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HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS UNITED STATES SENATE

EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

THE NOMINATION OF DR. WILLIAM T. PECORA TO BE
DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEPTEMBER 20, 1965

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NOMINATION OF DR. WILLIAM T. PECORA TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1965

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:15 a.m., in room 3110, New Senate Office Building, Senator Henry M. Jackson (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Senators Henry M. Jackson (Washington), Alan Bible (Nevada), Frank E. Moss (Utah), Carl Hayden (Arizona), Lee Metcalf (Montana), Gordon Allott (Colorado), Len B. Jordan (Idaho), and Paul J. Fannin (Arizona).

Also present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director; Stewart French, chief counsel; Roy M. Whitacre, professional staff member; and Richard N. Little, minority counsel.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order. This is an open, public hearing on the nomination of Dr. William T. Pecora to be the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey in the Department of the Interior.

Dr. Pecora's nomination is another example of a career public servant who has demonstrated the capacity and talent to administer a policymaking position in our Government.

I believe his appointment will serve as an incentive to our career civil servants, and based on his background, I know he will be a credit to those who recommended him for this position.

At this point in the record, I will place Dr. Pecora's biographical material.

(The data referred to follows:)

WILLIAM THOMAS PECORA

Born.—Belleville, N.J., February 1, 1913 (age 52).

Education.—Primary and secondary schools, Newark, N.J. B.S., geology, 1933, Princeton University (scholarship). Ph. D., geology, 1940, Harvard University (Woodworth fellow).

Family.—Parents deceased. Married, April 7, 1947, Ethelwyn Elizabeth Carter of [Franklin County, Ky. Two children; son, William C., age 16, student at Lawrenceville (New Jersey) Preparatory School; daughter, Ann S., age 12, student at National Cathedral School for Girls. Residence; 4572 Indian Rock Terrace NW., Washington, D.C., 20007.

Positions.—1937-39, instructor in geology, Harvard University. 1939, entered as research geologist, U.S. Geological Survey; 1957, appointed branch chief; 1964, appointed Chief Geologist; 1965, nominated for Director.

Extra curricular.—Member and board of management, Cosmos Club. U.S. intercollegiate fencing champion, 1933; U.S. Olympic team, 1936. Early hobbies in gemology, minerals, and coins. Recent hobby in horticulture of azaleas and camellias.

PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Experience.—Field and laboratory investigations in Western Hemisphere including: nickel deposits in United States, Alaska, Brazil, and Venezuela (1939-42); mica and related pegmatite mineral deposits of Brazil and Colombia (1943-46); rare mineral deposits in alkaline igneous rocks and carbonate complexes; phosphate mineralogy; geologic field mapping and mineral evaluations; published more than 40 scientific and technical papers.

Advisory committees.—National Science Foundation; Educational Testing Service; Princeton and Harvard Universities; National Research Council; U.S. Civil Service Commission Board of Examiners; President's Office of Science and Technology; Scientific Societies.

Geological Society of America.—1946, election to fellow. 1950-52, membership committee. 1953, committee on annual meetings. 1955, nominations committee. 1957-59, councilor. 1957, chairman, Day Medal Committee. 1957, toastmaster, annual banquet, Atlantic City. 1958, chairman, Penrose Medal Committee. 1958, Penrose Medal Citation for James Gilluly, St. Louis.

Mineralogical Society of America.—1943, election to fellow. 1953, Roebling Medal Committee. 1955, chairman, nominations committee. 1960 to present, finance committee. 1961-62, award committee.

Geochemical Society.—1956, founding member. 1956-57, councilor. 1959, chairman, nominations committee.

American Geological Institute.—1950, personnel committee. 1952-53, board of directors. 1954, selection committee for executive director.

National Research Council for the NAS.—1953, Prodoctoral Fellowship Committee for NSF. 1960-63, Advisory Board for Critical Tables. 1962-65, Executive Committee, Division of Earth Sciences.

Editorial.—1960 to present, advisory board, Journal of Petrology. 1962-65, Associate editor for geochemistry, Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer.

Scientific personnel and training.—1947 to present, U.S. Civil Service Board of Examiners for the U.S. Geological Survey; Chairman since 1957. 1949-53, Panel on Policy, Subcommittee on Scientific and Technical Personnel, Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific Research and Development. 1950-57, teaching staff (geology), Department of Agriculture Graduate School. 1950 to present, Advisory Committee for Geology, Graduate Records Examination, Educational Testing Service. 1956-61, Chief, Branch of Geochemistry and Petrology Geologic Division, U.S. Geological Survey.

Miscellaneous.—1948 to present, advisory council to Department of Geology, Princeton University; chairman since 1957. 1953-57, Advisory Panel for Earth Sciences, National Science Foundation; Vice Chairman, 1956-59. 1961 to present, Panel for Scientific Objectives, AMSOC Committee of NAS-NRC.

Honors.—Elected Member National Academy of Sciences (1964); fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences; fellow and councilor, Geological Society of America; fellow and councilor, Mineralogical Society of America; president, 1964, Geological Society of Washington; Frequent guest speaker at universities, civic clubs, professional, and public gatherings.

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The CHAIRMAN. I would like at this time to read the statement of Senator Harrison A. Williams of New Jersey in support of this nomination. It is very short.

STATEMENT OF HON. HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., IN SUPPORT OF THE
NOMINATION OF DR. WILLIAM T. PECORA

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to state my enthusiastic endorsement and approval for the nomination of Mr. William T. Pecora to be Director of the Geological Survey. It is always gratifying to note the success of a man born and educated in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Pecora comes before your committee with the most distinguished qualifications for his new assignment.

The President has wisely followed a policy of appointing career men at positions of high responsibility. Mr. Pecora's distinguished career as a geologist as well as his long experience in Government will enable him to lead the geological survey ably and well. The Geological Survey has an important role to play in our continuing study of our natural resources. I know that the survey will continue its fine work and progress under the experienced direction of Mr. Pecora.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair wishes also to state that in accordance with the practice of the committee, the nominee has submitted a statement of his financial holdings, which is available to all the members of the committee. We will have a chance to question Mr. Pecora concerning these holdings in executive session of the committee, which will follow immediately after this public hearing.

Dr. Pecora, we are pleased to welcome you before the committee. I think it would be helpful if you would give a brief résumé of your career, and some of your thoughts and ideas about the work of the Geological Survey.

STATEMENT OF DR. WILLIAM T. PECORA

Dr. PECORA. Thank you, sir. I am indebted to the chairman for his kind remarks.

I was born and raised in New Jersey, attended my schools there, received my bachelor's degree in geology at Princeton University, and my doctor of philosophy degree in geology at Harvard University.

Those were rough days, as you know, for most of us, and I could not have done it without a scholarship or some aid from the universities. I learned then, and have carried this concept throughout the years, to try to get the maximum research for the dollar, and I assure you gentlemen that this concept will prevail if you confirm me for this post.

Following my doctorate, I entered the Federal service as part of the strategic minerals program which was instituted in the Department and was recruited by that wonderful gentleman, Donnell Foster Hewett, who was farseeing in the needs of evaluating and finding mineral resources for our economy.

Throughout the years, I have applied geologic principles, and have attempted to discover new geologic principles as they apply to our mineral resources.

I was elected to several scientific societies, have served on a number of boards, panels, and committees. Recently I was appointed Chief Geologist, and am just about beginning to learn what my job is as Chief Geologist, and I will have to learn some more. But I am willing to learn, sir, because in addition to applying science to the public interest, I am motivated in the public service, and I hope I shall serve you well.

If there are any other questions, I would be very happy to answer them.

Senator BIBLE (presiding). Dr. Pecora, you certainly have an impressive background, and a lifetime of experience in the particular post to which you are being nominated, and I have no specific questions.

I would generally like to have you develop what your thoughts are as to how the Geological Survey can fit in more and more in our constant quest of minerals throughout the United States, throughout the Western Hemisphere, and particularly in the mineral areas of many of our Western States.

Let me preface my general question by complimenting the U.S. Geological Survey for their great assistance in the State of Nevada. They have been very faithful in the work they perform. They have been very energetic, and they are looked upon by the mining people, both the prospector and the mining companies, as real allies. The work they did in developing the geology around the Carlin area, which led to the Newmont Mining Co. coming into our State and developing this very, very interesting gold mine, is a concrete example, to my way of thinking, of the real service they perform. I compliment you and those with you in the Geological Survey, because I am told that had it not been for the geological surveys, Newmont would not have come into the State.

We have a gold mine prospect that could well be a second bonanza, so this is indicative of the very fine type of work done.

What else can be done in your particular field and as we go along in mining exploration?

Dr. PECORA. Yes, sir. I believe the Senator is very kind in complimenting our organization for its work. Over the years, our principal responsibility is to develop scientific facts of the three dimensions of the crust of the earth on which we live, within our own continental areas, so that with this knowledge we can develop ideas and interpretations which then are seized upon by the private sector of our national community.

I would say that the private sector would be unwilling to risk large sums of money for mineral exploration, unless there were detailed and precise topographic and geologic maps which we prepare, and our geologic reports, which give a three dimensional analysis of the rocks, with suggestions and ideas.

Then the industry comes in, and spends large sums of money to develop and explore many of these deposits. I will say that in addition to the Carlin mine, sir, that a great number of mineral resources have been discovered and explored and developed, leading to the creation of new industry throughout the United States, largely through the primary work of our organization, and we intend to continue this, with the help of the Congress.

Senator BIBLE. Would you have any suggestion as to how the Congress can be of assistance to you, in the field of legislation, or is yours mainly the same old problem of coming to the Appropriation Committee and seeking appropriations?

Dr. PECORA. This seems to be the common problem for most of us. I should like to study the problem in great detail over the next year, sir, and be ready to come up with some suggestions.

Senator BIBLE. Well, it is nice to visit with you, and you succeed a very fine man in Tom Nolan. I want to pay tribute to Tom Nolan. He comes from my State, Eureka, Nev.; again, an area that has some great mineral prospects in the future.

The CHAIRMAN (presiding). Dr. Pecora, in recent years, there has been concern, and properly so, about our water resources. I take it that as a new Director of the Geological Survey, you will take a very keen interest in meeting the problem in this area.

Dr. PECORA. Yes, indeed, sir. Water, of course, has not been my specialty. I intend to learn about water. I recognize that water is a resource. Rain falls freely, but water entering the rocks of the earth, the aquifers, the storage areas, represents a geologic resource, so that the principles of structure and resource relationships apply to water as they would to minerals or coal or fuel.

I hope that I can learn enough about it to be of some assistance in this area.

The CHAIRMAN. I think you are being very modest. You may not be the top expert both in water and in geology at the same time, but being a man of great expertise in the field of geology, it certainly does tie in with the problems related to water.

I am confident that you will do a great job in this field.

Dr. PECORA. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. I assume you feel that water resources in particular within the Department should be given high priority?

Dr. PECORA. I do, indeed, sir. I would like to develop programs in the succeeding years so that we may do more work, because we have been so successful in the past. I think we can be even more successful in the future.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to forewarn my colleagues, as I hope they did not overlook the extracurricula side of your background. Dr. Pecora was U.S. intercollegiate fencing champion in 1933.

Dr. PECORA. Mr. Chairman, that was 50 pounds ago, too.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Allott?

Senator ALLOTT. Doctor, I am very happy to welcome you here. We will take up the statement concerning your business matters in executive session. May I ask you if that statement also includes any obligations that you have and to whom they are owed?

Dr. PECORA. Debts?

Senator ALLOTT. Yes, sir.

Dr. PECORA. No; it does not include the debts, among other things, I have not included—if you would like to have that, I shall provide it.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; we will ask you about that.

Senator ALLOTT. In executive session.

Dr. PECORA. Yes, indeed.

Senator ALLOTT. I want to congratulate you, Doctor, on one thing. I always have a great deal of respect for people who are able to achieve some success in the individual competitive sports. It

takes something that people who play football and basketball and games of that sort don't have, as you well know.

Dr. PECORA. Yes, sir.

Senator ALLOTT. And I am glad to see it. I would like to just mention one thing: I think that all of us who are from the West, particularly, and we all are, here, feel that our States are great areas and potential sources of wealth which have not been tapped.

One of the areas, for example, would be southwestern Colorado, where we have a large supply of rhodonite, which, of course, is going to be dependent ultimately on an economical means of extracting it, and working it. Have you done any particular work in Colorado?

Dr. PECORA. I have had no extensive work in Colorado. I have visited the State. I have seen field parties in operation in Colorado, but my personal experience in Colorado is not extensive.

Senator ALLOTT. We have out there also, as I am sure most of the Western States do, some of the rare earths, a vast amount of them, I believe. I just want to express the thought that, at least for myself, I feel that the West, for various reasons—and many of them very complex, from international relations down to subsidies and tariffs, and everything else—is still lying there with a tremendous potential of development which has not, contrary to what most people believe, even been tapped.

The distinguished Senator from Nevada mentioned the new gold deposits found in Nevada, but I personally feel that not only in my own State, but I am sure in most of the States, there are large deposits of valuable minerals which can be of great significance to this country, and also can be of tremendous significance to the economic development of the West. This is the thought that I am really interested in, because since the great era of the early days of gold and silver, many of our mines and mining operations have been allowed to lapse into semidecay.

I would like to hope and to feel that you have the same confidence and belief that I have that the greatest wealth of the West has not yet been touched.

Dr. PECORA. I subscribe to those sentiments, Senator, and most of my work in my career has been directed toward just that concept.

Senator ALLOTT. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, I think we should have the entire bibliographical material that he presented to us placed in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, that was done.

Dr. PECORA. I have with me, Mr. Chairman, the details of the bibliographic record to which I believe the Senator is referring, and I shall be happy to provide the committee with that record.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, I don't know whether the reporter received it, but the Chair directed that the biographical statement as well as the bibliographical material of Dr. Pecora be placed in the record.

Senator MOSS?

Senator MOSS. I, too, am delighted that Dr. Pecora has been nominated for Director of the Geological Survey. I see that you began your service with Geological Survey back in 1939.

Dr. PECORA. Yes, sir.

Senator MOSS. And have you worked constantly in the Survey since then?

Dr. PECORA. I have been continually with the Federal Survey since that time; yes, sir.

Senator MOSS. That is a long record, and I think generally it is a good thing to have progression up through the ranks, and finally to direction by someone who understands the agency from the very beginnings of employment, on up through, so I look forward to your continued service there.

Like the Senator from Nevada, my experiences with the Geological Survey have been very good, and I think that you are doing an excellent job.

I believe, also, that many of our resources remain untouched. They are going to require discovery and delineation, and it is going to fall largely on the Geological Survey to do it.

So I welcome you before the committee, and I am sure that your service as Director of the Geological Survey will be one of production and a happy time.

Dr. PECORA. Thank you for your compliments, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. Pecora, I am impressed with your professional background, and also, as others have mentioned, with your fine career in public service. Some 25 years in the Department of the Geological Survey is certainly a fine background for the position to which you are now nominated.

I agree with what others have said and with your comments on the fact that the natural resources of the West probably are relatively untouched.

In my own State, for instance, we have no fossil fuels, yet in all the States surrounding us there are fossil fuels, and we believe that sooner or later we are going to find some.

Back through the years, my contacts with the Geological Survey have been largely in the field of water. I am pleased to say it has been a very happy relationship.

I applaud the thoroughness of your water resources research, your continuous work on water supply, and the efforts you make to assemble basic data of runoff and retardation of flows and flood control, and so on. I have had, over the past years, various experiences with the Geological Survey, and I hope that your approval will be forthcoming, and we will enjoy the same kind of fine relationship that I have had with your predecessor.

Dr. PECORA. Thank you, Mr. Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Hayden?

Senator HAYDEN. I have no questions. It is evident from the record that the President has nominated a man of experience as the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

I am convinced that it is better to have a fencing champion in this position than a two-gun man. [Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I do not know of anyone who can speak with greater authority on this subject than the senior Senator from Arizona, who is a former sheriff of Maricopa County.

Senator FANNIN. A two-gun champion, too.

The CHAIRMAN. That is right. And that is quite a compliment to you, Dr. Pecora, when he will lay aside his two guns, and not try to take on a fencing champion.

Dr. PECORA. Thank you. I would not want to take on the distinguished Senator under any conditions.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Fannin?

Senator FANNIN. Dr. Pecora, I am certainly impressed with your splendid background record presented to us. I did not have the pleasure of hearing all of your testimony this morning. I have worked with the Department. I feel that they have aided our State greatly and it is a very important Federal Department as far as Arizona is concerned.

I do look forward to working with you, and I am proud to see that you are being considered for this position.

Dr. PECORA. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Fannin.

Senator Metcalf?

Senator METCALF. Dr. Pecora, I have nothing that I could add to the accolades that have already been paid you. As in the other Western States, Montana has a significant part in the development of mineral resources, and the Geological Survey has made important and significant contribution to our mineral development, as witness the very fine survey of our mineral resources that was put together a year or so ago. I do want to congratulate the Secretary of Interior, and the President for having nominated a man of your capabilities to continue this very fine work.

Dr. PECORA. Thank you, Mr. Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Metcalf. If there are no further questions of Dr. Pecora, the committee will now retire to executive session to resume the questioning of Dr. Pecora.

(Whereupon, at 10:35 a.m. the committee proceeded into executive session.)



