

Mr. HARTLEY. There is no point in having this program if we are not going to provide these other two environments I have spoken of. You are just carrying on research in a vacuum, and although we are continuing to do so, it is at a much reduced pace.

We are trying to encourage others who seem to want to spend money at this point, regardless of the fact that there is this vacuum and, I suppose, because we have an ever-abiding faith in this Congress of the United States to eventually provide an environment which will be equitable for the entrance of shale oil into the domestic market.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Allott.

Senator ALLOTT. First of all, Mr. Hartley, I want to say to you, I appreciate your fine statement. It emphasizes many of the points I feel are very important at this stage, and I would just like to explore one or two things with you.

I had the pleasure—I do not think you were present when I was there—of visiting your plant when it was in operation, and saw it in operation. I was very impressed by the innovations there, and I was also impressed by the reverse process which you had developed—at least reverse as opposed to the process which had been worked upon by the Bureau of Mines.

You mentioned the Athabasca sands in connection with your refinery in Chicago. Would you think that, perhaps, with respect to oil shale, we are now at a point of decision as to whether or not we will engage or start a viable oil shale industry, or whether we might, in light of some of the conditions you mentioned, plus others such as patents and lease policies, and so forth, be faced with an alternative of the development of oil products from coal as well as Athabasca tar sands?

Mr. HARTLEY. Well, Senator Allott, I rarely make bets when I lose one. If anybody had asked me 10 years ago, that synthetic crude oil from tar sands would have gone on the market commercially ahead of oil shale—I took that bet and I lost.

In terms of market, in terms of location of Colorado, and the U.S. consuming areas of consumption, in terms of the longtime proven technology that our company has, for one, and I do not want to give the impression that we have the only viable technology—there could be others around at the present time—I felt that, I had great confidence that, the oil shale industry would have been here by now, and again I repeat the only reason it has not is because we have not provided, either by action of Congress or by the executive branch of Government, the environment conducive to that industry getting underway.

I think it is a great credit to the leadership in the Alberta government that they have seen fit to create that environment in spite of the fact they are drowning from oil made from conventional means. The oil wells of Alberta are turning out approximately 50 percent of their engineering allowables, and yet they have provided the opportunity for the development of this industry along with the development of their conventional crude oil.

Further, as to your comment, I would not be surprised if we keep on treating oil shale the way we have in the past, that coal may even win out, too, because you are aware of the fact that there is depletion on coal.