

be true at all in other areas of the State. I am merely concerned here.

Senator HANSEN. You have been talking here this morning as I understand it, with specific reference to an area?

Mr. CRUMP. To the Wind River area, yes.

Senator HANSEN. That area under discussion. Very good. I assume that you will leave this map, or have you a copy?

Mr. CRUMP. I could certainly arrange to leave it.

Senator HANSEN. If you could, or if you might be able to make an extra copy. I would like to compliment you on the extremely fine job you have done along with the other witnesses who have testified here this morning, who speak knowledgeably about an area.

I think Wyoming can be very proud indeed of the expert sort of testimony that has been supplied, and certainly you have added significantly to that record here this morning.

Thank you for coming.

Mr. CRUMP. I appreciate that. Very frankly, I think I know less about elk after 20 years than I did when I was just starting in the business.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Crump.

We will next hear from Mr. Joseph Loeb, an attorney for the Signal Oil Co., accompanied by Mr. Lucius Geer, a geologist. Will you gentlemen please have a chair, and we will be happy to hear from you?

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH LOEB, ATTORNEY, SIGNAL OIL & GAS CO.; ACCOMPANIED BY LUCIUS GEER, GEOLOGIST

Mr. LOEB. Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the committee, my name is Joseph Loeb, and I am an attorney in the legal department of the Signal Oil & Gas Co.

Seated on my right is Mr. Lucius Geer, manager of exploration of Signal Oil & Gas Co. I deeply appreciate your courtesy in permitting me to appear before you today to express Signal's views on this pending legislation, S. 2630, which designates a portion of the Stratified Primitive Area as a part of the Washakie wilderness.

We are here today for two purposes:

(1) We are in effect responding to the request of the conference committee which approved the final version of the Wilderness Act of 1964:

The conference committee expects that the mining industry and the agencies of the Department of the Interior will explore existing primitive areas so that when legislation pertaining to such primitive area is considered at a later date, Congress will have the benefit of professional, technical advice as to the presence or absence of minerals in each area.

(Conference report, House of Representatives, Rept. No. 1829, 88th Cong., second sess., p. 10.)

(2) We wish to call to the attention of the committee the erroneous interpretation that the Departments of Interior and Agriculture have placed on the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 pertaining to oil and gas leasing.

After preliminary geological investigation Signal filed application for U.S. oil and gas leases on a portion of the Stratified Primitive Area. These lease offers were rejected by the Department of Interior.

We believe these rejections were contrary to the provisions of the