

sylvania, eastern Kentucky, northeastern Tennessee and northern Alabama more than 700,000 acres to date have been practically obliterated. Here stripping generally follows the contours of steep and rugged mountains. Either the hill is decapitated and turned into a mesa or it is flayed along the outside contour of the coal. In any event, the rubble, the dirt, the rock, the broken timber are shoved down the mountainside. Natural drainageways are choked. Boulders crash onto lower slopes and level bottoms. When the mining has passed a silence falls as even the birds forsake the bleak and desolate acres.

In Italy during World War II, I saw the mountains of that unhappy country pounded mercilessly by bombing aircraft and shellfire. Those ranges were battered by every deadly device the technology of the time could produce. Since then, in the hills of my own native State, I have seen American land attacked by great corporations digging coal for other great corporations and for the Tennessee Valley Authority, ironically an agency established to heal land. And I can tell you that the mountains of eastern Kentucky have suffered more in cold blood and in a time of peace than did the mountains of Italy in history's most savage war. Strange to say, the United States spent sizable sums to help Italy heal its blasted land, but has spent not a single penny to heal eastern Kentucky or to abate its affliction. As a nation are we slipping into madness? Is it not insanity to ruin our own land more thoroughly in peace than we do that of any enemy in war, then to leave our land dead and forsaken while healing that of our foe? It is seriously questionable whether a nation that fosters such policies deserves to survive.

I am grateful to each Senator who has sponsored strip mining legislation. However, candor requires me to respectfully declare that none of the pending bills come near to meeting the challenge. Please permit me to suggest that this committee report to the Senate legislation that will undertake as a matter of national policy to do three things. Years of study, observation, and experience have convinced me that unless these three goals are achieved our land troubles will grow to unmanageable proportions.

In our lifetime they may threaten our nationhood as the race crisis does now.

(1) The legislation should forthrightly outlaw strip mining in such areas as southern Appalachia where the slopes are so steep and the rainfall so great that reclamation and restoration of the land to its former utility is impractical or impossible. Unless this is done, and done speedily, there will be no southern Appalachia. It will have been reduced to a ruined jumble. The people will have to move to the already overgrown and mutinous cities and the desolate mountains will plague the Nation with gigantic flows of mud to congest the Ohio, the Mississippi, and the Cumberland for generations to come.

I might add at this point that a very careful study of two watersheds in the Kentucky mountains which was reported in 1962, the study was made by a number of State and Federal agencies, and carefully measured the siltation escaping from the two watersheds. They put dams across the stream and caught it and found that the unstripped valley yielded about 28 tons of silt a year and the stripped portion yielded about 38,000 a year. That is how the amount was determined.