

only do we have conservation organizations insofar as the pristine quality of our landscape is concerned but as well we are deeply involved in trying to see that we make the best and wisest utilization of our natural resources. In this context I would say that, if the Department could cooperate closely with the States, it would seem to me there would be a very favorable public reaction and I should think that the sort of relationship that might thus be developed would be all to the good. We are proud of what has been done in Wyoming and, I think, having participated with a number of other Governors in the interstate oil compact, we have become well aware of the fact that the problems of conservation differ from State to State because we have a whole body of law in one State that is not duplicated in any other State and we have developed these conservation approaches. I certainly would hope that you will continue to give the direction that you indicate here this morning.

There was mention made by you, Mr. Secretary, in the first briefing that you gave to the delegations from Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah, of the experiences of the Provincial government of Alberta and that that might provide some instruction for the administration of oil shale development programs. I would like to point out that, while the Alberta tar sands and this country's oil shale reserves present similar problems, the historical evolution of mining laws in Canada has in no way paralleled the creation of this country's mining law history.

I would consider it extremely improvident for this country now to vest the Department of the Interior with such plenary powers as are now possessed by the Minister of Mines and Minerals for the Province of Alberta. If such powers were given to our own Secretary of the Interior, I believe, of course, this would require a drastic revision by Congress of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

I take it, Mr. Secretary, that you do not envision the need for such a revision. Indeed, you have indicated that there is no new legislation necessary at the present time. That being the case, I would hope that you would agree with me that it would be extremely unwise to depart from our traditional competitive leasing practices set forth in the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and to commence on a new course which would require the writing of ad hoc contracts on a piece by piece and a party by party basis.

Would you care to comment on that, sir?

Mr. UDALL. Well, Senator, my reference to the experience of the Canadian Provinces did not envision the type of changes that you were referring to. You are quite right in pointing out that they have had a different history in terms of administering and developing a pattern of developing mineral resources than we have in this country. My references in the press briefing to the Alberta tar sands was primarily to bring out the fact that the contractual relationship between the Province and the companies that are developing the tar sands, at least some aspects of it, might be useful in showing us what different alternatives there were in deciding how you entered into a contract.

I learned some other things by asking questions while I was in the Middle East 2 weeks ago. I think any time that we can look at another country, we can profit from their experience, whether it has been good experience or bad, whether it is something to avoid or some-