

the lands that the State may have in the oil shale region. If the State wanted to block up its lands for purposes of a development project of its own, it would seem to me within the limits that we have been discussing here of the equal value rule that this should be possible; yes.

Senator Moss. You were discussing earlier the desirability of having a filing with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of mineral entry and, I believe we are all in agreement on that. Do you envision also that there should be a recording of assessment work so that you can keep that filing up to date, as it were, within the records of the BLM?

Mr. UDALL. Well, the Solicitor says the Federal Government cannot take advantage of failure to do assessment work because of a Supreme Court ruling. Therefore, this particular item of assessment work would not be one that we would require information on. But I assume there are other provisions.

It is not simply a notice provision but it would require them to provide data so that we could ascertain the essential facts regarding the claims.

Senator Moss. I may have some additional questions but I would like to call on my colleague from Colorado, if he has any questions. Senator Allott?

Senator ALLOTT. Thank you. Mr. Secretary, first of all, I want to express my appreciation to the chairman of the committee and to you both for opening up this recordation problem. As you know, in the past few years I have had several bills—I will comment later about two of them—looking in the express direction you are moving now. Perhaps we are at last devoting to this area, in which I have been vitally interested ever since my coming to the Senate, the necessary effort to try and resolve some real and complicated problems. Only the complete amateur can tell us off the top of his head how to solve these, because they are extremely complicated.

I know that my other colleagues have questions and you have to be out of here at what time?

Mr. UDALL. 11:40, Senator, at the latest.

Senator ALLOTT. You have to leave at 11:40?

Mr. UDALL. Yes.

Senator ALLOTT. All right. I may have other questions after these, but we can attend to them. I was pleased that the chairman announced that we would perhaps have other hearings and give industry an opportunity to make whatever comments they might care to about what is brought out here this morning.

Perhaps I can get at this most expeditiously by starting on your announcement of January 27. In your first suggestion, it contains four elements, as I see it. The withdrawal of oil shale lands from all mineral entry other than for oil and gas. And so this would hold in abeyance the development of dawsonite and nahcolite and other similar minerals at least for the time being.

The initiation of examinations and contests to remove clouds on title. Now, perhaps I should ask here—the Department of the Interior is presently trying to clear title to oil shale lands. Do you intend to expedite this program or merely continue at the same pace?