

Southeastern Power Administration, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, all within the Department of the Interior, as well as other Federal agencies whose skills and talents would be needed for this historic undertaking.

Some day the taxpayers of the Republic will have to assume the cost of restoring, insofar as possible, the lands we have already plundered. We cannot undo history, but we can undo some of the harm history has done. It will cost billions of dollars. The \$750 million indicated by Secretary Udall's report is likely to fall woefully short of the mark. No true patriot could object to the financing of this essential undertaking and I hope Congress will not hesitate to appropriate the funds to get the work started.

But the general taxpayer should not be called upon to bear the whole burden of rehabilitating our industrially maimed land. The industries that rip up our soil and their customers who share directly in the benefits of such mining should carry most of the load. Otherwise, we will have capitalized the profits while socializing the losses—an increasingly popular arrangement with a very large part of the Nation's industry.

Let me suggest that the Congress finance such reclamation out of a trust fund supported by a special levy on extractive industries. Senator Lee Metcalf has introduced a bill to impose a Federal severance tax on all minerals taken from the American earth. It is sensible legislation and the States would benefit enormously from its enactment. Each State in which large-scale extraction occurs suffers from a lack of funds caused in part by the importation of people to work in the extractive industries which simultaneously lowers the tax base by damaging the land. Senator Metcalf's bill would compel huge and thriving corporations to leave behind for schools, libraries, and hospitals some of the money they now take out in such astonishing amounts.

In my opinion the levy proposed by Senator Metcalf is too small insofar as it pertains to surface miners as distinguished from subterranean miners. Five percent is not enough. It should be 10 percent and half of that amount should go into a reclamation trust fund. The trust fund should pay for the fitting together of shattered mountains, the smoothing and seeding of ravaged prairies and plains, the cleaning of polluted air and silted streams, and for research on how best to accomplish these desirable ends.

I urge that you view with caution and skepticism industry claims that present State laws are working well and that voluntary efforts are handling the problems satisfactorily. It is probable that more money has been spent advertising "Operation Green Earth" than Peabody Coal has spent on the project itself. The land is its own best spokesman.

Finally and most important, I urge the Senators to hold field hearings in eastern Kentucky and in other parts of the Nation where strip mining has taken place; hear the opinions of local people who have seen mountains come tumbling down and whole counties subjected to the threat of dissolution. Then go look for yourselves and there amid the whirling dust and the roaring machines, by the dead streams, jumbled plains, and murdered mountains, make up your minds as to the dimensions and urgency of the problem, and whether we can afford to waste another day in coming to grips with it.

Senator METCALF. Thank you for your statement, sir.