

you people up there and let you see from an airplane the area south of this Mesabi Range and then to see the range and see the activity, the people living there, the industry that is there, the wealth that is being created, the people that are being supported, and fly north of there and see the recreational areas which are being undisturbed by our industry, but which are being supported by the people living there—

Senator JORDAN. Let me clarify it. What I am leading up to is to get a contrast, if I can, between the economic uses of the area before mining was started, the value of the products taken out in the mining process, and the economic value of the land after the mines have removed the ore and turned the land back to its natural state or to whatever state in which it is used. I think this is important for the record.

Mr. BOENTJE. The economic value of the area in which the Mesabi Range is located, I would say, would be similar to the area to the south of the range. This is a very difficult area to make a living in, but people do live there. There are some who exist on a slight amount of dairy farming, some pulpwood industry. The value of the land is relatively small. It certainly cannot be measured by the values of the land in southern Minnesota. On the Cuyuna Range, which is another important range, this gets into an agricultural area.

However, again the quantities of land which are involved in the iron ore mining are relatively small. The value of the land in the surrounding area is relatively small. Farming productivity is relatively small.

Senator JORDAN. Someone gave us a figure that 500 million tons of iron ore have been removed from this area. What is the economic value of that? Do you have figures on that?

Mr. JOHNSON. I do have specific figures on the value of the iron ore if you will give me the broad sense, the 500 million tons, but we will take all of the iron ore mined from 1900 through 1967, Senator Jordan. The value was \$20,244,000,634.

Senator JORDAN. Thank you.

Mr. JOHNSON. That is the value since 1900.

Senator JORDAN. Since 1900.

Mr. JOHNSON. Of iron ore mined in the United States.

Senator JORDAN. Now I would like some testimony as to whether the economic value of the land surface has been diminished by the mining activity; that is, the land after you are through with the mining, if you are through with it. Is it worth less or more than before you started mining, and, if less, how much less?

Dr. SUNDEEN. Senator Jordan, perhaps I can comment by an illustration with respect to our Empire Mine in Michigan. The Empire Mine covers perhaps three-quarters of a square mile of area. The actual pit outlines will ultimately encompass about three-quarters of a square mile.

Before this was stripped of trees and the very thin cover, it did have a forest growth that had some nominal value—hardwood timber which was second growth in character.

I can't give you a precise number as to the value per acre of that timber, but I would venture a guess that it wasn't more than from \$200 to \$300 an acre in value. Cutover lands in Michigan are selling for