

The point that you made about getting the public interested and concerned in this, of course, is the purpose of these hearings. We had hearings 2 years ago, as you recall, in an effort to inform the public and all those who have some special interest in the development of this resource. That is why we are holding the hearings again, to give citizens, groups, and associations an opportunity to comment on the five-point program of the Secretary of the Interior.

After reading your statement I assume you would agree with the Chair that it is important that we ascertain first of all what the costs are going to be in connection with an oil shale development program. It is rather difficult to come up with a Federal policy, possibly enact legislation to implement it, if one really does not have all the facts.

Mr. WALLICK. Exactly.

The CHAIRMAN. You would agree on that.

Mr. WALLICK. Exactly.

The CHAIRMAN. I think what the Secretary of the Interior is proposing has great logic. In other words, we do need to get into the research and development effort and then, in addition, it would seem that it would be wise to undertake a large-scale plant so that you could really find out what the possibilities are with reference to recovery, the costs, and other developments. In that way it is determined what kind of a leasing program should be carried out.

Mr. WALLICK. Right. We agree. Incidentally, this matter has been discussed at the highest levels of our organization so I am not just sitting here talking for myself. While we feel that oil shale represents a great national asset, a frozen asset is no asset at all.

The CHAIRMAN. That is right.

Mr. WALLICK. Therefore we feel it is good to proceed and to move on this matter because this is a great treasure for all the American people and it is not going to do any of us any good if it just stays there in the ground.

The CHAIRMAN. We should have the means and the knowledge and the techniques based on that knowledge to utilize this resource when the time is necessary. I think the point that was made by a previous witness that the fact that the synthetic rubber program was gone into during World War II in a hurry, without development of the techniques in advance, was a mistake. It had to be done, but it could have been a lot better if that competency had been obtained prior to the conflict. It is conceivable in the future that this country may be in a crisis where it would need to draw upon our shale reserves. If the proper means of utilizing this resource are not available in time, it could cause a lot of trouble. You would agree on that?

Mr. WALLICK. I agree with that, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. I think the main thing needed here is, as any prudent person would do under the circumstances, is to get the facts, find out all that is really involved. By undertaking the first step to ascertain knowledge of this new industry, we can better make the judgments that the Congress must make.

The point you raised about the division of royalty receipts of course, goes to all of the royalty programs, not just oil shale, I think.

Mr. WALLICK. That is right, except that it certainly is raised in this matter.