

Editorial

POLITICS AND OIL 5/23/68

(Reprinted from The Dallas News April 14, 1968)

An avalanche of political news recently obscured an announcement about oil. But, in the years ahead, the petroleum that gushes from the ground as a result of that petroleum report could be far more meaningful than the current activities of Democrats and Republicans.

A story in The News told of laboratory success in atomic-blast mining of oil. Scientists predict that this process may unlock more fuel oil in the United States, alone, than the entire world has produced throughout history.

U.S. Bureau of Mines chemists H. C. Carpenter, S. S. Tihen and H. W. Sohn have demonstrated the feasibility of underground reporting to extract oil from shale. The extraction would follow underground atomic explosions shattering the oil-bearing rock.

Carpenter reported to an American Chemical Society meeting that as much as 80 per cent of the oil was recovered in the research at the bureau's center in Laramie, Wyo.

Bureau experts estimate that more than two trillion barrels of oil are locked in shale formations under parts of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. This is more than the combined past global oil production plus present known reserves not in shale.

Commercial production of shale oil elsewhere would have vast economic repercussions in Texas, where crude oil revenue exceeded \$3.3 billion last year and where more than 35 per cent of the total U.S. crude is produced each 12 months . . .

The reprinted editorial shows the importance of the work that Editor J. R. Freeman has been doing on the oil shale scandal in his newspaper, THE FARMER AND MINER of Frederick, Colorado. Freeman has printed more on the scandal than all other newspapers in the United States combined, and he has paid dearly for every word he has written.

Two trillion barrels is a conservative estimate of the reserves in the three states. Two trillion barrels converted to dollars is six trillion. Once this figure is firm in our minds, it becomes crystal clear why Lyndon Johnson and his buddies are so eager to transfer title to this valuable public property from the government to their own hands.

Pressures to kill J. R.'s story are enormous. In addition to economic pressures, Freeman has been shot at. Life Magazine sent a man to Colorado and worked for months on a story about oil shale and the Freemans. Life Magazine printed a fourteen page section including color pictures of the Freeman family and their battles to tell the oil shale scandal. Mind you, we said Life printed millions of copies of the fourteen page story and then had them burned before being made a part of the completed magazine and mailed out to subscribers.