

Senator Allott?

Senator ALLOTT. Mr. Cameron, just a few questions.

I assume from this statement and the letter from the Governor referred to, that in the opinion of the State of Colorado, a lot depends upon the spelling out, the detailing of the program which the Secretary announced recently, and that in order to make real progress, we have got to find out what the program is going to be. In other words, if we are going ahead, we have got to have a more distinct spelling out of where we are going.

Mr. CAMERON. Yes, sir.

Senator ALLOTT. I would like to ask you a question or two. I think the implication of this is widespread. My recollection is that Brazil suffers a balance-of-payments deficit of some \$300 or \$350 million a year on account of oil imports alone. Is this correct?

Mr. CAMERON. Yes, sir. And it is rising. The deficit is.

Senator ALLOTT. Of course, we are all aware of the great inflationary problems in Brazil and the headaches it has caused not only them, but us in trying to develop Latin America. So the development of a viable oil shale industry in Brazil could, in itself, have a far-reaching effect or a considerable effect upon the balance-of-payments problem of Brazil.

Mr. CAMERON. Yes, sir. That is correct. The large oil shale reserves which we hope can be convertible to oil reserves in Brazil could completely satisfy their needs for oil for centuries to come.

Senator ALLOTT. In general, are those reserves comparable in richness to the ones in the Colorado-Utah-Wyoming area?

Mr. CAMERON. In general, they are not as rich in many areas. However, it appears from our present studies that they are susceptible to mining methods which make them quite economical to mine and retort.

Senator ALLOTT. Mr. Cameron, you have been carrying on work of this nature in Brazil for 10 years?

Mr. CAMERON. Yes; more than 10 years.

Senator ALLOTT. From my own knowledge, I know that you have been carrying it on for 10 years, but your work has not been confined to Brazil alone, has it?

Mr. CAMERON. No, sir.

Senator ALLOTT. In this field.

Mr. CAMERON. Our company was organized about 12 years ago and I had previously been associated with the Bureau of Mines Rifle operation as well as had many others on our staff. We began a research program in Brazil, conducted pilot plant work there, and certainly, with our assistance to the Brazilians, the Brazilians have developed what appears to be a feasible process for their shale. We have also done comparable work in the United States.

Senator ALLOTT. Is this plant now under construction in Brazil what you would call a production plant?

Mr. CAMERON. It is a large prototype plant.

Senator ALLOTT. A large prototype?

Mr. CAMERON. It will process about 2,000 tons a day, this one unit. It may very well be a size that in batteries can become a commercial plant, say a dozen of these retorts. It may be that we will find that