

almost 75 percent of the problem, as characterized by Interior, are under stringent State and local control. What of the other 25 percent?

In the case of phosphate and clay, 20 percent of clay production and 13 percent of phosphate production are under State control. According to the report, the largest land disturbance from phosphate mining is in Florida, which accounts for 72 percent of the national production. Yet the report also states that "a large portion of the land mined for phosphate is being developed for citrus groves, building sites, parks, and other uses. Thus, except for possible loss of wetlands for wildlife use, the mining operations apparently are not seriously detrimental to the environment."

Hard mineral mining represents, we assume, 5 percent of the reported disturbance, gold an additional 6 percent. But the largest domestic gold mine is underground and, with the exception of the open-pit Carlin mine in Nevada, the balance of gold production is mostly byproduct, and again we must conclude that the statistics for gold are primarily of historic interest only.

Hard mineral mining includes the great open-pit copper mines of Utah, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Montana; the uranium mines of New Mexico, Wyoming, South Dakota, Utah, Colorado, and Texas; a molybdenum property in New Mexico, and small open-pit zinc mines in Washington and New Mexico.

These properties typically have a long life—the Bingham Canyon copper mine in Utah has been in continuous operation for some 60 years already and has produced a pit which is one of the engineering wonders of the world. These properties, as well as others, are distinctive in that essentially the entire mining operation is continuously in use throughout the life of the property. Thus, reclamation work cannot be done while the mine is in active operation.

To depart from my prepared statement for a moment, it appears that the land claimed to require rehabilitation or reclamation in the Department of the Interior's report includes the present mining operations of this Nation. That is a vast amount of land, a vast proportion of the land claimed to be in need of reclamation.

You cannot reclaim the Bingham pit mine.

I should like to comment on statements I heard that this law would be prospective only. It is clear in this law that it applies to any present mining operation. My company has a part of the world's largest iron ore pit that you heard about today. Operations began at that pit 72 years ago.

Assume there are 5 years left of mining in that pit, if this law goes into effect, we can expect there will be demands imposed upon us with enactment of the law for certain reclamation plans for that world's largest pit, representing some 77 years of mining by that time. We must determine whether the cost of mining that pit for the next 5 years will justify imposition of reclamation demands on us.

Under the provisions of the bill, S. 3132, as it is presently written, we could be required to restore the results of the mining operation back before the turn of the last century. This certainly, in a sense, denies the fact this is entirely prospective in its application.

A number of these open pit hard mineral mines are prime tourist attractions in the areas in which they operate. They cannot be called "natural" beauty, but are awesome and attractive. No one has seriously