

The Interior Department submitted to the President a comprehensive, strikingly illustrated report last fall on the results of this study entitled "Surface Mining and Our Environment." S. 3132 would put into effect many of the findings and recommendations set forth in this report.

The title of the bill is descriptive of its subject and purpose. It states that the bill is "To provide for the cooperation between the Secretary of the Interior and the States with respect to the future regulation of surface mining operations * * *"

The key phrases are "cooperation with the States," and "future regulation." That is, under S. 3132 the States themselves would have initial and primary responsibility for regulation and control of future surface mining operations within their borders, and for making provision for restoration and reclamation of lands and waters that may be detrimentally affected by surface mining operations.

I might point out that Senator Nelson's bill and that of Senator Lausche, which is restricted to surface mining of coal, would provide programs for use of Federal funds for reclamation and restoration of the 2 million acres of already surface mined lands that the Interior Department's report finds require treatment "to alleviate a range of environment damage both on-site and off-site."

The cost of such a retroactive program, so to speak, would be tremendous—upward to at least \$50 million the Interior Department estimates—whereas the cost of the prospective program established by the administration bill would be relatively modest.

While we are on the subject of cooperation between the States and the Federal Government, I would like to speak a word in behalf of cooperation—continued cooperation—among the several agencies of the Federal Government that have jurisdiction and responsibilities for lands and waters that are affected by surface mining.

Each agency has its own particular expertise, and the expertise of all will be needed to meet, in an equitable manner, the problems arising from regulations and reclamation of surface mined areas.

Unquestionably long-range planning for such a program as we envision requires geologic knowledge, such as possessed by the Geological Survey; mineralogical knowledge, such as that of the Bureau of Mines; and water pollution control knowledge, such as that in the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration.

All these are agencies of the Department of the Interior. It also has within it other agencies, such as the Bureau of Reclamation, that have knowledge and skills invaluable to the program. At the same time, the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture also have essential expertise for reforestation and cover crops for surface-mined lands, as does the Corps of Engineers of the Defense Department with respect to many problems of hydrology.

Other agencies also have the trained personnel and the background of experience necessary to make the control and restoration program successful.

In short, it is the hope and expectation of the Congress that the surface-mined lands program will be a truly cooperative one as to the Federal agencies as well as to the States.

In bringing these remarks to a close, I want to point out that the committee is well aware of the basic importance of surface mining to