simple economics, be impossible for stone producers to comply with and still remain competitive in the pricing of their products.

First, given the extremely long life of the typical stone quarry, it is plain that no meaningful plan for the reclamation work can be developed before operations are commenced.

Yet, under these proposals, stone producers would be required, not only to develop such a plan and have it approved, they would also be required to post a performance bond in an amount "adequate to insure the land is reclaimed."

I would say here that just how any bonding company, in these circumstances, could be persuaded to issue such a performance bond completely eludes us.

Second, given the extremely small amount of overburden and other nonsalable material which remains after production at the typical quarry, it is obvious that to require the land on which the quarry is located to be "returned to original condition," would place an impossible economic burden upon the operator.

The cost implications of such a requirement cannot reasonably be estimated.

Plainly, however, they would be staggering, particularly when it is considered that this cost impact would have to be borne by a product which, at present, sells on the average for approximately $1.42 a ton.

This cost impact would place crushed stone at a severe and probably impossible disadvantage with other materials with which it is strongly competitive in many markets. Those other materials are normally obtained by either dredging operations or surface mining operations of a relatively shallow nature which would not give rise to such substantial reclamation costs as would be the case with stone.

The extremely severe and disproportionate cost impact which these requirements would have upon stone producers' operations would be greatly magnified, moreover, in their application to currently existing operations.

Thus, a typical quarry which had been in operation for 60 years and which had a remaining productive life of another 20 years would have to recover the cost for reclaiming the results of 80 years of excavation from the sales for 20 years of production. As a result, one effect of the enactment of these proposals would undoubtedly be to cause the premature closing of many existing operations so as to avoid being subject to these requirements.

Such premature closings of existing operations not only would cause many employees to lose their jobs; it would also cause a severe diminution of the available sources of stone which can meet the increasingly stringent specifications which are being imposed by Federal and State agencies as well as by the private construction industry.

Accordingly, all Government-sponsored construction activities such as highway programs, dams, bridges, and airports as well as private construction would be confronted by shortages and delays in obtaining their supplies of stone, base course, concrete, and other building materials, not to mention increases in the prices of those essential supplies.

These effects which these proposals would have upon the crushed stone industry make plain that they have been developed without any consideration whatever being given to the impact which they would