

Dr. HIBBARD. Shall I go ahead?

Mr. DADDARIO. Please.

Dr. HIBBARD. If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like your permission to insert my statement in the record and then to summarize it.

Mr. DADDARIO. We will put the whole statement in the record. We will allow you to summarize it and give you a chance to go over your extemporaneous remarks.

STATEMENT OF DR. WALTER R. HIBBARD, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF MINES, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Dr. HIBBARD. The statement includes the source of our authority, a review of our cooperative activities with the Public Health Service, and a discussion of our concentration on three areas, municipal wastes, tailings, and scrap. I want to emphasize that our efforts are aimed at recovering the metal and mineral values from solid wastes, and in particular finding ways and means of disposing of the solid wastes that are generated by the extraction, processing, and utilization of minerals and mineral fuels.

As I mentioned before, the problems confronting the Nation with respect to mineral supply are such that in the mining industry there has been a tendency to rework the tailings or waste materials wherever values have been found in them.

For example, in the Salt Lake City area a large corporation is processing their old waste materials and finding values in them which make it profitable to retreat them. We believe that one of the ways of disposing of these materials is to determine the values in them and to identify the technology so that the normal process of our economy will move the activity to industrial realization.

If this does not succeed the next step is to find out ways and means of disposing of them or covering them by seeding and fertilization so that they will not be an eyesore. With respect to the municipal wastes, again, we believe there are values here. We have been working with Montgomery County officials in the collection of residues from the county incinerator in order to find ways and means of treating this material for metal and mineral recovery.

We find that there are values here, in many cases comparable to ores found in the West but the major problem is collection and transportation. Here again, the minerals industry has had experience with pipeline transportation of coal and other materials as slurries or through pneumatic techniques and I believe technology is available to do this kind of thing provided the economics can be worked out.

Mr. DADDARIO. Would you go into that? You just said provided the economics can be worked out. That follows your emphasis on the reuse or recycling. The development of a potential leads to the key that there needs to be an economic value. What is the hope that this can be done?

You talk about gold and silver, and what not? I understand Eastman Kodak, as an example, has thrown away a lot of its material. From what I understand, it seems that they have not been able, even though they know there is a lot of material in that refuse, to economically take it out.