

documents should be made available to the public. It was so intended in releasing them to your office.

There is no reason why the copies of the documents sent you should not be made a part of the record of the hearings on S. 1670.

Sincerely yours,

ROYCE A. HARDY,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

FURTHER REQUEST OF SENATOR GRUENING FOR ANSWERS TO CERTAIN SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, D.C., December 30, 1959.

Mr. ROYCE A. HARDY,
*Assistant Secretary of the Interior,
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. HARDY: This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 16, 1959, replying to my inquiry of November 18, 1959, regarding the decision purportedly made on April 22, 1957, by the Director, Geological Survey, with respect to "criteria for classification of oil and gas lands."

In my letter to the director I specifically asked:

(1) Under what rule or regulation was and is the information contained in these documents withheld from public scrutiny and labeled "Not for Public Inspection"?

(2) Under what statutory authority was and is the information contained in these documents withheld from public scrutiny and labeled "Not for Public Inspection"?

I would appreciate an early reply to these questions.

Cordially yours,

ERNEST GRUENING.

RESPONSE OF THE DEPARTMENT TO THE FOREGOING LETTER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., February 16, 1960.

Hon. ERNEST GRUENING,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR GRUENING: We have your letter of December 30, 1959, in which you again ask for references to the specific rule, regulation, or statutory authority for labeling "Not for Public Inspection" a memorandum dated December 10, 1956, and approved by the Director of the Geological Survey on April 22, 1957.

No specific regulatory or statutory provision was invoked nor is there anything secret about that document or the minutes of the oil board which accompanied it. There was no specific reason to approve the document on that particular date and no intent to deprive anyone of the rights earned prior thereto or afterward.

These documents did not result from any decision by the Survey or the Department to deprive anyone of their rightful interests. In fact, initiation of the changes in classifying lands as prospectively valuable