

regulations, that business of a lack of competition or a flight of industry or something is unfounded.

Now, you folks really go to the State legislatures and discourage and oppose the same sort of legislation at the State level; isn't that true?

Mr. ABDNOR. I cannot reject or deny, and it would be foolish to do so, some of the inconsistencies perhaps that you outline, Senator.

Yet, I would like to address myself briefly to what I think is a very basic proposition. It seems to me that whether you are in industry or in legislative action in the Halls of Congress or in the State legislatures that you are essentially obliged to respond to the public demand.

I think it is a demand of people that furnishes the initiative and the motion for accomplishment. With all due respect to what you are saying, obviously you were ahead of your time in your first bill in Montana 20 years ago or whenever it was.

Senator METCALF. Thirty.

Mr. ABDNOR. And I think 30 years was even more further ahead of times. I think perhaps it was not too many years ago that it was still ahead of the times because there was still not an awareness, a need, a demand for it.

Now, I think that essentially as a result of what has happened in the coal mining areas—and, let's face it, this is where the big problem lies and the coal people have acknowledged it; they have State laws covering it—this problem has existed and it is not going to be cured in a day by State laws.

If the problem is moving ahead toward solution in those areas where it has first arisen and first became paramount in the eyes of the people who demanded solution, then I say they are on the right track.

Now, today, speaking only for my own industry in Minnesota, I am sure the representative of the State will confirm the fact that my industry came forward to him and to the State government. I confess it was after this thing stirred in Denver last year that we knew of this Federal move and knew that we were obliged to take a position that certainly some authority is going to act, so we came forward and said, we will work with you.

Now, at least the proposal for Federal legislation is in itself saying that if you don't do the job we are going to do it, but I do not believe that the States need to be forcefully directed at this point to do the job in the manner in which they are told to do the job. I say, let the States do the job if they will. This is not, I think, the appropriate time for the Federal Government to impose its rules on the States because I think they are moving into it very, very well.

Senator METCALF. What if the States will not do the job?

Mr. ABDNOR. I don't think that has yet been demonstrated.

Senator METCALF. Well, for the record, I would like to insert some statistics on surface mining of coal and lignite in 1966. Now, as you point out that is a different proposition; they are not nonferrous ores. There are non-State-regulated areas where there is substantial coal production—Alabama, Missouri, Wyoming, North Dakota, New Mexico—all of which have coal production greater than some of the regulated areas such as Virginia, Tennessee, and Colorado.

They have not done the job and it seems to me as if we should encourage States such as Kentucky and Illinois and Ohio, which put