

locations are made in their path just as soon as it is decided that they are going to build a highway.

The CHAIRMAN. He certainly is casting a cloud, shall we say, on the title to property.

Mr. BARRY. Well, I think—

The CHAIRMAN. In this case property of the U.S. Government.

Mr. BARRY. I think I could make this statement without fear of successful contradiction, and that is that Mr. Zweifel, while he may not be a criminal, and I doubt it from any evidence we have that he is, he is a complete nuisance. But I do not know that we can do anything about it.

Mr. DOUGLAS. A very astute, able man.

Mr. BARRY. He may be, but he is a nuisance because we are going to have, as Mr. Douglas here has stated, we are going to have 20,000 claims to deal with.

I have looked at this problem and I know it is a problem. At the present time we have all of our lawyers assigned to this kind of work in Denver, actively engaged in mining contests involving the earlier claims. The matter has been underway for months. The trial is actually going on in the Department now.

The CHAIRMAN. How many people do you have out in the area to check on the validity of claims?

Mr. BARRY. I can answer for my office. I have four lawyers in the regional office of the solicitor in Denver who are engaged in this work. That office also takes care of the Chief Engineer's office, Bureau of Reclamation, of all of the other public land problems, the Indian problems, and so forth, the other departmental problems in that area, and we have got four men.

I am not claiming that we are not doing all right; we are doing our routine work with the staff out there, and I am not making any requests for people for that, but if I have to put men on 6,000 or 8,000 or 10,000 claims when there are probably millions of claims in the West that have never been contested, and will never be cleared until they are, if someone wants to stand up and challenge them, why I just do not have the people to do that. I do not think it would be economical.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand you have only one mining geologist at the Denver office; is that right?

Mr. BARRY. I would not be in a position to answer that. I would very much doubt it. We have in the Department of the Interior, in the Bureau of Land Management, seven hearing examiners, and they handle desert land claims, mineral lease matters as well as mining claims, and all of the other adjudicative matters that go on in the Department of the Interior exclusive of Indian matters. These men are stationed in Denver and in Salt Lake City and are sent around to conduct these hearings. But just like any lawsuit it takes a long time to try one.

Let me say something about these astronomical boxcar figures. As to most of the claims Mr. Zweifel has reported to locate and we have a file here of his papers to indicate when he was engaged in this activity and what he was representing, and so forth, he said there is aluminum in that oil shale out there and it is in this dawsonite.