

ay Urges States To Act Promptly in Securing Rights To Offshore Oil

or Douglas McKay re- Tuesday that Con- legislation promptly states clear title to the

Defense s Blast

ORK W — Minot F. Geike's attorneys, ac- angry judge of stall- garine heir's vice trial, inatum today for the of witnesses.

Sessions Judge Francis told Defense Counsel yesterday to be pre- his case at today's ing "because if you're ing to direct you to rest

ew minutes earlier ye- shouting session with Valente cried: "You're at plain, ordinary

ied he was stalling. year-old action of a so- ered family is charged ing three young women and with living off as of one.

ase started presenting yday in an open court- had been closed to and press during state

ailure to have on hand ases sparked Valente's

submerged coastal lands. Some of the lands are rich in oil and their ownership long has been in controversy. Settling forth the Eisenhower administration's views, McKay told the Senate Interior Committee he was not indoring any specific bill. But he said there should be prompt enactment of legislation dealing not only with the lands beneath the marginal seas but also in the continental shelf but beyond the states' seaward boundaries. McKay did not state any specific mileage but it is generally argued that these offshore state boundaries are three miles out to sea in all states except Texas and the Gulf coast of Florida. Those states claim 10 1/2 miles because of conditions under which they joined the union. McKay's recommendations came down to this: That the states should have the oil wealth from under the seas out to their "historic boundaries" and that the federal government should have any recovered from beyond those boundaries. The continental shelf extends 60 to 125 miles out from the shore line in the Gulf of Mexico, three to five miles from the Pacific shore and about 50 miles from the Atlantic Coast. At the edge of the shelf the sea bottom drops off precipitately from a depth of some 500 feet to several thousand feet.

McKay said the Interior Department, or such other department or agency as the President may designate, should be empowered in the legislation to provide for exploration and development of the offshore areas and to enforce production conservation measures. He said the legislation also should recognize the existing leases on both the marginal sea

belt and the continental shelf which were issued by the states in good faith. The future of the submerged lands was an issue in last year's presidential campaign. General Eisenhower, as the Republican candidate, favored federal concession of state rights. His stand was credited with influencing Texas to give him its electoral vote.

The Truman administration backed federal claims, President Truman several times vetoed bills to give title to the states. And, shortly before leaving office, Truman issued an order which he said made the oil a naval petroleum reserve. However, the present attorney general, Herbert Brownell, has ruled the order merely gave the Navy Department administration of the lands.

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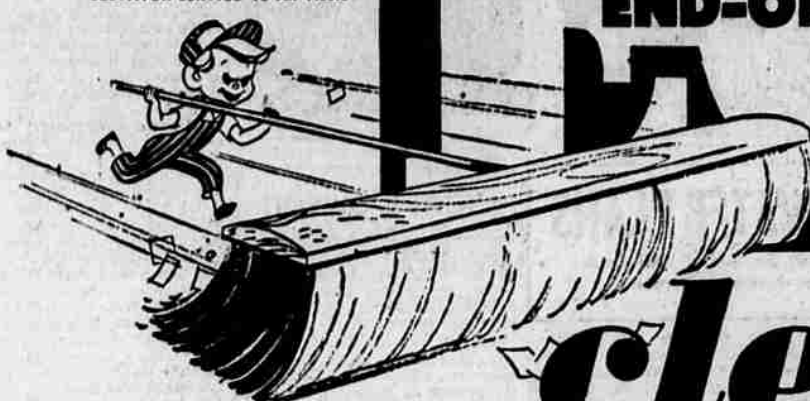
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