

The CHAIRMAN. What I have reference to is, do you think that present law would permit the Weather Bureau to perform its immediate function anywhere in the world?

Dr. WEXLER. We have so far been able to do this in United States possessions and in the Arctic. The Arctic is mentioned specifically in our legislation. I believe action has been started to include the word "Antarctic" in close conjunction with the Arctic to permit us to operate in the Antarctic after the close of the IGY in the same way as we have done in the Arctic. I am sorry that I do not know the exact status of that inclusion with respect to the Antarctic.

Mr. FLYNT. Dr. Gould, I have another question. I would like the question to be on the record. I will leave it to you and your colleagues as to whether your answer should be on or off the record. With regard to the possibility of furthering the scientific studies already in progress which would be most beneficial to the United States, a condominium status or international status?

Dr. GOULD. I have long thought that a condominium status, a joint claim with New Zealand and the United States and perhaps with Australia, would perhaps be the happiest kind of solution. We have operated essentially within that framework, and we have done it very happily. We have drawn upon the resources of New Zealand. We need it as our base and, of course, the operation of Halley Station has been one of the most successful in Antarctica. We know it would work, Mr. Flynt.

Mr. FLYNT. Dr. Gould, I thank you very much for that. I would like to say that I am in full accord with what you have just said.

Dr. GOULD. I recently had published a booklet by the Foreign Policy Association, headline series, called *Antarctica and World Affairs*, and I made the same recommendation in there.

The CHAIRMAN. I know it is a little bit out of the realm of your activity, with the exception of the necessity of it; you must have logistics supplied, obviously, by the military. Have you any information as to what is being done with reference to larger and more powerful icebreakers?

Dr. GOULD. I have no idea at all whether any have been commissioned or designed or thought of.

Mr. MACDONALD. Currently there is before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee a bill to supply an atomic icebreaker, but I have seen no recommendations from the Department of Defense or National Science Foundation as to whether or not it would be welcomed by the scientists in Antarctica.

Would you like to comment on that?

Dr. WEXLER. This opens up a very interesting subject of Antarctic oceanography.

The task force, in sending icebreakers and ships to the Antarctic has done this from a point of view of penetrating through the ice and unloading men and equipment. They have taken science measurements in oceanography from these ships as opportunity permits in view of their very tight schedule, but not as much, really, as the problems require. This is because, as I say, the ships are mostly operationally guided. Our Committee has considered this situation very carefully and is coming out with a very strong recommendation to the Government that at least two ships be specifically designated as