

So you really end up by having to come up with standards at the Federal level. What I think this really does, to be honest about it, is simply delay effective action for 2, 3, 4, 5 more years when the fact is we are eventually going to have to set the standards at the national level.

I don't want to push this point any further. I just say I am not satisfied, Mr. Secretary, with your answer in not including the Soil Conservation Service. But at the same time I am not critical of the people you have.

All I am saying is, why leave this remarkably able group of people, who have been on the spot for 40 years and know this field out from participation in this bill. I am not satisfied with the answer I have gotten.

Mr. UDALL. Senator, let's bring this thing in very sharp focus because if you were expressing the opinion that there should be language put in the bill giving them a responsibility and requiring that they work with the Secretary of the Interior on formulating standards and guidelines and approving State action, that would be one approach to it.

However, in my judgment this would not work well—to have two Secretaries and kind of a joint steering arrangement. There has to be one Secretary who has the final responsibility.

If you feel that the responsibility ought to be with the Secretary of Agriculture, and if you favor that approach, that is one answer. Frankly, with all due regard, I would feel that, balancing everything out, the responsibility would better lie with the Secretary of the Interior because of our broader responsibilities in the whole natural resources area, than with the Secretary of Agriculture.

When you get to the problem posed by your bill and the other bills of what do we do, how do we reclaim these several million acres that have been mined over the past 100 years and where the miners just walked away and left them—where they are damaging our water and they are reducing the productivity of our land—I think Agriculture might make out a case that they ought to run that program and that the Secretary of Agriculture ought to play the lead role, but I want you to understand that I am not averse to working with Agriculture on all this and I could work with them extremely well. I believe that Secretary Freeman and I have worked as well together as any two Secretaries holding these two jobs. But I do feel that the basic responsibility should be in one Secretary, and I think as far as this program and Senator Jackson's bill are concerned it should be the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior.

Senator NELSON. I am not quarreling about that. What I am trying to say is that we are all taxpayers. We are paying the taxes to support the Soil Conservation Service, and the Interior Department, and Forest Service, and all the rest.

One of the problems in the Federal Government and one of the things that upsets people so much is that there is just endless duplication of effort and endless bureaucratic hiring of people to do things that could be done by expert employees who are in another department. But somehow or another we can never get around to doing that because they are two separate departments and somebody has to have the responsibility.