

of large-scale economics. This is at least the sort of thing we have been talking about up to this point. We would expect him to come to us with his application, setting forth this as his main purpose, and say let us determine what the values are and see whether we can work out a blocking up program that will enable me to make my holdings contiguous and sound in terms of an economical operation.

Senator ALLOTT. Now, it is obvious that I am going to have to permit my colleagues an opportunity here, and I just want to get into one other phase. I am sure you will recall that I have introduced a recording statute for the last several years which, however, applied only to oil and gas leases. Your Department has rendered an unfavorable report upon this, upon the basis that it would cause an excess of work.

Now, of course, if we follow your suggestion with respect to mining, and I frankly believe it is a valuable suggestion, it would cause even more work. But with the modern facilities that we now have, in the BLM in Denver, for example, could this not be taken care of in both respects?

Mr. UDALL. Well, Senator, there has probably been some rethinking on our part. Maybe you should press us again on your legislation. I do not recall what the issue was—

Senator ALLOTT. I will be happy to.

Mr. UDALL (continuing). On this particularly but I think we have to be logical and consistent and if a recording statute in terms of mining claims makes sense, maybe the other does, too. I will indicate to you at least on my own part an open mind at the moment on that.

Senator ALLOTT. Thank you. Now, to move on to the last thing I will try to cover this morning—unless there is more time left—on your point 3, the provisional development of leases for Federal oil shale lands, I presume that these developments that you speak of, these research developments, would go along the lines of the consortium which is now operating at Anvil Points. Is that correct?

Mr. UDALL. Senator, this is a sound assumption in part. We have the feeling that we ought to be open at this point, at the outset, to all manner of different proposals within limits, of course. It is our feeling that the consortium approach is probably superior and we have tried to hint strongly in our press statements and otherwise to the companies who are obviously interested that we do think the consortium approach is superior, for a number of reasons.

No. 1, it makes it considerably easier for us as was the case at Rifle to have a consortium of companies so that we are not having to single out a particular company and everyone else then feels we favored them for some reason or other.

Also, because of other minerals that are present, it appears to us logical that not only petroleum and gas companies but aluminum companies, mining companies that are interested in sodium and in other minerals be included. Particularly in terms of trying to develop a whole new technology, having companies with different experiences and with a different technological background will make it possible to move faster and have all the answers rather than getting only part of the answers as a result of a research or development project.