

for oil and gas was the outgrowth of extensive technical and scientific study of the geologic conditions in sedimentary basins believed to contain formations favorable for accumulation of oil and gas. It had become increasingly clear that the older concept of visual structural features as a basis of classification was no longer adequate. The change to a petroleum province concept was considered necessary to accord with changing conditions of oil and gas exploration and development. The petroleum province concept had been stressed by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, made up of the outstanding geologists of the United States, as early as 1941 as the best method to outline the future oil and gas provinces if it were desired to obtain an overall picture of the undiscovered oil resources.

Its adaptation by the Geological Survey for classification of land areas required much study and research by members of the Survey. During this period the stamp "Not for Public Inspection" was placed on the memorandum primarily as an administrative assurance that the proposed policy recommendations would not be released prior to a determination that they were acceptable to the Director of the Geological Survey. As the recommendations were approved, the documents are available for public inspection, as we indicated in our letter of December 16 to you.

Sincerely yours,

ROYCE A. HARDY,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SPECIAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
Washington, D.C., April 8, 1960.

HON. ERNEST GRUENING,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR GRUENING: The Department of the Interior finally has admitted its mistaken use of the "Not for Public Inspection" stamp on the document transmitted to you.

I have asked the Department what steps have been taken to prevent similar mistakes in the future. Enclosed is the latest correspondence.

Sincerely,

JOHN E. MOSS, *Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
Washington, D.C., April 8, 1960.

HON. FRED A. SEATON,
*Secretary of the Interior,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: A letter of April 7, 1960, from D. Otis Beasley, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, provides further information on the public availability of documents