

simply cannot be ignored by the Congress, or any other branch of Government.

Dr. Hibbard pointed out that as readily available, supplies of any resource become more scarce, the extraction costs increase, and admitted that how long our "important domestic capability" to supply our own mineral needs, as well as supply a great variety to world markets, "can be maintained is open to considerable conjecture."

The Mines Bureau Director noted that already U.S. mining interests are turning to foreign material sources, and that we now import—

Forty percent of our iron ore;
 Nearly 40 percent of our zinc;
 More than 25 percent of our lead;
 Almost 20 percent of our copper; and
 Eighty-five percent of our bauxite.

He did not state, although he might well have, that we also import 82 percent of all the residual fuel oil used in the Atlantic seaboard States in competition with domestic coal and other fuels.

I will not dwell further on Dr. Hibbard's very important testimony, except for one more very pertinent quotation:

If current trends continue—

He warned—

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.

Any new regulations adding to the burdens and cost of, and further discouraging production of, domestic fuels, minerals, and metals is certainly going to augment our already substantial dependence on foreign sources, a few examples of which I have cited above.

Mr. Chairman, I have addressed myself to the broad picture of the Nation's fuels, metals, and energy needs, supplies and capabilities, balanced against costs and world competition.

Several of my associates will testify more specifically to the fact that almost all of the coal-mining States where surface mining is conducted in areas where it may temporarily affect the beauty of the countryside now have reclamation laws which their legislatures feel are sufficient to protect the esthetic qualities of the scenery.

They will also comment more specifically on both technical, production, and marketing problems for coal which could result from the superimposing of Federal reclamation programs on top of such State regulations and they will supply you with facts about the surface mining of coal—why it is necessary under certain conditions and in certain areas and why restrictions which make it uneconomic would not only be a serious blow to the economy in many sections of the Nation, but would also seriously impair our ability to provide a secure and low-cost fuel to utilities and other users in many areas.

My testimony has emphasized that we cannot afford at this time new regulations which further hamper our ability to supply our own needs for fuels, minerals, and metals. I sincerely hope the committee will agree with me, and that S. 3132 and other proposed legislation on this subject will be rejected by this committee in this session.

Members of the coal industry, as ordinary good citizens, are honestly concerned with the maintenance and improvement of the en-