

So on the second day I visited the offices of the county recorders and clerks of Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties at Glenwood Springs and at Meeker, respectively. Here I started to find the large number of mineral claims which had been filed during the preceding 22 months and in particular those filed by Mr. Merle I. Zweifel of Shawnee, Okla. It is about these claims that I should like to address myself. I found that Mr. Zweifel had filed over 338 claims by my count in Garfield County, and I ran my fingers down each one of the entries and totaled them. These were on half of quarter sections or 80-acre parcels making a total of his filings over 26,000 acres.

In Rio Blanco County Mr. Zweifel filed on over 2,500 claims or by my count 2,577, which filled 11 volumes of county records. These were filed during the period from May 6, 1966, to May 17, 1967. These were predominantly, and in every case that I could isolate, on quarter sections, that is on 160-acre lots, and hence the claims in this county alone were on approximately 411,000 acres or over 65 square miles.

About 130 of these claims were filed subsequent to the January 27 withdrawal order of Secretary Udall. I have Xeroxed an index of these claims in Rio Blanco County alone, which with each claim being given one line—in the original record books, of course, each claim takes up two pages, but on this index of claims each claim is given one line—it covers both sides of some 40 sheets, which I should like to submit in evidence.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I would like to have that back.

The CHAIRMAN. The information will be received by the committee.

Mr. DOUGLAS. There is a nice question of whether it should be printed in the record, it would take a lot of space, but I think it is crucial and important.

The CHAIRMAN. In any event, I think, Senator Douglas, it should be appropriately identified.

Mr. DOUGLAS. OK.

The CHAIRMAN. And so it will be on hand and can be made available in that respect.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. We will examine it to see.

Mr. DOUGLAS. It is the only copy that I have. It is somewhat costly to make this, but if necessary, I can give it to you.

Senator ALLOTT. Could I ask you one question at this point?

Mr. DOUGLAS. Certainly.

Senator ALLOTT. You said in the records they took two pages. I assume therefore they were recorded rather than filed.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I am not acquainted with the technical legal terms, but the claims would be filed on each claim of 160 acres or 80 acres, and the body of the claim will take up approximately two pages. Now if you can say they are filed, that is all right.

Senator ALLOTT. I assume then it was recorded. We can check that.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Now I have had Xeroxed the index for Garfield County, and it is in the mails. I do not have it with me at the moment. I would like to have the privilege of submitting it as well.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the committee will be happy to receive that information.