

It would seem to me as if this is the way to get State activity and equalize the burden and at the same time give the flexibility that Senator Jordan, Senator Hansen, Senator Fannin and others have suggested we need as comparable from the Montana coal mines or the copper mines of western Montana, and the coal mines of Kentucky or West Virginia.

I am aware of your concern and I have the same concern for the ravaged areas that have already been mined and stripped and left desolate and destroyed. I wish we could do something about it. I have long advocated doing something. I had hoped the Appalachia bill we passed a few years ago would do something more than just build roads into areas. The streams are polluted, the coal refuse from strip mining has been left on the ground. Any tourist going there would be appalled and refuse to come back.

As President Kennedy said on that memorable day on the steps of the Capitol when he was inaugurated, "These things take time. Maybe they won't be done in our generation but let us begin." It would seem to me that this bill might be the first step.

Mr. CAUDILL. We are delighted to see this committee holding these hearings and, on behalf of these three organizations I represent here today, I would like to reiterate a request or suggestion I made in my prepared remarks, and one I heard earlier this morning, that is, that the committee come and look at some of these lands. Each member may be familiar with the kind of stripping that has occurred in his own State or area of the country but it is different in other areas.

I think the greatest damage is being done in the steep mountains of the Appalachian coal fields. In Kansas or Iowa we may be able to undo the damage because we have relatively gentle rainfall in these areas. In central Appalachia we have probably the highest rainfall in the Nation with the exception of the Pacific Northwest. This means damage is much greater there than anywhere else and that vegetation is destroyed from the mountains and they are left unvegetated.

In a short period of time we have rapidly come to a situation such as we have in the Mediterranean areas where timber has been gone for centuries. I think it would be extremely beneficial if the members of the committee could come and visit various areas and perhaps hold field hearings which would focus attention on the situation.

Senator METCALF. I have sent for my tax bill, which is before the finance committee. It is a severance tax program but, since Mr. Caudill has mentioned it, I will, without objection, have it inserted at the end of your remarks.

Senator JORDAN. No objection.

Senator METCALF. I know of many of your outstanding achievements but you are also Director of the Conservation Service. You were in the room this morning and heard the discussion with Senator Nelson.

Do you have any comments about inclusion of the Soil Conservation Service or the failure to put the Department of Agriculture in this bill at greater length?

Mr. CAUDILL. I am sure we should use all the expertise available on the subject regardless of the Bureau or Department in which it may be found. In areas such as the west, where the Soil Conservation Districts are genuinely strong and effective, I would think in Ohio, Indiana, Kansas, or Iowa, for example, reclamation efforts would be