

received exploration leases for minerals other than oil in this area which were given by Secretary Udall 2 or 3 years ago—something like that. Do you think that we should take steps to cancel out these people's valid leases—these people who subsequently, because of rulings of the Secretary, or lack of ruling by the Secretary, or overfiled under the mining law on the exploration leases they had? Do you think these people should be deprived of their effort and their enterprise in this respect?

Mr. LYNCH. You are talking about leases, for example, for liquid oil and gas that exist in the area, sodium?

Senator ALLOTT. No. I am talking about mineral leases.

Mr. LYNCH. I am talking about the claims under the mining laws of 1872, not leases.

Senator ALLOTT. Yes. They were prospecting permits, is what they were.

Mr. LYNCH. You are talking about the sodium prospecting permits? Senator ALLOTT. Yes, dawsonite and nahcolite.

Mr. LYNCH. It is not what I had in mind. I had in mind the claims filed in 1966 by Mr. Sweifel and others. You are saying that there are other overlapping claims or lease applications, or what are they?

Senator ALLOTT. There were prospecting permits issued—

Mr. LYNCH. Yes, sir.

Senator ALLOTT (continuing). By the Secretary which, as far as I know were legitimate in every respect, and because of decisions and half decisions, and lack of decisions, by the Secretary, I think perhaps as late 1966, some of these people filed mining claims on the very areas, the very lands on which they already had prospecting permits for.

You do not think that these people should be deprived of their enterprise and the money they spend for the purpose of going about this business of acquiring other minerals, do you?

Mr. LYNCH. No. I am not trying to deprive anybody of what he is lawfully entitled to and, indeed, in the suggestion I made, anybody would be able to recover what he was lawfully entitled to by way of just compensation.

Senator ALLOTT. You have attended any of the oil shale symposiums in Colorado?

Mr. LYNCH. Yes, sir.

Senator ALLOTT. Were you present approximately 2 years ago when I told the oil shale symposium at the Denver-Hilton that in any event the cost of reforestation and so forth would have to be considered as a part of the cost of operations of an oil shale operation?

Mr. LYNCH. I was not, sir.

Senator ALLOTT. Do you actually know of any company, Mr. Lynch, which is not considering this and studying it in depth, I mean, any company which has evidenced an interest in this area, which is not considering and studying in depth the ways and means by which they can handle the waste situation and return it as near as possible to its natural environment?

Mr. LYNCH. I am not advised of the efforts that the companies are making. I did accompany the former Senator Douglas on a tour on the Western slope this summer. We stopped at the Anvil Points