

Mines. And we are very sorry to see you leave. We hope you will continue to contribute to the work that is involved.

Dr. HIBBARD. I am really not leaving in spirit, and I will be glad to help in any way I can in the future.

Senator FANNIN. Thank you very much.

Senator GRUENING. Senator Hansen?

Senator HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, let me join with my colleagues, Dr. Hibbard, in congratulating you on an extremely important landmark statement. I just think it is extremely easy in this day of severe competition for headlines from the press and other news media to overlook really tremendously important statements. And I think you have made such a statement here this morning. We are going to have to take this statement—I am, certainly, going to take it back to my office and read it and read it in order to get the full import of your many reflections on the sensitive and interrelated issues that concern our domestic minerals and fuel policies. They are related—you brought that out. And I can say that my great regret in your leaving the Bureau at this very critical time is certainly heightened by the fact that those of us who would like to help with the formulation of a policy, a Federal policy that will come to grips with these problems, are going to feel somewhat lonely by reason of your departure. And I hope that we can continue to have the great benefit of your observations as time moves along.

I don't mean to put any words into your mouth. But it seems to me that while you have given a very low-key and thoughtful presentation, there is throughout it the expression of a sense of considerable urgency about the future health of our domestic minerals and fuels industries. And this urgent need for better Government planning and understanding is, if I read your views correctly, certainly sharpened by our present balance-of-payments crisis. Would I be correct in assuming that you are telling us that we have not done very well in the past in creating an intelligent minerals policy for this country, and that our Government must act, and act quickly as well as intelligently, if we are to make up for this deficit with a meaningful policy that will give us the security, that will give us the economic viability, and that will give us the independence that I think we all cherish so much?

Dr. HIBBARD. I think, first of all, that in order to make intelligent policy you have to have a sound knowledge of the situation. And this is what this study has attempted to provide. I believe the kind of information needed to make policy has not been available. I think it is now available. And I think the situation is urgent. And I think we now have a basis of doing some things that need to be done and done promptly. And I would certainly recommend that a very high priority be given to looking at these problems in depth, and to determining what the policy should be.

With respect to the Bureau of Mines, I want to say that this is not a single man's effort. We have a tremendous team of people. These are two of my colleagues here. And here behind me are some more. This top management group is a management group in the same sense that industry has a management team. And these people are capable, they are knowledgeable, they are competent, and they have the desire to keep on following this approach to the Bureau's problems. And I think you are going to see a continuing emergence of