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General Comments

-- The DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL WITH THE PRESIDENT
STRATOSPHERIC OZONE
June 18, 1987

- o CEA, like many others, was initially skeptical of the wisdom of regulation to protect the stratospheric ozone layer.
 - Too often in the past, environmentalists have been like "the boy who cried 'wolf'."
 - CEA has always opposed burdening our economy with unnecessary and costly regulations, environmental or otherwise.
 - CEA has reached its position in support of a strong international protocol only after careful examination of the best data currently available.

- o What is the basis of CEA's position?
 - As explained by Lee Thomas, the health and environmental risks of inaction and indecision are substantial.
 - * The health dangers include a large number of avoidable deaths from skin cancer.
 - * Many of the long-term and potentially irreversible ill effects of ozone depletion will fall on future generations.
 - We have a responsibility to those who will come after us to make an economically sound decision---neither to subject them to needless risks nor to weaken the economic system they will inherit from us.

- The adverse health effects translate into very large economic damages if significant ozone depletion occurs.
- On the other hand, the costs to our economy of responsible control measures are relatively small.
- Our cost/benefit analysis shows that a protocol consistent with what has been negotiated so far is clearly justified on economic grounds.

Aug; 20 to ; Prefer vote on 30 to -> new data

o An international agreement is essential, and we are very close to one.

- The scope of the problem is world-wide. The U.S. cannot protect the ozone layer by itself.
- Unilateral controls forced on us by Congress or the courts would only disadvantage U.S. consumers and make U.S. industry less competitive. Other countries that produce the ozone-depleting chemicals would get a free ride.
- The U.S. has been the leader in the negotiations so far, and a successful, effective protocol would be a major diplomatic and domestic success.