

# **A COMPARISON OF EXPLORATION ADVANTAGES OF THE INDEPENDENT GEOLOGIST WITH THOSE OF THE COMPANY-EMPLOYED GEOLOGIST<sup>1</sup>**

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## **A B S T R A C T**

Most scientific exploration for oil and gas in the United States is carried on by geologists falling into two groups—the independent or self-employed geologist and the geologist who works for a company. Each group has certain inherent advantages over the other group. The independent's major advantages are incentive and reward, freedom of action and a multiple market. The company geologist's advantages are security, economic resources and information plus the means for its efficient use.

The independent geologist can overcome his basic disadvantages in exploration mainly by financial success resulting from his own efforts. On the other hand, the company geologist must attempt to overcome his disadvantages with the help of an enlightened management.

An effort to make full use of basic advantages and to minimize disadvantages will increase the efficiency of the exploration effort with a resultant improvement in exploration success.

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<sup>1</sup> Published by permission of Champlin Oil & Refining Co. and The American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

<sup>2</sup> District Exploration Manager, Champlin Oil & Refining Co. The ideas expressed in this paper were developed from conversations with many independent and company-employed geologists in South Texas, South Louisiana and the Rocky Mountains. These ideas are not necessarily held by Champlin's management. The discussion on organization should not be construed as an attack on the organization of Champlin's exploration department since the conditions described do not occur at Champlin. The assistance of Mrs. Patty Fischer in typing the manuscript is gratefully acknowledged.