

Now I would like to ask: How can Mr. Zweifel maintain that he made a genuine discovery on each and every one of the 2,577 claims in Rio Blanco County and the some 330 claims in Garfield County? If he tells the truth that he has filed a total of 20,000 claims, how can he claim—how can he assert that he has made a genuine discovery on each and every one of them?

It is true that in a considerable percentage of cases the oil is embedded in shale high up on mountainsides, possibly visual laterally, but in a large percentage of the cases the oil shale is located hundreds of feet underground, in some cases as much as 1,200 feet. Could Mr. Zweifel defy the solidity of the Rockies and penetrate to such great depths? Is he a buck who could move to the end of the earth, and go through solid matter?

Now, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I submit it is dangerous to allow these claims to go unchallenged. I am glad Secretary Udall, to the best of my knowledge, has not patented any shale oil claims. I want to commend him for that. Would that other Secretaries of the Interior before him had been similarly restrained. I personally feel confident that he would never approve a single one of the Zweifel claims. I believe that the Secretary is a splendid public servant but he will not be Secretary forever. Other and weaker men may follow, as Albert Fall succeeded Franklin D. Lane.

If these claims were to go unchallenged for years, it would be hard to challenge them later on the grounds of failure to stake, failure to discovery, and failure to improve.

I therefore hope that this committee and the Department of the Interior will actively challenge the Zweifel claims and that they will do so very soon. I suggest, and indeed I urge, that this committee almost immediately send out staff members to Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming and check the Zweifel findings, to see that I have been saying about those two counties is correct, and to include other counties to the same scrutiny—Moffat County, counties in Wyoming, and counties in Utah—and that then the Department of the Interior be furnished with sufficient funds to attack it.

I believe they should be attacked, and attacked as a whole, since if they are taken up one by one, which I understand some have been urging, the legal processes will take forever and a day, and I literally mean forever. Individual claims would simply be gnawing at the edges of these 20,000 claims that Mr. Zweifel says that he has filed.

Just as Zweifel moved on a bold scale to take over the rich treasures of the American people, so I submit must we be bold in their defense.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Douglas, I must say that in my judgment you have rendered a great service by calling to the attention of the committee the problem that you have related here this morning. I think this is obviously a very serious matter.

The staff has checked through our files and there is a letter here from Mr. Zweifel of February 8 and a subsequent letter of August 21 of this year, and in his February 8 letter he has stated:

We have filed some 3 million acres of mineral mining claims over mineral deposits which we have found to occur in association with the oil shale strata in the three states of Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. There has been some speculation by the news media that the legal status of these claims may be reviewed by your committee, and we request herewith permission to enter in the record our position with reference to the aforesaid project.