

national and international problems, but I do not presume to be in possession of all the facts on which to base decisions. I think that is what you gentlemen are here for. I sympathize with you as you try to deal with some of the great issues that confront you.

But I must say this, that just as you are better equipped to deal with broad national and international issues than I am, those of us who are engaged in coal mining and in strip mine reclamation are in a much better position to judge the effectiveness of our programs than you might be. It is our considered judgment that a Federal law would only slow down the progress we're now making.

Granted that we may have made some mistakes in the past, we feel that we are now making great progress. The State laws under which we are now operating are working out quite well. For verification of that, ask the State officials Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania and the other states where strip mining is going on. I believe they will tell you that it would be a mistake to impose a Federal strip mining law. We are making progress—let's stay on that road.

Thank you very much.

Mr. MOODY. Mr. Robert Hall.

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT E. LEE HALL, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
NATIONAL COAL ASSOCIATION**

Mr. HALL. I am Robert E. Lee Hall. I have been introduced.

I am not going to read my statement. I am going to commend Mr. Reilly as an able advocate of black power in a different form, you might say.

I am going to make the committee a gift of time which is man's most precious possession. Besides, I feel somewhat in the position of Richard Burton, or Barbara Hutton's seventh husband—what I had in mind has already been done perhaps better before, anyway.

I will say that the first five pages of my statement are devoted to raising the constitutional question in the dialog, Mr. Chairman, that you and Senator Hansen had this morning with Secretary Udall. I feel the question was adequately raised. As John L. Lewis once said, "I don't propose to answer the question, I only pose the question." I am sure your committee will look into it. I believe it is important.

In the second half of my testimony, I point out something that has not been but lightly touched upon, and this is the cost of the administration of the proposed legislation.

Secretary Udall, I noticed this morning, mentioned the budget problem inherent in taking care of past sins of omission in the reclamation field. Well, I submit that the cost of the administration of the proposed legislation would be prohibitive. It must be carefully assessed and weighed in the light of the new priorities for Federal funds posed by the needs for housing, for construction, for jobs, in short, in the present national emergency that I feel now exists.

I will not labor the committee further with the arguments. The chairman has said that these statements will be carefully read and evaluated both by the committee members and the staff. With that I will end by thanking you, Mr. Chairman and Senators and the staff, for hearing us out. I know it was at some personal sacrifice; it is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Thank you, Mr. Hall.

(The prepared statement referred to follows:)