

But we think we have taken steps in the right direction. We made a beginning and that is the important thing. We may be unsure of the ultimate rules for routine and unrestricted leasing, but we have started machinery in motion to gather the knowledge and experience for that long-range goal. This, it seems to me, is the important development at this stage of our knowledge.

I have indicated some of the areas where further legislative policy may prove necessary or useful. Based on the attention this committee has devoted to the subject, especially in recent years, we have great confidence that such legislative proposals will receive understanding and informed consideration. In this regard, I would like to emphasize again the ultimate power of Congress to deal with matters affecting the disposal of public land resources. As administrative custodians and technical experts, it is our duty to manage the lands and learn all we can about their values. But we can dispose of those values only as the representatives of the whole people dictate or authorize.

I should like to end with a point that I began with, that I think that the best way to prevent us from getting too far off the right road is for there to be keen congressional interest and sharp congressional oversight as we move ahead. We welcome this hearing and any further hearings that this committee may want to carry out.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for your excellent presentation of the oil shale problems and of your program.

With reference to your last comment, the Chair wishes to announce that today's meeting in all probability will be merely the beginning of hearings on this complex, important subject. It is obvious that there will be a continuing need for this committee to keep informed concerning this program. I am delighted, and of course, really not surprised, that the Secretary welcomes this approach on the part of the committee.

After the witnesses who have asked to testify have been heard, we will leave the record open so that others may submit statements or comment on the testimony. When we conclude this morning, we will reconvene tomorrow at 10 o'clock. It is not a holiday as far as the U.S. Senate is concerned and I hope that that will not cause any great inconvenience for those on the outside, including the fourth estate—fourth and fifth estates.

Mr. Secretary, with reference to the first point, I have never understood the requirement that with respect to entry on the public domain under the mining law, why recordation of claims is made only locally, in county offices. It would seem to me that what should be required is that the recordation be made with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and a copy of that be recorded in the county pursuant to local law where the property is located. Such dual recordation appears logical.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Chairman, I want to dwell on this because this is one immediate thing that can be done to help us move forward. I think from the statement that I read you can see what a morass we have. We merely can guess at the number of these dawsonite mining claims that were filed last year. The old mining laws of 1872 were based on the experience of that time, where the man went to the county recorder in the county in which the claim was located and filed