

MINERAL SHORTAGES

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1968

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINERALS, MATERIALS, AND FUELS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m., in room 3110, New Senate Office Building, Senator Ernest Gruening (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senators Gruening, Allott, Fannin, and Hansen.

Also present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director; Stewart French, chief counsel; and E. Lewis Reid, minority counsel.

Senator GRUENING. The hearing will please come to order.

This is an open, public hearing by the Subcommittee on Minerals, Materials, and Fuels of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee on the increasingly critical problems facing our country with respect to shortages of minerals and our consequent growing dependence on foreign, ocean-borne sources of these minerals.

At this time the subcommittee plans to hear only Federal officials, led by Dr. Walter R. Hibbard, Jr., the very distinguished director of the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

There is also present in the committee room Anthony A. Bertsch, Assistant Administrator of the Business and Defense Services Administration and Harry Callaway, Office of Metals and Minerals, from the Department of Commerce, who will be prepared to answer questions.

Also present is William L. Lawrence, Chief of the Stockpile Requirements Division of the Office of Emergency Planning, who is here as an observer but is prepared to answer questions.

However, if the interest and need shown by these hearings warrant it, the subcommittee will schedule additional hearings to receive the views of the mineral industry and the public.

Dr. Hibbard is an extremely articulate scientist and will develop the case best in his own way. However, by way of background, I would observe that the physical foundation of our society is based on minerals and the materials derived from them. Among all the world's peoples we enjoy the highest standard of living in no small part because we have been able to develop and utilize the abundant mineral resources of the United States. Minerals have played a basic part in our history, our economy. Minerals are woven inextricably into the very fabric of our history, our economy, and our civilization, and they are indispensable to our continued security. Structures, roads, and machines are built largely of minerals; the energy to heat homes and buildings and to drive the machines is mostly mineral; agriculture fertility is maintained by mineral fertilizers; and the national security