

volume in getting the concentrate from which the minerals, themselves, are derived. It seems to me that this indicates that we are going to have to look more and more toward open-pit mining in order to handle this volume. Is that a fair statement?

Mr. ABDNOR. Yes, sir. I consider it to be fair. I think, in the first place, the statement I made was a quote from Dr. Hibbard but our own experience backs that up entirely for the most part.

Senator JORDAN. You quoted Dr. Hibbard again. I think you said, "Our capability to produce minerals from domestic sources may not only remain static but in some cases disappear because they cannot be maintained in competition costwise with foreign production."

I remember when Dr. Hibbard made that statement. I think that is a fair statement and one that should give us some concern because I hope this Nation never becomes wholly dependent on foreign minerals for the requirements of our industrial and defense needs.

Mr. ABDNOR. I certainly agree with you, sir. This is our total domestic industry about which we speak and I had a sense this morning that there might be some disregard for this basic factor in some of the expressions that were heard.

Senator METCALF. Senator, I wonder if we can suspend here and go over and vote on the new regulations for the Senate Office Building. As soon as we can, we will return and you will continue your interrogation.

Senator JORDAN. Yes.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much.

(A brief recess was taken.)

Senator METCALF. The committee will be in order.

Senator Jordan.

Senator JORDAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

When we were so rudely interrupted by the buzzer, we were talking about the importance of domestic production of strategic minerals and metals to meet the defense requirements and the expanding needs of our industrial economy.

I would ask you, Mr. Abdnor, what percent of our strategic minerals and metals are now imported? Do you have an idea?

Mr. ABDNOR. I am sorry, sir, I don't. I think I can get the figure and I will be happy to send it for the record.

Senator JORDAN. Will you, for the record?

Mr. ABDNOR. Yes.

(The information requested is as follows:)