

the question, it is one for consideration of the Congress. The laws do provide for those.

If the land had not been withdrawn, the alleged inadequate locations by failure to monument under Colorado law, which supplements the Federal statutes on mining, would have been corrected by other locators locating over those claims that were improperly located.

The whole thrust of the mining laws has been not to limit the number of claims that a person can locate, but the amount of acreage he can hold under any one claim and, thereafter, he must protect that claim by making a valid discovery, by doing his assessment work, and otherwise maintaining it in good standing, and anyone who locates 31 quarter sections under association claims is probably going to be faced with an impossible situation; first, to make his discovery on each of them; second, to maintain his assessment work; and also to maintain the proper location procedures. This has been a very basic and a very active successful system of eliminating the greedy and awarding the diligent.

Senator Moss. Thank you very much..

Senator Allott.

Senator ALLOTT. Mr. Mock, I have known you for a great number of years, and you have had, I do not know how much, but a very great wealth of experience as a lawyer.

Mr. Mock. It is limited to experience.

Senator ALLOTT. And knowledge in this area. But if we were to assume a modification of the regulations in which we are trying to pinpoint the problem of letting companies who are genuinely interested in this know whether or not they could obtain production leases, as a lawyer would you see any particular difficulty in providing for such cases by the Secretary of Interior through a clause which would make the development of such leases a condition for the continued holding of those leases?

Mr. Mock. I think that in fairness to both the landlord, whether it be the Government or a private owner, and to the developer, that any omission of such a requirement would be unfair. I think that the welfare of this Nation is based upon, among other things, the creation of new wealth which creates a new tax base, and those who will take an old and valuable asset, whether it be a private owner or a government, and prevent the development, are not serving the public interest. Therefore, I think there must be a requirement for proper use in the development of any lands that are granted by lease, and the suggestion that you make is one in which I certainly do concur.

Senator ALLOTT. Yes. Then I ask you, as a lawyer, do you see any particular difficulty in writing such a provision in such a lease?

Mr. Mock. Senator Allott, there are numerous lawyers in the Department of Interior and numerous outside that inside of 1 week could draw an adequate lease to protect the interests of the United States and provide for development.

Senator ALLOTT. I thank you very much, because there seems to be on the part of some adverse persons almost a phobia that this is going to end up in a speculative situation, which I am sure no member of this committee nor anybody, for that matter, who has testified here