

I can really do it. I can honestly do it, the way I feel about the job we can do as miners. I mean we can do it, we are doing it, and please take a good look at us. Remember when you see one of our baddies, you have the problem with Adam, you have the Senators from people in other places, doctors have problems, lawyers have to disbar people once in a while. There are some who are not exactly the finest people in the world, and you know that goes on. But we are doing a job. Selfishly we ought to ask to make everybody do what we are doing. When you see what we are doing, you will know why I say that. But I know that is not the way to do it, that is not what made America great. We will whip this problem, believe me.

I said I was going to file this statement in an effort to save time. Well, I am getting carried away so I will answer any questions you have and shut up.

Senator METCALF. Thank you, Mr. Reilly.
(The prepared statement referred to follows:)

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

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is James Reilly. I am vice president of Consolidation Coal Company of Pittsburgh. I have been involved in the coal strip mining industry for more than twenty years. Most of my career in coal mining has been spent in Ohio, although I am generally familiar with strip mining in other parts of the country.

It happens that the first mined land reclamation in this country took place fifty years ago, in 1918, in Clay County, Indiana. Peach, apple, and pear trees were planted on that mined land and some of them are still bearing fruit. In 1967, the reclamation experts of Indiana's bituminous coal strip mining industry planted their fifty millionth tree. They have reclaimed more than 95 per cent of the land disturbed since stripping operations began in Indiana 50 years ago. We think that is a pretty good average.

Actually, very little strip mining was done between World War I and World War II, but during World War II the tremendous demand for coal brought many who had had no previous experience in coal mining into the strip mining field. There were road contractors, bulldozer operators and just about anyone else who thought he could make a fast buck by strip mining coal. Many of them returned to other occupations immediately after the war ended and as the demand for coal began to slack off a bit. The fact that these outsiders did very little reclamation created problems which still haunt those of us in the strip mining business today.

We are sometimes asked why we strip mine at all. Well, for one thing, strip mined coal is usually cheaper to produce. It is estimated that if all 1966 coal production had come from underground mines—if there had been no strip mining—American consumers would have paid some \$250 million in added fuel costs that year.

In addition, there is always the geological factor to consider. When special topographical conditions in an area make underground mining impractical, then lifting the roof of the soil becomes the only feasible way to recover the coal.

The industry today has the technical and engineering staffs to reclaim strip mined land—and they are doing the job—emphatically so! Remarkable progress has been made in the art of land reclamation in the last few years. This progress has been made under local and state supervision, and it is now in good hands.

Let me describe for you some of the techniques now used in land reclamation by the responsible coal strip mining companies. First, there is soil testing. It is extremely important that the land be put to its best possible use once the coal has been removed. In our company, and in most of the other major coal strip mining companies, we test the soil before the land is strip mined. Then as mining proceeds, reclamation plans are developed to reclaim the land to its best possible use. In some cases, it is necessary to make adjustments as mining proceeds. This is because we may encounter different soil conditions than we had originally anticipated, or because of other geological factors which develop as the land is stripped and mined.