

Over the years, coal companies and their associations have shown foresight in developing and subsidizing reclamation research programs conducted by universities and agricultural services. As a result, the agricultural and forest uses of reclaimed mined land have expanded and diversified with time and successful experimentation.

It is not uncommon for a company engaged in surface mining to have an agricultural division or subsidiary to manage the land—both before and after mining operations. Such groups are involved in programs as varied as: growing berries for a processor of jellies and jams; fattening cattle on their way to market; growing and harvesting pulp wood; raising hay and grain crops, and developing orchards, to name a few.

Incidentally, Christmas trees grown on reclaimed coal mine land in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana have been cut and shipped to Washington to be featured in the White House Christmas Pageant of Peace for the past three years, under a program initiated by the American Mining Congress. Next year they will come from Pennsylvania.

If there is one thing that my experience with MLCC has shown, it is that there can be no single comprehensive national blueprint of reclaimed land use. Topography, soil, climate and the surrounding environment must all be taken into consideration in developing productive and useful land reclamation programs.

Thus, what is feasible and appropriate in reclaiming strip mine land in one area may be impracticable, inappropriate or even impossible in another.

For example, a reclamation plan for a strip mine in the arid areas of the West would hardly resemble a reclamation plan for a strip mine east of the Mississippi River where 40 inches of rainfall make revegetation easier.

We are pleased to see that this fact is recognized in paragraph (d), Section 3, of S. 3132.

We concur wholeheartedly with that portion of paragraph (e) of the same Section which states, ". . . responsibility for developing, authorizing, issuing and enforcing regulations for surface mining operations and for the reclamation of surface mined areas should rest with the state."

As we have pointed out, states which produce 90 percent of the coal mined by surface methods now have reclamation laws, and other states are acting. We believe that the states are doing an effective job, and, insofar as coal is concerned, that there is no need for Federal surface mining legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to tell you a little bit about what the coal industry is doing to reclaim the land it disturbs in the surface mining of coal.

Mr. Moody. Mr. Reilly, please.

#### STATEMENT OF JAMES REILLY, VICE PRESIDENT, CONSOLIDATION COAL CO. OF PITTSBURGH

Mr. REILLY. In the interest of saving time, I am going to ask to file my statement, but I am going to indulge, if I may, just a minute or two to explain my viewpoints on this particular legislation.

Senator METCALF. Let me repeat, all statements will be accepted and printed in the record and the Chair will from now on enjoy hearing a summary such as you have, Mr. Reilly.

Mr. REILLY. I would not impose upon you.

My name is Jim Reilly. I am a vice president of Consolidation Coal Co. I happen to be an immigrant miner to the United States. I would like to say that I am awfully proud to be a part of this industry. I would like to say that before I ever strip mined any coal that I had the pleasure of taking my bulldozer from an underground mine and making some beautiful lakes and some wonderful recovery of lands because I happen to believe in this sort of thing.