap metal, with hot red peppers as an amendment to that.

So that would be four bills with two amendments each and two bills with one amendment each.

Senator Dole. Have you gotten to Russian watches?

This is what you have done up to this point. Mr. Stern. No. I would like to comment, Senator Bumpers Senator Bentsen. called me late yesterday afternoon on this question of Russian watches that are being shipped to the Virgin Islands that he feels are not really going through a meaningful assembly down there and are competing with one of his constituent plants in Little Rock, Arkansas, Timex Corporation. I don't know the status of that legislation but I did want to express his concern and see

where we are on that.

The Chairman. Let me ask Mr. Cassidy to explain first what is the status, the legislative status of the proposal that involves Russian-made watch parts?

Mr. Cassidy. There is presently a bill in the House which has just been reported from the Subcommittee on Trade to the full Ways and Means Committee H.R. 8222. It is a Virgin Island parent bill. However it has an amendment offered by Mr. Rostenkowski which is intended to address this problem in the Virgin Islands that has to do with the assembly of Russian watch parts. There is nothing in the Senate at this time.

The Chairman. Now that is a bill to tighten up on the situation over there, is that right?

Mr. Cassidy. Yes, sir. They have not finished their consideration. Our information from the staff of Ways and Means is that the amendment directed toward this problem will probably be modified in the full committee.

There are differences of opinion as to the timing over there as to when that bill will come out but the thrust of the amendments there is to tighten up on the activities of the Russians in the Virgin Islands.

Essentially what has been the concern that has been raised is that Russian watch parts are being assembled by three companies in the Virgin Islands as are other foreign watch parts from Switzerland, Germany, what have you.

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Then if more than 30 percent of the landed value of the I roduct when it gets to the United States is attribitable to the Virgin Islands they come in duty free.

If the Russian parts were to come directly into the United States they would be subject to the not most favored nation rates of duty which are quite high and would keep them out of the market.

The Russian parts have been assembled in the Virgin Islands for some time. In the last few years they have increased At the moment or as of last year apparently shipments from -- total watch part shipments from the Virgin Islands to the United States, Russian watch parts sold in places significantly. like K-Mart, very cheap watches, account for 18 percent of total Virgin Islands production and accounted for roughly 1 percent 12 Now, the staff received an enormous amount of information of U.S. consumption of watches. 13 14

We think about this in the last 48 hours from various sources. there is probably a problem. We don't think the activities of the people who are assembling the Russian parts in the Virgin Islands is consistent with the intention of the law which is essentially to provide employment in the Virgin Islands but we don't 18 feel quite comfortable with any of the proposals we have heard yet. 19 It may well be the committee should act on this in the near 20 21 22

future but we think we need more information. We have had no It seems to me that inother words we reported

23 hearings. 24 The Chairman. ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC. 25

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out a bill which hopefully there will be no objection on the The bill we would hope we could pass with a minimum Senate Floor. amount of debate and controversy. I would think we would be advised not to act on this problem until we know more about it until someone shows up with some better answers.

Someone might have occasion to go to the Virgin Islands or stop on the way going somewhere else during the recess and they could maybe look into it and find a better answer but you say that is only 1 percent of watch sales now.

Mr. Cassidy. In the U.S. It is 18 percent of the shipments coming out of the Virgin Islands. We want you to talk to the Virgin Island people and U. S. and Swiss Watch Companies and see if we can't work things out to take care of the problem we think is real, what is alleged to be a sham operation.

We also have to do something to make sure that the people employed in the Virgin Islands remain employed in some kinds of occupation.

Senator Dole. You are talking about some kind of immediate resolution.

Mr. Cassidy. I don't see why we couldn't work it out in a few weeks if the committee has the time.

The Chairman. If you look at the generous welfare program that is available down there -- the cost of living in the Virgin Islands is not near as high as it is in the United States. pecially if you haven't gotten around to putting in air condition-

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ing, if you just have a nice breeze going most of the time down there, and it does not get cold in the wintertime so people don't require a great deal of housing and they haven't been accustomed 1 2

So with food stamps and various other things that are availto the high standard of living. able down there, one seeking to hire Americans to work in the Virgin Islands have a real problem because they have so much

I would think someone ought to have closer knowledge of available to them anyway. it than we have at this point to see what the problem is. I do think it is better for people to be working than it is to be doing less productive things but on the other hand I don't have enough knowledge of it -- I don't know if anybody does -- to know to what extent that might be a rip off and to what extent it might be a 12 13 legitimate American industry. 14 15

It requires, as I understand it, that 30 percent of the components be American, isn't that right?

Mr. Cassidy. 30 percent of the value of the product shipped into the United States has to be attributable to the Virgin Islands. The Chairman. But what you hear is all they are doing is putting a few screws in it.

The Chairman. I would hope that somebody could provide bet-Mr. Cassidy. Correct. ter information than we have now about it. We are not in position to act on it at this point.

tariff and tax bills.

Senator Gravel. The ball bearing bill.

The Chairman. It seems to me that what you want to do would be better put -- as long as you have a bill that is going to go through it would be better to put it on something relevant. If you want to put it on the cost containment if you say there is no real cost to it.

I have not heard from anyone in Louisiana about that matter.

I am not asking for it. If you would like to do it --

Senator Gravel. That is fine.

The Chairman. Do you know if anyone from the Department objects to it, Mike?

Mr. Constantine. Senator we don't know what the Department's position is on that. They have not expressed any opposition to it. It was raised before and there does not seem to be any problem with the provision. It will have a net cost according to the Department of \$8 million a year but the bill has enough money in it to cover that.

Senator Gravel. So we could put it on that bill.

The Chairman. No objection. That bill is out there already.

Mr. Stern. It is in the final stage of being drafted. It has been ordered reported. It has not been reported.

The Chairman. If there is no objection we can reconsider the bill and we can add the amendmen- to it and we will report it.

Mr. Cassidy. Mr. Chairman, the staff would like authority

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to make technical and conforming changes to these tariff bills you ordered reported.

The Chairman. Without objection the staff can make technical changes.

Senator Dole. As I understand we are prepared to go back to this list.

Mr. Stern. The only item on the agenda were the tariff bills. Senator Dole. I think you said yesterday -- some of this has waited for a long time.

The Chairman. You wanted to offer an amendment yesterday and the clock went out.

Senator Curtis. Mr. Chairman, I have two or three matters I need to call up.

Senator Moynihan. New York City pension bill might hopefully be dealt with this morning. Senator Bentsen has to leave. It is not a long one but before he leaves I hope we might do it as there is great pressure at this point in time.

The Chairman. Why don't we take that up since Senator Bentsen wants to leave.

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Mr. Shapiro. As you know, Congress passed H. R. 12426 which was the Loan Guaranty Association allowing New York to get their loans guaranteed. The bill was signed into law yesterday.

The legislation that is currently pending before the committee deals with the situation where you have New York pension plans that would like to be in a position to purchase some of the New York debt.

However, because of certain of the pension restrictions, they would not be able to do so. They are self-dealing prohibitions and rules that provide the limitation of exclusive benefit rules which prohibit the New York City pension plans and some of the state pension plans from purchasing these bonds unless these provisions were enacted to allow them to do so.

In 1976, the Congress enacted P. L. 94-236 which would provide that legislation to allow the pension plans to purchase New York City debts. However, that legislation expires at the end of this year. Therefore, the current measures that are before the committee would continue the authority of the New York City and state pension plans to purchase the bonds for a period of four years.

There are a series of provisions and general guidelines that have been worked out with the Treasury Department, New York City and which Senators Moynihan and Bentson, as well as others, have been interested in a proposal to allow the New York City pension plans and state pension plans to purchase them.

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As I understand, there are general standards and specific standards which must be met in order to provde this permission for the New York City and state pension plans to purchase the bonds without losing the tax exemption status of their pension plans.

The two general standards, as I understand, would provide that the agreement to purchase the bonds would balance the needs of both the pension plans and the city and these are just general guidelines that the Treasury Department would make any determinations which would balance these needs between the pension plans and the city.

Secondly, that the Treasury would consider the rate of interest the security behind the bonds and the participation of outside parties such as banks and insurance companies in applying any general standards in overall agreement.

These are broad guidelines and they will not be specific, but it is to insure the pension plans are protected. The purpose behind these is to make sure those who are covered by the pension plans would not lose any benefit of the monies that are in the pension plans for their future benefit in the case of any potential default and try to buy some security for the New York City employees who are covered by these pension plans.

In addition, there are certain specific requirements that are provided such as a limitation on the amount of city and MAC debt which may be purchased but could not exceed certain annual specified

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percentages. In the case of the city pension plans, there are percentages that vary and decline until 1982. As I understand the agreement, it would be a 40-percent limitation in 1979.

This means that the city pension plans cannot hold more than 40 percent of their assets in this debt, city or MAC debt in 1978. This percentage would reduce to 36-percent in 1980, 33 percent in 1981 and 30 percent in 1982.

These percentages that I just referred to are to be measured 8 at the end of the fiscal year by taking an average of the percentages during the year so it is an average for the entire year, determined at the end of the year. That was the percentages for the city pension plans. In the case of the state pension plans they may not invest more than 10 percent of their assets in either the city or the debt securities.

There is also another rule that no individual city pension fund can hold more than 50 percent of its assets in city or MAC securities. A second specific standard would provide certain evaluation rules and these in a sense would say the New York debt be valued at face value and that other debts would be valued as the same rule that pension plans used for valuation under RESA and in the case of stocks they would essentially be evaluated at market values, somewhat of a market value.

The next specific requirement is that the city must be making a substantial progress toward eliminating its operating deficit each year and this would be determined on the same basis as has

been provided on the loan guaranty legislation that was just passed. rma 4 LH fls 300 7TH STREET, S.W., REPORTERS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024 (202) 554-2345 Ō  $\bigcirc$ 

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Senator Bentsen. No; wait a minute. On that we do provide for looking at the financial audit.

Mr. Shapiro. As I understand, the loan guarantee legislation looks at --

Senator Bentsen. It looks at budget projections. That is one thing but the actual facts and the financial audit are quite something else. To say that you are making substantial progress because your budget projections are optimistic does not necessarily mean that you have made that progress.

I believe that this piece should have in it what we originally talked about having in it -- looking at the financial audit itself.

Mr. Shapiro. As I understand, the report in loan guarantee legislation did say that and that possibly could be provided by the committee. It could be put in the bill. The next requirement would say no pension plan with negative cash flow projection for its current fiscal year would be allowed to buy city or MAC securities.

A fifth specific standard would say the city must have an audit which would be conducted annually by independent public accountants of its fiscal year financial statements.

The sixth requirement would say the city pension plans must have conducted annually an audit, which also must be performed by independent public accountants. As we understand, the results of both of these audits would be provided to the Congress.

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Senator Byrd. I favor this legislation. I have one question but first let me say that it seems to me that providing for an annual audit by independent public accounts is a very desirable and important thing to do. I am not totally clear on the balanced budget proposal in this bill. I assume it provides for a balanced budget at the end of -- what is it -- '82?

Mr. Shapiro. 1982.

Senator Byrd. On a generally accepted accounting --Mr. Shapiro. Generally accepted accounting practice basis.

Senator Bentsen. Let me say, Mr. Chairman, that this is a difficult objective we are working toward. We have a deep concern for the pensioners and the fact that we have given an exception to some of our rules, but the problem is -- I don't see any other answer frankly in trying to work with the city of New York in achieving its objectives, too, and I must say that Senator Moynihan has expressed his concern for the pensioners and has worked very closely with us and I am very appreciative of that cooperation. We think we put about as tough guidelines as we can put in and still have the thing work.

So, with that, I support the piece of legislation.

Senator Byrd. Could I ask another question at this point. Senator Moynihan, has the city ever had an independent audit?

The State Controller audits the city pen-Senator Moynihan. sion funds, yes. They are audited but this is not a provision which the union representatives look upon with any pleasure, but

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I feel they will understand our concerns, Senator Bentsen's concern, and they will simply have to accept it, that is all.

Senator Byrd. This provides for an independent audit aside from the governmental audit?

Senator Moynihan. That is right. The government audit is a very high quality audit.

Senator Bentzen. Pete Marwick is now auditing the city.

Senator Moynihan. We have added considerably to the prosperity of lawyers and auditors.

The Chairman. Without objection, the bill will be reported. Senator Moynihan. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Shapiro. The committee already reported H. R. 4007. ordered it reported and that bill had an amendment that was the New York City bill. What you are really doing is: You are reconsidering H. R. 4007 with the provisions agreed to today with the child support amendment. That, as I understand, was added to this bill the last time it was considered.

Mr. Moynihan. Can I take a minute to thank Senator Bentsen and to thank you. This is important; this is the last element of the most recent New York City rescue and we appreciate it.

Senator Ribicoff. Maybe Senator Bentsen can have an appearance at City Haul with you.

Senator Curtis. When you reach a point, I have two amendments and I am interested in two that I think will be called up by other Senators.

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The Chairman. We agreed to add this as an amendment to the bill that had been reported.

Mr. Stern. It was already reported before.

The Chairman. Without objection, we will reconsider the bill. The amendment will be added and the bill will be reported with the amendment.

Senator Dole had the floor at the time we had to yield to Senator Moynihan.

Senator Dole. We go right down the agenda. The next items are ones we have been discussing. As I understand S. 2393, there is no objection to that bill from Treasury. I think they may support 2393, the treatment of certain liabilities on incorporation. On a cash basis, the taxpayer usually has no basis for his accounts receivable; so if he incorporates he has excess of liability, which results in unexpected recognized gain. I understand Treasury may support that proposal.

Mr. Shapiro. In general when you incorporate and you transfer property to a corporation, there is no gain or loss. However, in certain cases there is a gain recognized. When the sum of the amount of liabilities that may be assumed by the corporation plus the amount of liabilities to which the property is subject would exceed the adjusted base of the property, then gain may be recognized.

The question raised that your bill deals with is whether or not the treatment of certain currently deductible liabilities

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such as accounts payable should be treated as gain and they would be assumed. What your bill would do is provide that, in the case of cash hasis taxpayers when they transfer property to a controlled corporation, the liability is such as these currently deductible items as accounts payable and so forth would generally not be considered to be treated as liabilities and not be taxed as gain revenue estimate if that is less than \$5 million.

We understand Treasury does support the bill. There are some technical problems and we would like the committee to allow us to make some technical agreements.

Mr. Lubick. It is my understanding this would apply where the transfer has not had a previous direction for the item; that is one of the principal technical amendments.

Senator Dole. There is no objection from Treasury?
Mr. Lubick. That is correct.

The Chairman. If there are no objections, we will approve the amendment.

Senator Dole. Next is S. 3125. It involves special use valuation. I think Treasury may suggest modifications. I am not certain they are necessary but I don't think there is any real objection in it.

Mr. Shapiro. This bill deals with farm real property valuation that occurred under estate gift tax revisions. What the rule says is that you value for Federal estate tax purposes the property on its actual use rather than its highest and best use,

which was the prior law case.

However, this special use valuation and its actual use would be recaptured, the tax benefit recaptured, if the heirs would dispose of the property within 15 years after receiving it. The heirs could continue to use the property for its actual use, such as farm property, and it would be taxed as that.

However, if the heir would sell it, for example, for real estate subdivisions, it would be the highest and best use and that benefit would be recaptured over the 15 years.

The problem your bill addresses is the case where the property would be involuntarily converted where the heir may not wanted to have converted it but it was taken from him. In this case your bill would say there would be no recapture if it is involuntarily converted during the recapture period.

As long as the proceeds received from that involuntary conversion have been reinvested in similar property and if it has not been completely reinvested in similar property, this proportionate rule of recapture related to the reinvestment would apply.

The Treasury Department has made two suggestions. Don, you may want to make that yourself.

Mr. Lubick. The first suggestion is purely technical. That is that the adjustment to the basis of the converted property be limited to the estate tax attributable to the post-1976 appreciation of the property. That is the general rule for all adjustments to bases and we think that should be incorporated. I

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understand from Mr. Nutter there was no problem with that.

The second one is a less technical problem, and that is in measuring the 15-year period during which the statute contemplates that the property would be continued to be used for farm purposes, we were concerned that if it is involuntarily converted into cash it is possible to have a minimum of a two-year period during which it is not used for farm purposes and then there can be a continuous extension of that, and it seemed to us that was inconsistent with the general purpose of the statute which required there actually be 15 years of farm use. The involuntary conversion, of course, requires an interruption in the use for a period of time.

We were concerned somewhat with the two-year period, but aside from the two-year period I think the possibility of general extensions, which, from my experience, could go on for a large number of years, seems to us to be inconsistent with the requirement of 15 years of use.

We would suggest that the 15-year period be extended by the period during which the property is not actually in farm use but really held in cash. So that overall we are maintaining the 15-year period of actual use.

Senator Dole. I am not certain I understand whether that is -- the 15-year period seems too high in any event but --

Mr. Lubick. The basis of the decision which was made in allowing this was that we want to make sure that the property

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ma ols does continue to be used for these special purposes. Given the context of that period, it seems to us there ought to be 15 years of use.

As far as we were concerned, the fact that there is a break in the use should not be held against the taxpayer. We would not suggest any change in the five-out-of-eight rule for actually, materially participating in the conduct of the farm nor would we suggest that the period of the involuntary conversion of the property which is being held in cash is counted as a break in measuring any continuous period, but we do think it is consistent with the requirement that there actually be 15 years of use.

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Senator Dole. With that modification, the additional one -we have no objection. Treasury supports the proposal is that
correct?

Mr. Lubick. That is correct.

Senator Dole. On that basis, I would agree to both the modifications. There is no controversy. There is no problem.

Mr. Shapiro. In view of those two changes, it appears to be appropriate.

Senator Dole. I think based on the fact there are only five of us here -- I knowthe other two items I proposed to bring up today, 3007 deals with independent contractors, there is a great deal of support for it.

There is also opposition from Treasury, and also 3288, deduction for certain employee retirement savings contributions. I think Treasury has some problems with that one.

Mr. Lubick. I think on that one, Senator Dole, I would like to call attention to the fact this whole matter of salary deductions and contributions under cash deferred profit sharing plans and a number of other items that are all related to this are in the bill which is going to be debated today by the House this week or next and I would think that the committee might want to consider this entire problem as a single unitary whole because they are all interrelated.

Senator Dole. I think that is accurate. Do you support 3007?

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Mr. Lubick. No, sir. We do not.

Senator Dole. Maybe I should bring that up tomorrow morning.

We do meet tomorrow morning. We will have more members here

because there are a number of members who are not here who are

sponsors of that particular provision and may want to be heard on

it.

Senator Curtis. I have a couple of matters that are of special interest to colleagues of ours who are not members of the committee. The first one is Senator Bartlett's bill, S.2825.

Under present law, a charitable organization is exempt from private foundation rules if it is operated, supervised or controlled or in connection with another charitable organization such as social welfare organizations, civic league, labor union or trade associations.

This bill would extend this exemption from the private foundation to charities operated, supervised, controlled or in connection with -- if it is controlled or in connection with a fraternal organization. This legislation is of great importance to Sand Springs Home in Oklahoma, a charitable institution providing care for needy orphans, widows and their dependent children which is controlled by the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Masons.

In addition, the bill would apply to approximately 25 other charities. Now, the Department of Treasury raised an objection that said that they could not extend what we give to civic leagues and labor unions and trade associations because they had a better

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scrutiny over them than charitable organizations. That does not

If the Masons of Oklahoma would transfer this to the Teamsters Union, it would qualify and apparently meet theTreasury's opposition, add up.

I just think that if we left the labor unions and trade assoc iations and civic leagues -- and most chambers of commerce are organized under that section of the code -- that this should be I do not think the revenue is significant and it is something that Senator Bartlett is very much interested in. Mr. Shapiro. This is a matter that has been considered from changed. 9

time to time in connection with bills subsequent to the Tax Reform As you know, in 1969 Congress provided the private f-oundation changes which in effect provided rules such as selfdealing, excise tax, investment comp and certain divestiture rulings relating to private foundations. Private foundation rules do not apply to publicly supported charities where there is widespread 14 support rather than just a private type foundation. 15 16 17

In this particular case, as Senator Curtis indicated, Sand Springs Home case, it is a privately endowed home for the orphan children, the widowed and elderly people. It does not qualify as a publicly supported charity because it is privately endowed. Therefore, it comes within the rules of the private foundation as Therefore, they are subject to the excise taxes, the other 22 provided in 1969. 23

rules and limitations that apply to private foundations. 24 ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC. 25

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addition, they are limited by charitable contribution rules where they would not get 50 percent limitation under present law for wholly supported charities, but are limited to 20 percent limita-The proposal that Senator Curtis is bringing up on behalf of Senator Bartlett deals specifically with Sand Springs Home in Oklahoma.

As we understand there are approximately 26 other situations where they would like not to be treated as private foundations and to be treated in effect as a public charity or just in effect exempt from private foundation status.

Therefore, these long-term care organizations would not be subject to annual excise taxes on their net investment income or any other private investment excise tax. In addition, the public charity would apply to the charitable contributions to these homes and the other homes.

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If that home were operated supervised or 1 controlled or in connection with a with a civic league, labor union or trade association it would be exempt, would it?

Mr. Shapiro. Yes, it would.

Senator Curtis. And it is operated by and controlled and in conjunction with a fraternal organization and that is the basic change that Senator Bartlettwould ask in the law.

Mr. Shapiro. Yes.

Senator Curtis. Any significant amount?

I don't think we have a significant revenue -- it is estimated that the bill would reduce budget receipts by less than \$10 million in fiscal year '79 and then less than \$1 million each year thereafter. The reason for the \$10 million in the first fiscal year is that the bill is made retroactive to January 1, 1970 which is the date the private foundation rules were made effective under the Tax Reform Act so it is the retro-14 active feature of the bill that has the million dollars a year. 15 Senator Curtis. Without a doubt they save many times more 16 than that because they are taking care of orphans and others 17 18

that would be public charges if this infusion didn't exist. Mr. Lubick.. I am not sure what the principal reason for the opponents advocating legislation is. If it is to relieve themselves of their liability on the investment income of private

foundation I would like to point out I believe legislation is already in the works with our approval to reduce that tax from 23 24 25

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4 percent to 2 percent to cut it in half so that of course would reduce the revenue impact on them.

I think basically the question that is involved here is the differentiation that was made in the 1969 Act between public charities which were not subject to the very stringent rules of accounting and self dealing and a number of other things that are The differentiation which applicable to private foundations. we made on public scrutiny I don't think is concerned with the differentiation between labor unions and so on. What we are concerned with is the basic principle which was established between those charities which are subject to public scrutiny such as colleges, churches and so on and therefore the Congress decided were not in need of the same intensive regulation as opposed to those which were essentially privately run charitable organizations whose supervision is principally limited to the Attorney General of a particular state.

The fact remains doesn't it that if this home Mr. Curtis. in Oklahoma were run by the Teamsters Union it would be exempt. If it is run by the Masonic group it would not.

They are exempt from taxation, as I understand Mr. Lubick. It is a charitable organization which is exempt from taxation.

Senator Curtis. Not exempt from private foundation rules. Mr. Lubick. The private foundation rules would not have any applicability outside the charitable area at all.

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You are perfectly right. If it were a profit-making organization it also would be exempt from those rules. It just seems to me that that does not have any application --

Senator Curtis. I think that is what the bill is all about, to exempt an operation such as this from private foundation rules, isn't that correct?

Mr. Lubick. That is only in the charitable area. In other words Congress has decided there should be certain rules which apply in the charitable area and they drew the line between private foundations and public charities.

Now I don't expect that -- and I don't know -- we have not been able to find out that the organization is really concerned with the self-dealing rules or the stock ownership rules, control of the business rules.

I think presumably they would only be concerned with the special excise tax on investment income of private foundation which is now 4 percent and is expected to go to 2 and perhaps the minimum distribution rule with respect to their investment income.

Senator Curtis. But I want to read the Treasuries letter.
"In addition the objectives of a fraternal society usually are
more personal than those of a 501 (C) 3, 4, 5 or 6 organization."

That is the civic organization and labor unions and so on.

"For these reasons the fact that an organization is operated in connection with a fraternal society is less likely to provide adequate protection against excess business holdings and other ac-

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tivities prohibited by the excise tax on private foundations."

I just can't follow you, that is a Chamber of Commerce or Trade Association, NAM, Teamsters Union or the Carpenters Union or anybody else could operate a home in Oklahoma, take care of needy orphans which does on children but a fraternal organization can't.

Senator Ribicoff. What bothers me is how many organizations are really involved? It is just not talking about Sand Spring. There is another sentence. "Any other long-term care organization meeting the requirements of the bill also would be treated under the bill as a public charity."

How many would that involve in addition to the 26.

Mr. Lubick. We don't have any idea, Senator.

Senator Ribicoff. So you don't know what would be involved? Mr. Lubick. No. sir.

Mr. Shapiro. That was the date the Ways and Means Committee made its first determination in 1969.

The 26 were those brought to the attention of the Congress but the bill is drafted so it would cover any such case in existence at that time with continuous operation in this matter We know of these. We don't know of any others since then. that could be but any ones that are would be covered.

Senator Ribicoff. That is what bothers me where really this is pretty open ended we don't know where it will hit. It is not just the Sand Springs.

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Senator Curtis. It can't hit much. The Treasury estimated \$1 million a year.

Mr. Lubick. I don't believe the revenue is a consideration in this matter because the only taxes that could be subject to this would be the 4 percent tax on investment incomes which is scheduled to go down to 2 percent.

I don't look at it as a tax matter. Indeed that tax was not intended to raise revenue, it was intended to cover the cost of audit by the Internal Revenue Service so I don't think revenue is a consideration at all. It is simply a question of where you want to draw the line on imposing the stringent restrictions on public charities as opposed to those that are not. I think that is basically the question.

Senator Curtis. It is not a public charity necessarily.

If this same organization were operated by a labor union --

Mr. Lubick. Then it wouldn't be a charity, you are correct.

Senator Curtis. I don't think you state the necessary reason why fraternal organizations should not have the same status in this area as social welfare organization, civic leagues. There is a long list, 6 organizations that are organized, civic leagues including most Chambers of Commerce and labor unions and trade associations.

Mr. Lubick. I don't agree with you, Senator. I don't find the distinction between labor unions and fraternal groups.

Senator Curtis. That is all we are asking.

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Mr. Lubick. But it seems to us the line of demarcation is between public charities and in those charities I think we are dealing in a charitable area, those that are essentially private charities and those that are broadly based charities. And that I think is the justification for the distinction if there is to be one.

I think we would rest on this basis.

Senator Curtis. You don't have serious objection to this, do you?

Mr. Lubick. I think you are right. I think it is basically a question of whether you want to maintain that original distinction.

Senator Ribicoff. The problem that I have here, we have got four senators obviously we don't have a quorum. If we have a complicated problem I think it would behoove us not to try to pass a bill under these circumstances.

But if Senator Curtis has highlighted a problem that ought to be remedied I would hope that the staff and Senator Curtis's staff and the Treasury could work this out before the next meeting.

Mr. Lubick. We have been trying to find out what the problem is as far as Sard Spring home and we would like them to come in and talk with us and see if we can't reconcile it.

Senator Ribicoff. It could be opened. That is what bothers me. We don't know where we are going. You are passing a general law that applies to others besides Sand Springs.

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Mr. Lubick. It is limited to organization, that we are organized before a certain date so you have a finite class although it could be a broader class.

Senator Curtis. Mr. Chairman, I have a suggestion. like to mention another bill that I have agreed to call up for another Senator who is not on this committee. It won't take more than 40 seconds to state it.

The home of General Lafayette in Paris has been more or less locked up. Boxes have been unopened and a tremendous wealth of correspondence, memoranda and so on that deals with the very foundation of our Republic. His heirs have property in the United States. They want to give that property to the foundation to maintain this home even though it is in Paris.

I am not pressing it now because we don't have a quorum but here is a commitment of two bills, not mine, and I wondered if because of lack of quorum if we could have an understanding that at least these two matters would be the pending business at the first meeting we take up.

Senator Ribicoff. Without objection it is so ordered. They are both reasonable requests.

Senator Curtis. Thank you very much.

While I think these are urgent matters I do not want to run into any trouble for lack of quorum and I appreciate the Chairman's consideration.

Senator Ribicoff. I thank the Treasury and the staff might

get together with Senator Curtis's staff and Senator Butler to see if you can't work out the Sand Springs problem.

(Whereupon, at ll:45 a.m. the meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.)

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 11, 1978

MICHAEL STERN, STAFF DIRECTOR GEORGE W. PRITTS, JR., MINORITY COUNSEL

## MEMORANDUM

TO : The Honorable

Harry F. Byrd, Jr.

FROM: Michael Stern michael Stern

Staff Director

SUBJECT: Status of Unemployment Trust Fund

At the Committee meeting of Tuesday, August 8, 1978, you asked the staff to obtain certain information concerning the Unemployment Trust Fund. We have obtained the following information from the Department of Labor.

The net effective Federal Unemployment Tax rate is projected to decline from 0.7 percent to 0.5 percent on January 1, 1986. Under the 1976 Unemployment Compensation Amendments, the rate was temporarily increased from 0.5 to The rate is to revert to 0.5 percent as soon as 0.7 percent. the General Fund of the Treasury has been repaid the amounts which were borrowed by the extended unemployment compensation account of Unemployment Trust Fund to cover its deficits during the recent recessionary period. The total amount owed by the extended unemployment compensation account is now \$8.7 It is anticipated that \$1 billion of this amount will be repaid during fiscal year 1979 and that the entire debt will be repaid by the end of 1985. The tax rate would, therefore, decline to 0.5 percent effective in 1986. is also a debt of \$4.8 billion owed to the General Fund by the Federal unemployment account of the Trust Fund. account is used to make loans to States to cover temporary deficits in the State accounts. The repayment of this debt is not required to trigger the reduction in the Federal tax It is anticipated that repayments from this account will be made starting in fiscal year 1980 as States begin to repay what they have borrowed.)

The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr. August 11, 1978 Page 2

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The status of the Unemployment Trust Fund Accounts for fiscal year 1979 is estimated as follows:

## (in billions)

Federal Accounts	Start of Year Balance	Income	Outgo	Fiscal 1979 Surplus (or Deficit)	End of Year Balance
Employment Security Administration	\$0.5	\$ 2.9	\$2.8	\$+0.1	\$ 0.6
Extended Unemploy- ment Compensation	0.7	1.0	1.3	-0.3	0.5
Federal Unemploy- ment Account	0.3	.0.2	0.2		0.3
State Accounts	8.9	13.4	9.1	+4.3	13.2

The above table shows that there is a \$4 billion fiscal year 1979 surplus in the Unemployment Fund but that the surplus is entirely in the accounts which hold <u>State</u> unemployment tax funds. This table is based on the July 6, 1978 revision of the President's budget. A somewhat smaller surplus is shown here from the January budget, primarily because the January budget did not assume the \$1 billion repayment to the General Fund which is now expected.