

you know, I was with the professional staff of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs when this legislation was enacted, and it was contemplated that, as it was necessary for one reason or another to classify lands, these lands would be classified either for interim management—and the term “interim” was stressed in the committee report and that was the idea for interim management—or if it became necessary to classify the lands in order to make their disposal. If there was some action or some reason that indicated the necessity to classify these lands at this time, which I don't know about, of course it would fit right in with the contemplation of the people who were behind the legislation when it became law.

Senator JORDAN. Well, this is proceeding, as I said, I believe with an unusual rate of classification.

On the following day, October 25, in the Federal Register we have another 1,050,000 acres classified in California.

On the 20th of October, the previous week, the land classification in Colorado was 650,000 acres. Maybe all these are necessary. Maybe these have to be done immediately, but I express my concern as a member of the Commission that unnecessary zeal is being shown by the Department of the Interior in moving forward in this area.

I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Senator Jordan.

Mr. Pearl, I have here a copy of a letter that Senator Jackson, the chairman of the full committee, sent to Secretary Udall asking the position of the Department on the question of extending the Classification Act to which Senator Jordan has referred, and also the Public Lands Sale Act as possible amendments to this bill extending the life of the Public Land Law Review Commission, I also have a copy of a telegram that was sent the chairman urging such amendment and a copy of the reply that Secretary Udall has sent to the chairman, in which he states that the Department favors the amendment of this bill to permit the extension of both of these acts to conform with the extension of the Public Land Law Review Commission. What is your position on that matter?

Mr. PEARL. The Commission has no position on this, Mr. Chairman. The Commission, I think, now speaking for myself, can complete its work without regard to whether those laws are extended or not. The Commission will be addressing itself in its deliberations at some point to the manner in which these laws operated and the efficiency and the effectiveness with which these particular laws did the job that they were designed to do, so I think it would be premature to express a point of view on the laws themselves and, as I say, it is my view that the expiration would in no way affect the work of the Commission.

Senator CHURCH. I think, Senator Jordan, without objection, we might include at this point in the record the letter of the Secretary of the Interior and of the chairman of the Senate Interior Committee and also the telegram that accompanies them.

Senator JORDAN. I agree.

(The documents referred to follow:)

OCTOBER 20, 1967.

HON. STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: As you may know, the Public Lands Subcommittee of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has scheduled a hearing