

In the event you are not familiar with action on this matter of the Special Government Information Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives, I am enclosing copies of an exchange of correspondence with the subcommittee chairman, Representative John E. Moss, pursuant to my having called this to his attention.

With best wishes, I remain,
Cordially yours,

ERNEST GRUENING.

Enclosures.

(The following letters appear as exhibits in the attached hearings on S. 1670 before the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 86th Cong., 1st sess. (pp. 253-256).)

LETTER FROM SENATOR GRUENING TO DR. NOLAN, DIRECTOR,
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, D.C., November 18, 1959.

DR. THOMAS B. NOLAN,
Director, Geological Survey, Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR DR. NOLAN: On October 28 and November 1 of this year, pursuant to authority vested in me by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and by the chairman of that committee's Subcommittee on Public Lands, I conducted public hearings of that subcommittee in Anchorage and Kenai, Alaska, on S. 1670, a bill to provide for the granting of mineral rights in certain homestead lands in the State of Alaska.

In anticipation of those hearings, and at my direction, my administrative assistant, Mr. George Sundborg, wrote you on October 9 and again on October 19 requesting the following materials for use at those hearings:

"1. Minutes of the Oil Board of November 8, 1956, concerning 'Criteria for Classification of Oil and Gas Lands';

"2. The memorandum of December 10, 1956, on 'Classification of Lands for Oil and Gas,' which was approved by the Director of the Geological Survey on April 22, 1957."

Although the materials thus requested had not been received by me in Anchorage at the time of the hearing there, I was informed by your Department's field solicitor that they were en route to my office in Washington. Accordingly, I ordered that the materials when received be placed in the public record of the hearing.

From the standpoint of the completeness of the record such action is important since competent geological testimony was presented at the hearing taking issue sharply with the classification made by the Geological Survey. It is therefore necessary that the classification made by the Geological Survey—and the bases for such classification—also appear in the record so that the committee have a valid basis for arriving at some conclusion as to the merits of the opposing contentions.