

to earmark 52½ percent for reclamation, 37½ percent to the states, and 10 percent to the federal government.

Oil workers are citizens who are victims of these excessively high tax privileges enjoyed by the commercial oil companies. We do not wish to see any of unfair fiscal advantages perpetuated as America's oil shale deposits are made available for the domestic market.

EDMONDS, WASH.,
February 19, 1967.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: Regarding the policy of the Department of the Interior toward oil shale, it appears to me that the least government is the best government. In the beginnings of our great country taxation was a very crucial matter. Today taxation is an accepted fact of necessity, in addition to other forms of governmental income such as revenue from leasing of mineral lands. It has long been a conviction in my mind that the Department has had the intent for deriving revenue to first, justify its own operation. The all too apparent determination to retain as much of the mineral resources in Departmental ownership may be justified to the public as a necessity to control industry, but that is a debatable question for it is an abridgement of free trade.

With "boards" to control the industry, why would not a tax on the product suffice for governmental revenue? The local taxing bodies would be glad to see the large acreages of federal lands entered on the county tax rolls.

If the Department had only jurisdiction over the industry and not a vested interest through ownership there could be no Teapot Dome cloud ever again.

It is my suggestion that any legislation to settle the question of the oil shale mining claims must spell out all the details of compliance for patent, or its effectiveness and usefulness to the claimant will be lost in red tape as it has been over the last more than forty years.

If a policy endeavors to retain oil supplies for future generations, then the simple solution is to let the 15% in private ownership and unpatented claims carry the ball, but deny the 85% in government ownership a leasehold. If my information is correct it is feasible now to produce oil from the 15%, and it would enable the private holdings to begin to realize on their investment without waiting a hundred or two years until the 85% in leaseholds is depleted.

Very sincerely yours

F. A. MESERVE.

Senator Moss. I might also announce that any of the witnesses who would care to do so may come here to the committee rooms tomorrow and be able to see their testimony as it was transcribed and do any necessary editing where a witness might have misspoken or not been entirely clear in some of these exchanges of questions and observations. We would appreciate it if any of you feel you would like to take advantage of that opportunity to see your testimony as it is transcribed.

Under the order of the chairman, I now will declare these hearings adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.

(Whereupon, at 12:55 p.m., the committee recessed, to reconvene subject to the call of the Chair.)