

timber industry, there's a danger that "only the Weyerhaeusers will survive" and the medium-sized operations would be forced out of business. "I have nothing against bigness... if it is not exclusive."

Hatfield shifted his weight to the other foot — the federal government's role in the U.S. economy.

One of the major reasons for high interest rates is that "the money market perceives that the federal government does not have control of its financial household."

The Senate Appropriations Committee has been called the most powerful committee in the Senate when it comes to the economy.

"Let me deny that categorically," he says. Mandated programs account for 78 percent of the budget, so only 22 percent of the U.S. budget is under the committee's scrutiny, Hatfield says. Of this, 17 percent is allocated for defense. Five percent remains for the committee to modify, he says.

This five-percent base already is being sliced, by \$14 billion and another \$25 billion, he says. "We could abolish all programs in the five-percent base and still not balance the budget."

If this trend continues, by 1985 almost 93 percent of the U.S. budget will be for programs mandated by law, he says. Unless America is willing to change, "this country fares a financial disaster worse than the Great Depression or complete monetary collapse."

"If we didn't know what to do, I'd be really discouraged."

Time for questions from the audience. Immediately a reporter standing next to the KVAL camera asks Hatfield about the Falkland Islands conflict, but Hatfield cuts him off. The senator asks for questions from the general public first.

Someone from the forest

products industry complains that the Bureau of Land Management is giving out three-month extensions in succession. "Are they just stalling?"

BLM is getting conflicting signals from the timber industry, Hatfield says, although it "has not taken the leadership role it should have."

Legislation is needed but it will be difficult to convince legislators from the South where pine is harvested: "a political job that's going to be a tough one." A rider on an appropriations bill might do the trick, he adds.

Someone asks about Senate Bill 1771, calling the population control bill an example of government encroachment.

Hatfield defensively launches into an explanation of what he calls his "global resource" bill.

Government agencies dealing with resource issues number about 25, he says, and his bill would establish an "inter-agency group" which would have a "fact-finding activity," coordinating information for those agencies.

The questioner objects, trying to interject more than two words at a time. He does manage to say Hatfield's bill has a dubious goal of "population stabilization."

Hatfield wants to go on. The questioner's edgy advocacy persuades the audience to agree readily.

The next question is more to Hatfield's liking. Someone asks him about the nuclear arms race. He launches into a short talk on "potential global suicide."

A 10-cent computer chip has malfunctioned 140 times, a problem which — if not double-checked — could lead to nuclear war. "That's the edge of the abyss we're upon."

Nuclear superiority is "pure mythology," he says. "It's like fighting a modern day war with bow and arrow." The capacity

for killing everyone on the planet several times over makes the issue of superiority a moot one, he says.

A "mutual bilateral (nuclear weapons) freeze" for nuclear weapons is essential, he says. Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wa., and others are pushing a bill which is merely an "excuse to escalate further" because it provides for a freeze only when U.S. and Soviet weapon arsenals are equal. If we always view Soviet arsenals as superior, the bill is useless, Hatfield says.

"We know ours is superior." The Falkland Islands conflict is brought up again by the reporter who asked it at the beginning of discussion. "You're a patient man," Hatfield tells him, then begins to answer the question.

When Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated, Hatfield says, the incident became the "ignition switch" for World War I. "Something like this could become the ignition of a conflagration leading into a great war."


The Falklands conflict is another reason to establish a national peace college, which would train peacemakers and arbitrators.

Someone asks him what he would do about the Washington Public Power Supply System fiasco.

"Not very much," Hatfield replies. "Too long a time we've relied on experts," and the Northwest Power Bill was designed to provide citizen input. After voting against federal money to bail out Lockheed and Chrysler, and with the tightness of the federal budget, Hatfield says he couldn't recommend a federal bailout.

What are the chances of the recent housing bill? "I'm rather optimistic," Hatfield replies.

The audience must be at least partially optimistic, applauding almost louder than at the start of the "Meet Mark" session.



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