

Unfortunately Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that in a sense we are all affected with the Teapot Dome Syndrome. I am sure that neither the Secretary nor any of his assistants nor his administration are going to be involved in anything which would effect a situation which would result in a monopoly or a windfall to any company if it can possibly be avoided.

I am just as positive that there is no member of this committee, the full committee, or in the Senate, who is going to abide by such a result, if they can possibly avoid it.

So I hope that this syndrome, which seems to pervade much of your discussion and thinking, can be discarded with the concept that no one that I know of, including the possible developers, the business people in this country, who might possibly develop a viable industry here, are of a state of mind where they are looking for such a windfall.

Mr. UDALL. Senator, I wonder if I might have a colloquy with you on that.

Senator ALLOTT. Yes.

Mr. UDALL. Because I want to make it plain that is the reason I said what I did at the outset—that we genuinely welcome these hearings. In fact, if this set of hearings does not satisfy the committee, let us have another one. My people live under, and I live under, what I think I would describe as using your figure of speech, a permanent Capitol dome syndrome. I think this is quite proper, because the Congress of the United States is our overseer. You have oversight over our responsibility, that is the reason that the more you understand what our thinking is; what is before us; what plans we are considering, what arguments are present; the less the chance there will be of a bad public policy being made or of there being serious criticism. I think, for purposes of people downtown, the Capitol Hill syndrome is a very good one. I suggest we consider it in that light.

Senator ALLOTT. Now we can get out of the area of psychiatry and into a discussion of some other matters. I must say that my questions will be few, Mr. Chairman, because I think many, if not most of the things I want to ask questions about will be developed by other witnesses.

Mr. Secretary, at your former appearance here, we discussed in some great detail the clearing up of the situation with respect to the other minerals, particularly in the Green River formation, such as dawsonite and nahcolite. I would like to ask what has been done with respect to the various mining claims that have been filed as against the prospect for leases and so forth? What has been accomplished on that?

Mr. UDALL. You are referring, Senator, to all the new claims that were filed or about the general picture?

Senator ALLOTT. No. Let me make this clear, Mr. Secretary. What I am asking about is the new claims arising out of other minerals, not the old claims arising under the laws prior to 1920.

Mr. UDALL. Well, we are moving as rapidly as the legal system, the limitations of the legal system—and its mills grind slowly, as we all know—to establish the basis for determinations and to get ourselves in a position where we can resolve these issues.