

ALAN CRANSTON  
CALIFORNIA

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 25, 1973

The Honorable Jane M. Tolmach  
Mayor  
City of Oxnard  
Oxnard, California

Dear Jane:

Thank you for contacting me about the Navy's announced conversion of Point Mugu to a Government Owned/Contractor Operated facility. I believe it is an outrage that close to 1500 civilians will lose their jobs as a result of this transfer -- while the United States continues to maintain a vast network of overseas bases employing over 166,000 foreign nationals.

More upsetting than this, however, is the manner in which this decision appears to have been made. Notes from a meeting of top officials of the Naval Air Systems Command indicate that a brain-storming session held two days after the decision to convert the range was called in an attempt to justify the previously-announced conversion. In other words, the decision seems to have been made backwards. Those responsible for studying the cost effectiveness of the Pt. Mugu conversion were apparently told what conclusions their study would reach, and then were sent out to substantiate those conclusions.

I am appalled at the apparent irresponsibility and lack of ethics manifested in this process. Thus I have joined with several other members of the California Congressional delegation in requesting the General Accounting Office to investigate this decision and the manner in which it was reached. In addition, I joined with Senator Tunney in requesting that the Military Construction Authorization Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee investigate the entire situation.

As a result of the hearings, which were held at the end of June, coupled with information brought out in the volumes of correspondence I received on this issue, I have requested that the Senate withhold authorizations for the conversion, as well as funds for cutbacks. I have also asked for the restoration of operating funds for the Pacific Missile Range until the Pentagon can demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of the transition.

I will continue to pursue this matter. I am determined to do all I can to assure that the final decision regarding Point Mugu is a fair one, based on a just and reasonable appraisal of the facts.

Sincerely,

  
Alan Cranston