

Senator Moss. And did your changing to a schedule C require you to give up any of the benefits of a regular civil service status?

Mr. O'LEARY. It required me to give up the benefits of tenure.

Senator Moss. Of tenure.

Mr. O'LEARY. I then served in the position which I occupied as a schedule C at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Interior. I had reversionary rights into the position that I had occupied prior to that position.

Senator Moss. In other words, should action be taken to terminate your current appointment, you would revert back to the highest position you held under the classified civil service status?

Mr. O'LEARY. I assume that still to be true now. It was true while I was with the Department of the Interior.

Senator Moss. I see. You have currently been with the Federal Power Commission, working with the Natural Gas Bureau?

Mr. O'LEARY. I have been the Chief of the Bureau of Natural Gas for the past 19 months.

Senator Moss. Now, by way of background, is your background more in the field of mineral resources, or more in the field of natural gas?

Mr. O'LEARY. My background has been extensively in the field of mineral resources. I did work as a mineral economist for approximately 10 years, working the full range of minerals. In recent years I have worked more on the fuels side, but it has been essentially the whole gamut of fuels. And even though the direct responsibilities of my current position deal with natural gas, I am required to take into account the impact of natural gas on the other energy resources.

Senator Moss. But your experience is more in the field of the economy and supply rather than technical matters of minerals and fuels, is that right?

Mr. O'LEARY. No; my experience has dealt extensively with the technical side. I have had from the period 1962 until I left the Department in 1967 a good deal of responsibility with the Assistant Secretary for Mineral Resources for the development of the technical programs of the Bureau of Mines.

Senator Moss. And you are acquainted with the personnel in the Bureau of Mines now? You are quite well acquainted with them, are you?

Mr. O'LEARY. Yes; I have the sort of acquaintance that you develop over many years of close association with an organization. Of course, the interruption of the past 18 months means that I am not quite current with the personnel in the Bureau.

Senator Moss. You feel there wouldn't be any serious transition problem of moving back into that area?

Mr. O'LEARY. So far as I am concerned, certainly not, Senator.

Senator Moss. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Hayden?

Senator HAYDEN. No questions.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Fannin?

Senator FANNIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. O'Leary, in your position you would be in charge of safety, also, would you not, as far as the mines are concerned?

Mr. O'LEARY. Yes; I would, Senator.