

Secondly, most of the States that I am familiar with have a lot of expertise in water. They all have a conservation department and in any State where you have water you have people who have some expertise in this field.

My State doesn't have any expertise in the problem that you are talking about at all and the miners are in Black River Falls and are going to open up a big taconite operation. They are going to open another big taconite operation in northern Wisconsin later and if it is not properly controlled they will spill the water all over the place and desecrate the landscape.

Who do you have on the spot in my State who, at the time of developing programs, understands the preservation of the watershed? Is there anyone physically there who has the expertise to help set up these guidelines for mining at Black River Falls, for the mining in Ashland, Wis? I don't know of anybody, but the Soil Conservation Service has men there.

Mr. UDALL. Well, I don't want you to overlook the oldest and I think one of the best conservation agencies in the Federal Government, which is the Geological Survey, which is in your State and which is gathering data on not only mineral resources but on water.

One of the things I learned when I became Secretary was that as far as geologists are concerned water is a mineral and their approach to the environment is a complete one. It is not as though we don't have representation there in your State, but I will be quite frank with you now that you have brought the point up. I think the responsibility at the State level might very properly be placed with conservation agencies rather than letting their State mining resource agencies operate the program.

I think if they don't bring the State conservation agency, the State resource agencies—whatever title they give it—if they don't give them a major role in this we may find that most of the States are unable to formulate programs and we will find ourselves imposing a national law, and if the States won't act I am in favor of Federal action.

I am in favor of legislation of this kind just as I am with water because I think once we have a national goal and once we indicate that we are going to have national standards and a national approach, then everybody either has to get aboard or we will run the thing from Washington, and I think that is as it should be.

Senator NELSON. Well, I think maybe, again to satisfy whatever it is, whims of the Congress, so you put the States in.

I think you know and I know what that means. A few States will come up with some decent standards. Most of them won't and there will be a number of reasons for that.

The influence of the miners or the mining companies, and so forth, and so on, in the States would be important. You are going to need a national standard in any event because you have the same problem you have with water.

If the standards aren't fairly equal, as you well know, then the industries will say, "Well, we have competition in Mississippi," or Alabama or some other place, "and it costs us more to treat our water here and meet the water standards of this State than it does there. We will move."