

domain to the control of a few oil monopolists who lock up the oil shale so it won't compete with their Arabian and Texas oil. (3) Disposal of the public oil shale lands or leasing of large blocks of oil shale lands before the recovery processes are developed and the real values are made known to the public. (4) Robbery of the public through fraudulent, conniving, collusive or self-serving actions by public officials who are in cahoots with speculators and oil companies. Indeed, Gentlemen of the Senate, present department policies are leading directly to these undesirable and deplorable consequences.

If private enterprisers who scream for development are in earnest let them develop the 200 billion barrels of shale oil contained in the 380,000 acres already divested from the public domain in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming partly by hook or crook. The oil companies already own 216,065 acres of this total, or more in Colorado alone.

V. PRINCIPAL FINDINGS

My first principal finding in 2 years of extensive research is that the Department of Interior, and indeed the Executive Branch, taken as a whole, is not adequately protecting the public interest in the vast oil shale wealth in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

(A) *No planning—No policy*

The crucial problem with the proposed "swap" and leasing regulations is that they are not based on any sound long-range plan for oil shale development.

The Department of Interior has developed no overall plan for oil shale development. It has no policy to protect the public interest. It has not considered the alternatives to piecemeal leases to the oil companies and other entities.

The Department of Interior's whole position represents just a short range response to pressures from special interests—the speculators and the oil companies—and the Congressmen who press their viewpoint on the Executive Department. The absence of a positive, well-planned policy to protect the public interest leads willy-nilly to a give away policy, because Government is responding to private requests for give aways rather than projecting positive programs. One oil company asked to lease a 50,000 acre block of oil shale lands. The Department of Interior suggests blocks of 5,120 acres which is still ridiculously a large amount for a research and development program.

The deficiencies in the Department's planning have been evident by the following:

Approval of give aways under the invalid and often null and void pre-1920 mining claims and its failure to recover erroneous disposals based on invalid or fraudulent claims.

Failure to withdraw the oil shale lands in 1965 and 1966 until 4 million acres of oil shale lands containing 2 trillion barrels of shale reserves had been covered by dawsonite and other alleged mining claims for metals.

Offering of this swap and leasing proposal which would enable the oil monopolists to get control of the very richest oil shale the public domain contains.

(B) *Abuses in public service*

My second major finding is that the climate in public service is exceedingly hostile to the protection of the rights of the American people in their public domain holdings of oil shale.

Our Government can be no better than the public servants who are employed by the Executive and Legislative Branches to serve the interest of all the American people.

Unfortunately the public service, especially the very high officialdom, handling oil shale in many key spots is absolutely inadequate.

The highest standards of integrity and absolute honesty are essential in our officials when billions or trillions of dollars of public wealth can be disposed by the Secretary of Interior or some subordinate official by the stroke of a pen (or simply by the failure to use that pen). Public business of this magnitude must be conducted in a goldfish bowl so that the people and the press can know exactly what is being done. But this has not been the case in the past and it is certainly not the case today.

1. *Self-serving officials*

(a) I must report to this distinguished body that I have found key officials and employees involved in handling oil shale in the Executive Branch, especially in the Departments of Interior and Justice, and in the Legislative Branch, sadly lacking in honesty, and openness.