

deeply immersed in seeking ways in which coal and other fuels can continue to meet their tremendous obligations to national growth, within the framework of national aspirations for a cleaner and more attractive environment.

A shrewd observer once remarked that humankind was sometimes less than astute in its collective logic. All too often, he noted, we were prone to follow the reasoning:

"A horse is white; therefore, everything white is a horse."

I am afraid we have been guilty of some such associations of ideas in regard to strip—or surface—mining of fuels, metals, and minerals. In some instances, strip mining has marred the beauty of nature and its site has been left unreclaimed once the mineral removal was completed. Therefore, this type of reasoning would proceed: All surface mining is an abomination and, regardless of the national need it fulfills, should be banned.

I submit that this is neither factual nor sensible.

It reminds me of a story that was told one time by a general during—not the last war; I cannot remember which one it was; the Second World War, I think they label it. General MacSherry, who is associated with me, one day thought that I had completely lost my buttons, I guess, by being rather sharp in my comments concerning something that had happened. He said, "Joe, I want to tell you a story."

He said, "You know, in a little town that I lived in we used to hang around the drugstore and as the girls went by we did our girl watching. There was always some itsy, bitsy comment. There was one girl that was pretty good looking but not exactly beautiful from standards that ordinarily are applied. As she went by this afternoon, one of the boys said, 'Lord, her face would stop a clock.'"

All of you who are old enough—and you may be, Senator—remember buggy dashing and the shed back behind the church in the small towns. It seems that that evening the general, with a gal, went into the shed and parked and noticed that in the buggy alongside was this young lady who had gone past the drugstore and whose face supposedly would stop a clock. He said, much to his amazement, he heard her companion say, "Eloise, your beauty would make time stand still."

So, lots of times you know when you think that maybe a high wall and a strip mine is ugly, remember somebody got a lot of benefit out of it somewhere. We had low-cost power that gave us a chance to produce what we needed; it kept us in competition.

By the very nature of ore and other mineral deposits, land terrain, location, and economic competition, a great deal of our mining operations must necessarily be of the surface extraction type today. And we simply cannot afford to do without the fuels, metal and nonmetal ores, and other basic substances recovered by this method for our ravenous industrial, agricultural, and social needs.

The fact is, however, that regulations which unduly hamper-surface mining operations and add production costs which make domestically mined products noncompetitive with the same or substitute products produced abroad, could very well hasten a further decline in our self-sufficiency of many fuels, metals, and mineral ores.