

and that is inevitable. But, it is somewhat ironical that some of the people who raised this question are most of the same people who go out to paint our old mine shafts and mining properties in Colorado, and consider them of great value.

I do not advocate that. I think we can take care of it, and I am sure, as I said, that every company involved and interested is aware of this. I will say further that I think public opinion of the country is such that they would not stand for a despoilation of the countryside, such as occurred in the coal mining areas of some of our Eastern States.

Thanks very much for your very fine statement.

Mr. CAMERON. Senator, I think you hit on an important point there—public opinion. You know, oil companies sell gasoline to a very broad cross section of the public, and I cannot believe that any company would be immune to the type of criticism that would occur if it were the company that polluted the air in western Colorado or created a nuisance there. I think this is one of the things that, despite any other form of regulation, public opinion, the consumer, will force the companies to do a much better job in keeping this industry a clean one that we have ever had in the past.

Senator ALLOTT. I agree with that wholeheartedly. Thank you.

Senator MOSS. Senator Hansen.

Senator HANSEN. First, let me compliment you, Mr. Cameron, for a very able and learned presentation. I think your testimony displays great objectivity and great intelligence.

I also recognize you as a man who has been associated with this business occupying all of your time perhaps longer than anyone I know, and that I can only assume, if you are not a great deal older than you appear to be, that most of your adult life you have been engaged in this great search to see how we can develop a source of energy from this natural resource that we have.

I would like to say that your opinions will be of real aid and value to the Congress, in my judgment, in helping to develop a policy that will best serve the national interest.

You said, I believe, that the industry is ready to proceed promptly to commercial shale oil production. By that are you implying that the problems of waste disposal and conservation of the resource and pollution of air and water are now susceptible to economic solution?

Mr. CAMERON. Yes, sir; I think so.

Senator HANSEN. Well, that is very encouraging news to get because I know that all of us are becoming far more conscious of the need to consider the problems that we created in the context of our whole environment, and that is good news.

Mr. CAMERON. I think over the past few years most of the companies who have been working on oil shale have recognized the importance of this. I am certain that the Oil Shale Corp.—I believe they mentioned this—has this problem well in mind and has at least one solution to it.

Senator HANSEN. You made some reference, I believe, to improved solid mining techniques. How does waste disposal fit into this technique as you envision the operation?

Mr. CAMERON. I believe perhaps you may be referring to the mining technique that I described to the committee at an earlier hearing. This would be a block cave-in system in which the oil shale would be re-