

officials have blackmailed employees in the Interior Department who uncovered and sought to stop the scandal and they continue to blackmail and muzzle them. Despite my position, I must ask the question, why doesn't the national press dig into this scandal which is 100 times bigger than the Teapot Dome affair?

(D) *Attempts to mislead the press*

A high Interior official recently attempted to cover up the oil shale scandal by writing a letter to *Editor and Publisher Magazine* in New York for the purpose of endeavoring to overcome the general thrust of an article published in the magazine on July 1, 1967 about this editor and oil shale, authored by Associate Editor, Rick Friedman. It is enough for me to say here that the official has failed in his objective to cover-up the multi-billion dollar oil shale scandal in view of factual information in the rebuttal which I published in my 37th article of the oil shale series, on August 24, 1967, and a condensed version of which was published in the September 2 issue of the magazine.

VI. FOUR MAIN THREATS TO PUBLIC'S OIL SHALE RICHES

Gentlemen of the United States Senate, with present trends, the public will not retain ownership or control of the vast oil shale riches for long. Public rights to these inconceivably large riches are threatened or are being plundered by—

- (1) pending disposals for \$2.50 an acre of lands now selling for \$2,000 an acre on the basis of pre-1920 mining claims covering as much as 4 million acres of oil shale lands;
- (2) 25,000 new mining claims for dawsonite or sodium or possible metalliferous minerals which the Department of Interior permitted to be filed in 1965 and 1966 on 4 million acres of the richest oil shale lands containing some 2 trillion barrels of potentially recoverable shale oil. In this same area prospecting permits have been issued covering 20,000 acres of the best oil shale lands, for sodium. These prospecting permit applications should have been rejected by the Secretary;
- (3) proposed "R & D" leasing programs which could turn control over to more than 100 billion barrels of oil in 30,000 acres to as few as 6 oil companies. This would be enough for 30 years U.S. consumption of petroleum at current rates; and
- (4) proposed "swaps" of Federal lands for private lands without sufficient safeguards.

VII. PRE-1920 OIL SHALE CLAIMS THREATEN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

(A) *Number of claims and acres covered*

Briefly the Department of Interior has estimated that 30,000 to 60,000 oil shale mining claims were located prior to the enactment of the Mineral Leasing Act, which precluded further locations for that mineral. These old claims possibly cover 4 million acres of the oil shale lands in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

(B) *Why claims are invalid*

With benefit of hindsight it is clear that all of the unpatented pre-1920 oil shale mining claims are phony. See the 2nd article in my oil shale series, published June 16, 1966. They are no good because the claims have not been used for oil shale mining purposes as contemplated by the United States Mining laws under which the claims were filed. For one thing, discoveries of valuable oil shale deposits could not have been made on each and every mining claim as required by law. Required discoveries could not be made as most of the oil shale lands are covered with hundreds of feet of worthless overburden. In some cases the overburden (soil) is at least 400 to 1000 feet thick above the oil shale deposits. Thus pre-1920 mining claimants could not have perfected valid discoveries on each and every claim, the kind of discoveries which would have justified the reasonable prudent man of the mining law to expend his time and effort with reasonable expectation of success to work each and every claim with the view of making a profit. If discoveries of valuable oil shale had been made when claims were located, the discoveries were lost during the past 47 years.

Most of the oil shale claims were located as association placers by groups of eight individuals—in many cases some of the locators named in location certifi-