

Senator METCALF. Now, before yielding to other members of the committee or calling the Secretary of the Interior to make his presentation, the Chair will state that the committee has received a number of written statements and comments on this bill which will be included in the official record of this hearing.

One is from the distinguished senior Senator from Ohio, Senator Lausche, who has most certainly been a pioneer in this field and who is a cosponsor of the administration bill. Unfortunately, Senator Lausche cannot be with us in person today.

Without objection, I will direct that Senator Lausche's statement appear at the conclusion of the remarks of any of the Senators present who wish to make a statement, and that the other communications appear at the conclusion of the oral presentations.

Senator Nelson, do you have some preliminary remarks?

Senator NELSON. Not at this time, Mr. Chairman.

Senator METCALF. Senator Jordan.

Senator JORDAN. No, Mr. Chairman. In the interest of getting on with the hearing with the witnesses here I will forego any statement at this time.

Senator METCALF. Senator Hansen.

Senator HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I don't have any statement. I would like to ask inclusion in the record of statements by the Wyoming Mining Association and by Hon. Stanley K. Hathaway, Governor of Wyoming.

Senator METCALF. They will be included at the conclusion of the oral testimony.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT BY HON. FRANK J. LAUSCHE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF OHIO

Mr. Chairman and members of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, I am pleased to appear before your Committee today to join in firing the first salvo of the battle of the spoil banks of 1968. I am going to speak in general terms and am not going to go into the fine points of the pending bills because basically they seek to obtain the same objectives in somewhat similar manners. I will leave the explanation and discussion of the technical points of the bills up to the excerpts from the Department of Interior.

Fundamentally, S. 217, of which I am author, and S. 3132, of which I am co-sponsor, both follow the recommendations contained in the Secretary of Interior's report to the Congress entitled, "Surface Mining and Our Environment". May I, Mr. Chairman, at this point repeat what I said on the Floor of the Senate last July after having read this report. I commended Secretary Udall and all those who participated in the study, research, documentation, and publication of this extremely important report. I urgently recommended that each Senator and each Member of the House study it thoroughly in order that they might become familiar with past and present problems resulting from inadequate stripped-land reclamation and also the importance and the necessity for the Congress to address itself to this subject without further delay.

The results of the Secretary's study, his findings and the recommendations contained in the report are most gratifying to me, especially since they are a direct result of a bill, S. 368, which I introduced in 1965. Upon three different occasions I introduced bills—in 1962, S. 3304; in 1963, S. 1013; and, again in 1965, S. 368. These bills provided that the Secretary of Interior make a study of surface and strip mining operations in the United States and make a report to the Congress of the results and conclusions of such study.

The bills received widespread interest and support. Finally, in 1965, the contents of S. 368 were incorporated as an amendment to S. 3 and thus became section 205(c) of the Appalachia bill, which passed the Congress and was signed into law that year and is now known as Public Law 89-4. Complying with the provisions of section 205(c) of the Appalachia bill, the Secretary of Interior on