Mr BLATNIK. Thank you, Mr. Clapper.
Dr. SMITH. Next is Mr. Hall.

ACID AND OTHER MINE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. HALL. I am John L. Hall, assistant executive director of the Wilderness Society.

As a member of the conservation panel on pollution, my remarks will be confined to the acid mine pollution problems that face us today and the need for effective action as proposed in the legislation being considered.

Acid mine drainage and the pollution that results is very serious and complex. It is estimated that 4,300 miles of major streams are affected by acid mine pollution, and a total of 11,000 miles of just ordinary streams.

In Appalachia today, two-thirds of the streams and ponds surveyed in 1965 by the Department of the Interior were unfit for fishlife. This is in an area adjacent to the heavy population centers of our Nation. These are the streams and ponds that used to support fishlife.

Personally, as a boy, I wondered why the many beautiful and former trout streams in north central Pennsylvania did not have trout in them. The answer was acid mine drainage from the abandoned underground mines in the Laporte area of Sullivan County.

The Federal Government must take leadership in demonstration areas and in research. It must work cooperatively with the States and private industry, and be a strong leader, as proposed in the legislation under study.

We feel the reason the Federal Government must be the leader is quite evident when we consider these facts. Fifty percent of acid mine pollution is from abandoned mines; 25 percent of the pollution is from surface mines, and the other 75 percent from underground mines.

And in this situation, when we consider the type of minerals being mined, we find that 93 to 97 percent of acid mine pollution comes from coal mining, and that 90 percent of this pollution originates on private lands.

This is very serious in the watersheds of the Chesapeake, Susquehanna drainages, the Potomac, and particularly in the States of Pennsylvania to Missouri. The prevention of acid mine drainage from surface and underground mines can be accomplished by two major methods. One is the preventing of the water from becoming polluted, and the second is removing the acids after they are in the water.

Of course, the first is much more feasible, and it has been estimated that today 70 percent of the acid mine pollution could be corrected, that is right today, with the knowledge that we have, from preventing the water from becoming polluted.

Then this is why the demonstration projects and the cooperative projects with the States and others is very important.

The treatment of this acid mine drainage, the prevention of this pollution, is very important, not only when we consider the conservation problems it causes, but the effect that this pollution has on our total environment.