

plant. We were received very courteously by the management and people who were controlling the research and the management thereat, and they indicated to us that they had observed at the site of the pilot plants of the Department of Mines on their holdings, that the, I should say ash piles, if you want to call them that, after about three years appeared to support vegetation.

I specifically asked whether they were doing any research in the conservation area and, as I understood the answer, they were not. Their interest, and the thrust of their research, was in the effort to find various methods to extract the oil from the shale. The gentleman who was the project manager, who was very interesting and courteous but whose name I cannot recall—he worked for the Mobil Co.—one of the members of the group, indicated he believed that the problem could be solved with sufficient planning, but he did not indicate that this was absorbing a particularly great amount of the energy and effort undertaken over there.

Senator ALLOTT. There is no question about this: the purpose of the consortium at the Anvil Points plant is not in this area. The first purpose and primary purpose is to develop a viable method of retorting and extraction which would enable them to compete.

But in talking with these various people all through the years—and it has been years, not just a matter of the last year or two years—I have found them with a complete awareness that this problem has to be solved.

Not all of it, not all of the ash, as you referred to it, can be put back in the ground, because it actually expands. But there is also the possibility that a portion of it can be; and, as the pictures show here, the Union process apparently has supported a very good vegetation after a period of several years there. I hope we can do this.

Mr. LYNCH. I am not trying to accuse anybody of wanting, nor of being unconcerned about these conservation problems, but I think you could probably fairly say that nobody wants to pollute the Potomac. Nobody was mean and vindictive and wanted to poison the fish, but somehow it got polluted, because not enough attention was taken by any responsible agency that had jurisdiction over the whole Potomac River Basin.

Each of the companies, each of the cities, along the banks functioned responsibly in the light of their own responsibility, but the end result was unhappy, and I think we are going to live with it for a long time, until we can clear it up. So I was hoping that some Federal participation at least in this conservation area might prevent that kind of occurrence in the development of oil shale.

Senator ALLOTT. Well, I do not mind that, but I do not think that, except in an advisory way, it is necessary because the Secretary has full powers, under the present situation, before he grants a single lease to require as a condition precedent that this situation will be taken care of, and under such terms as he directs and that the parties agree on. I simply cannot conceive of this particular Secretary, who is so concerned with beauty, not doing this.

Mr. LYNCH. I certainly hope you are right. I hope that all the succeeding Secretaries are equally concerned.

Senator ALLOTT. That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.