

Mr. CLIFF: None in active operation that I know of. Now, this area has had a history of mining, a rather colorful history of mining.

Senator CHURCH: Particularly down in the Atlanta area.

Senator BIBLE: I was going to ask a question on that next.

Mr. CLIFF: The town of Atlanta is an old mining town that dates back to the 1860's, as I remember. Now, the proposed area would exclude the townsite, but would include some of the patented mining claims that are shown here in white. And part of our proposal is that we restore and try to influence as much as we can the people to restore this old mining camp, in all of its western tradition.

Senator BIBLE: I was going to ask that question next and go into this to see what type of a project you are launching. But my purpose now, Mr. Cliff, is to find out what you propose doing with a man who owns a mining claim. I own a mining claim, and I am thrilled at the way the price of silver is coming back. And it is down in the Atlanta district. I have 10 patented mining claims there. I would like to go in and mine, because silver is going up to \$1.75 or \$1.90 on the market today. It is \$1.80 an ounce, and it is going to go to at least \$2.50. Can I go in there and mine my mining claims on which I have paid taxes these many years, can I go in and do it?

Mr. CLIFF: Yes, you could. The same provisions, however, for certain standards would apply. We can set standards.

Senator BIBLE: You can set standards for a mining man mining his mining claim? How do you do that?

Mr. CLIFF: For any private property under this bill we can set standards.

Senator BIBLE: What kind of standards are you going to set for this man that has paid taxes since Atlanta was at the height of its glory in 1860, which is 107 years ago, and he and his heirs have lived continually in hope that it is going to come back, and they want to go in and mine this mining claim?

Now, you say they can do it, because they own it.

Mr. CLIFF: They own it. And they have all the property rights that they have always had.

Senator BIBLE: I understand. But they are going to go in there with bulldozers and modern equipment, and they are going to dig up the surface and put in glory holes. Are you going to permit that?

Mr. CLIFF: Mining would be permitted under the provisions of this act, the extraction of minerals would be permitted under the provisions of this bill. As a matter of fact, I would hope that there would be some revision of mining to restore some of this color of the Old West. And if this could be done in Atlanta I think it would be wonderful.

We would be authorized under this act to set some standards to protect the streams from pollution and to protect the scenic values. These standards would probably go to such things as the disposal or the depositing of tailings, the mill wastes, to put them where they wouldn't be objectionable. And primarily we would be concerned about keeping deleterious materials out of these important spawning streams.

Now, if the miner didn't comply with these standards, and his property was depreciated by our action, we would have to pay him for the value that has been sacrificed. But mining, just as ranching or other activities, would be permitted as long as they do not interfere in a material way with the major purposes of the act.