

Under his leadership it has shown a new vitality and, Jack, I want to congratulate you on the part that you have played in that. I must say for the sake of the record, Mr. Chairman, as I just showed you, I have five committee meetings this morning and there were some questions which I had prepared to ask Mr. Rigg and I will stay as long as I can until I get called to the next meeting, but I don't think I will be able to stay through it. I have asked Senator Jordan if he will be so kind as to propound these questions to you, Jack, in the event I have to leave before you finish.

It is nice to have you here.

Senator METCALF. Mr. Rigg, you come under very distinguished auspices. We welcome you to the committee and you have a prepared statement. Go right ahead.

STATEMENT OF JOHN B. RIGG, COLORADO MINING ASSOCIATION

Mr. RIGG. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator Allott; you are too kind. I appreciate it. I shall not read my entire statement.

Senator METCALF. Thank you.

Mr. RIGG. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am John B. Rigg, manager of the Colorado Mining Association, a voluntary organization representing over 1,100 mineral operations and mineral fuel locations employing 16,000 persons and producing at an annual local market value of \$366 million in Colorado.

We appreciate the courtesy this committee extends in allowing us to present our thoughts on S. 3132 and the supporting data compiled prior to the introduction of this legislation pertaining to the control of surface mining and reclamation of mined lands.

We have reviewed the publication "Surface Mining and Our Environment," prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior, which presents an analysis of data on land disturbances. We were concerned about the Colorado figures so we obtained copies of directives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service authorizing the compilation of figures.

Also, we received copies of the directive from the Colorado State conservationist. These are attached as exhibits 1 and 2. We obtained the exact acreages cited as disturbed in each Colorado county (exhibit 4).

We take exception to the Colorado figures compiled to support S. 3132 because the acreages cover the majority of our underground mining operations. For example, Summit County supposedly has 1,208 acres disturbed by surface gold mining. Our figures indicate the county has had 287 acres disturbed by placer mining in the streambeds and on the benches; all the rest is underground mining.

Another example is the 350 acres of Clear Creek County disturbed by molybdenum mining. This is underground mining again.

The discrepancy of the figures is not recited as criticism but shown to demonstrate the logical sequence of the directive from Washington (exhibit 1) which states on page 2:

The acreages disturbed by mining since its beginning for each of the minerals should be estimated . . . This county report should be as reliable as possible without a field survey.

A report compiled in the office that involves engineering data available only by field survey is an insult to the men compiling the data and to the persons who are supposed to read the data.