

FEDERAL OIL SHALE PROGRAM

It is on this proposed program that the Interior Committee's February 21 hearing will center, but at the same time we will welcome new, additional ideas and suggestions, as well as be glad to receive information and views with respect to development of this truly tremendous potential source of energy within our country that the Nation will need for its security and economic growth during the next few years.

Some idea of the extent of the Green River Formation reserves may be gathered from the statement by the then Under Secretary of the Interior at our committee's informational hearing on oil shale held May 12, 1965, that high-grade oil shale deposits there are computed at 600 billion barrels. Known world recoverable reserve of petroleum from conventional sources are only about 300 billion barrels. Much of these latter sources are beyond our borders, available to us only at the will and by the grace of other nations, and over perilous ocean routes. But more than twice the known conventional reserves of petroleum of the entire world are in the shales of a single area in the heart of our own country. The former Under Secretary, John A. Carver, who is now a member of the Federal Power Commission, described the Green River Formation as "the world's largest known resource of hydrocarbons."

By far the richest and most extensive of these oil shale deposits are in federally owned lands. The problems of developing these publicly owned resources have been greatly complicated by the relatively recent realization that the oil shale is associated with dawsonite, an alumina-producing ore, and other minerals.

The five-point program of the Secretary of the Interior faces up to the difficulties, legal, technical, and political, of the situation. It would permit development in the time-tested, historic American tradition of free, private enterprise with careful controls and oversight to protect the public interest.

Mr. President, this matter is of such interest and importance that I ask unanimous consent that the text of Secretary Udall's announcement of last Friday be printed in full at this point in the RECORD, and on behalf of all of the members of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, I invite any interested Members of the Congress or the public to attend and to participate in our February 21 hearings.

There being no objection, the announcement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as printed above.

The CHAIRMAN. It will be recalled that on May 12, 1965, in an open hearing this committee went into the physical facts respecting oil shale in detail and also discussed some of the legal and economic problems. These hearings have been printed, and I will direct that they be incorporated, by reference, in today's hearing. Incorporated by reference means, of course, that we will not go to the expense of reprinting the text, but that the material in it will be considered by the committee as a part of its present record.

Thus, there will be no need for us this morning to take the time to go in detail into the physical facts concerning oil shale. These physical facts have not changed in any substantial degree in the less than 2 years since the 1965 hearing, except possibly in the recognition of dawsonite and other minerals associated with the shale. Rather, we can concentrate on the policy questions involved.

We have an imposing list of witnesses, headed by Stewart Udall, the Secretary of the Interior, the agency of the executive branch of the Government that has initial responsibility for the public lands of the United States and the development of their mineral resources. Secretary Udall has just returned from an extensive survey trip overseas, and has another commitment this morning in addition to our hearing. This is the reason why I agreed to open this hearing a half hour earlier than our usual time, and I ask that the members of the committee withhold any statements that they may wish to make until after we have heard the Secretary.