

Mr. FRAWLEY. On page 1 of the bill, sir; definition of reclamation, section 2(b).

Senator ANDERSON. I keep on asking the question, but I just don't understand how you can tell what the bonding companies may do.

Mr. FRAWLEY. The problem arises, sir, because the way "reclamation" is now defined by the bill, it might someday be defined to mean and require "return to original condition."

Senator METCALF. Senator Burdick.

Senator BURDICK. No questions.

Senator METCALF. I assure you, Mr. Frawley, that I don't interpret the word "reconditioning," which is the alternative, as a requirement for complete restoration. However, there may be some valid reasons why the crushed stone industry should not be included in this kind of legislation, I think that most of the *reductio ad absurdum* in your statement hasn't made a very strong case for you for exemption, but we will carefully look at this legislation in view of the fears that you have expressed. If there is any ambiguity as to these various propositions you raise, certainly the committee will try to make it plain both in the legislation and in the report.

Thank you very much.

Mr. FRAWLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF NATIONAL CRUSHED STONE ASSOCIATION

The National Crushed Stone Association is a nonprofit trade association whose members engage in the quarrying of rock and the processing of the rock into numerous crushed stone products in all sections of the United States.

The crushed stone industry is an important one. Bureau of Mines statistics indicate that the annual production of crushed and broken stone in the United States approximates 780 million tons. Without our aggregates, as they are called, most construction would very quickly come to a halt. Our industry's products, in the form of concrete mixtures, "blacktop," base course and other critical supplies, are absolutely vital to the construction of roads, dams, bridges, and airports and to all types of commercial construction. In addition, the steel, lead, glass, paint, agricultural and other so-called "basic industries" require our industry's products in order to produce their own.

In addition to being absolutely critical to the construction and other basic industries, crushed stone products are notable for their low value, high volume and heavy loading characteristics. Statistics available from the Bureau of Mines disclose that the average sales price of our industry's aggregates is only \$1.42 a ton. As a result of this extremely low price, proposals whose cost impact upon our industry's operations can be measured in any significant number of cents per ton plainly would have the direct effect of a significant increase in the costs of all construction.

The returning of worked-out quarries to a useful purpose has been a matter of continuing concern to stone producers who have long recognized that it is nothing more than good business to be a "good neighbor" to their surrounding communities. This concern led to the formation within National Crushed Stone Association of an active Reclamation Committee. That committee is comprised of operating personnel of NCSA's members who are intimately involved in both the day-to-day operations and the long-range planning of stone quarries and who have considerable personal experience in working with state and local governments in the development of effective and realistic programs for the regulation of reclamation practices within the surface mining industry.

That experience has made clear that, because of variations in climate, physiography, geographic location, vegetation, land values and other features, surface mining operations and their reclamation are matters which can be effectively and realistically regulated only at the state and local level where due regard can be given to the different circumstances and factors present in each area.

That experience has also made clear that any attempt, even on the state level, to regulate reclamation practices in the surface mining industry on a uniform,