

Senator JORDAN.

Senator JORDAN. Mr. Caudill, you speak with some knowledge and authority on conditions in Appalachia. With some of your conclusions I have no quarrel, but I wonder if you are familiar with the open pit mining in some of the lands of the West, the great copper mines of Arizona and Utah, for instance? Have you visited them and do you know the situation there?

Mr. CAUDILL. I have seen some of the pits; yes.

Senator METCALF. Would you yield a minute?

Senator JORDAN. Yes, sir.

Senator METCALF. Mr. Ebersole, who is accompanying Mr. Caudill, is a former neighbor of mine in Helena, Mont., and I know he is thoroughly familiar with our open pit mines in Montana, such as Ruby Gulch and some other areas with which you are concerned.

Senator JORDAN. My question is whether criteria that are applicable to the Appalachian region can be applied across-the-board to every other region in the United States with equal authority. Let me quote what the Secretary of the Interior said this morning. He said, "Let me make the record clear about our use of the word 'reclamation.' In the context of surface mining we do not consider reclamation to mean a restoration of the land to its original condition. Often this would not be as desirable as some alternative land condition. Rather, we use reclamation to mean that activity which avoids or corrects damage to the lands and waters of the vicinity and leaves the area in a useable condition."

Do you disagree with what the Secretary said in his statement this morning?

Mr. CAUDILL. I would agree generally. I used words saying, "Restored to its former utility." I might have added "to a comparable usefulness."

Senator JORDAN. You admit a comparability rather than restoration to its original state?

Mr. CAUDILL. Yes, to something approaching its original utility. If land was originally forestland I think it should go back in the main to forest. If it was farmland in Kansas or Iowa it should be restored to such condition as to grow corn again, I think we can do that.

Senator JORDAN. If it was grazing land it might be satisfactory to restore it to a status to where it was grazing land again?

Mr. CAUDILL. Yes, sir. And if it is desert land, that of course has to be considered.

Senator JORDAN. Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Mr. Caudill, you made a very eloquent and forceful presentation. I am grateful to you for mentioning my proposal for an incentive tax, which is based on the same theory and principle as this bill is based, that we should try to equalize the impact of these things on the various people in the States. My tax bill would provide that 100 percent of the 5-percent tax for mining would go back to the States.

This bill would provide for a Federal program and, if the State puts in a qualified State program, they would take it over. We have done some of that in the mine safety bill, both the coal mine safety bill and safety bills for other hard rock mines.