

Minnesota, we see rapidly developing the taconite industry which was most recently endorsed by the people of Minnesota when they voted to approve the "taconite" amendment to their State constitution. Eighty-seven percent of the people voting on the State constitution issue favored the issue designed to attract more mining development. The result has been to extend the iron ore mining industry in Minnesota beyond the foreseeable future. How can one make advance plans for reclamation to obtain permits to mine when we know the operation will continue for 50 to 100 years in the future?

This has also happened in other areas of the United States as has been pointed out for Michigan. It has also happened in California, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming.

All of this comes from the utilization of materials that might have otherwise been lost to our country if we had been required to "reclaim" the mines, within the meaning of the bill, when they had originally become uneconomic. The cost of reopening the mines may have been prohibitive and the huge investments would never have been justified.

To further illustrate that iron ore mining is a localized and long-lived operation, let me briefly review some of the highlights in the history of our industry.

Iron ore was first mined in Virginia in 1619, in New York and in New Jersey about 1750. In Pennsylvania, the Cornwall Mine was opened in 1740 and is still in continuing operation, 228 years later. This is an underground operation so it does not come under the provisions of S. 3132 but it does emphasize what we are trying to point out, the localized and long-lived aspects of the iron ore mining industry.

An example pertinent to our discussion today is the world renowned Hull-Rust-Mahoning mine located near Hibbing, Minn. This mine, operated by several companies, was opened in 1895—73 years ago—as an underground mine. In 1905, it was opened as a surface mining operation. Up to and including 1966, 500 million tons of iron ore had been removed from this mine.

Today, even as the natural ores are still being removed, mining companies are planning the development of a new taconite operation that would utilize the "taconite" in the bottom and in the walls of the Hull-Rust-Mahoning mine that will expand this man-made grand canyon.

The fact that the Hull-Rust-Mahoning mine and others like it were on a standby basis and not "reclaimed," as may be required under this bill, was an important factor in the iron ore mining industry being able to provide iron ore for the Nation during World War I, World War II, in the Korean war and in our recent emergency.

In the Second World War, we were able to increase our production from the Great Lakes area alone from 19 million tons in 1938 to 93 million tons in 1942. In the Korean war, we went from 69 million tons in 1949 to 94 million tons in 1951.

Without the provisions that may exist in the proposed legislation, we were able to meet the tremendous requirements for the steel industry during these emergencies and during the present conflict. We sincerely hope that legislation will not be enacted now which would restrict our ability to supply the Nation's requirements in a future hour of need.