

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much, Mr. Rigg.

Senator Allott?

Senator ALLOTT. Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Jack, I notice in the latter part of your statement a remark that you think that legislation should be based upon a national minerals policy affirming the fact that the United States must be self-sufficient in minerals.

I am sorry I didn't have a chance to write this, because I would have written it in for you. You are aware, of course, that the bill offered by the senior Senator from Colorado to establish a national minerals policy has been lying dormant in the Congress now for some 7 or 8 years, and I think you are further aware that, although this was recently approved affirmatively by Dr. Hibbard, who has just retired, this bill now languishes in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior awaiting his pleasure.

Mr. Rigg. Yes, I am aware of this.

Senator ALLOTT. How many acres have been disturbed by surface mining for oil shale in Rio Blanco County?

Mr. Rigg. Although the Soil Conservation Service data that is attached states that 2,000 acres have been disturbed by oil shale mining, I don't think any have. I will give you 50 acres at the outside, but all of our oil shale mining is underground mining.

Senator ALLOTT. Do you know of any stripping of oil shale in Colorado? I do not.

Mr. Rigg. None that I know of.

Senator ALLOTT. Exhibit 4 shows 640 acres disturbed by molybdenum surface mining in Lake County. Is this correct?

Mr. Rigg. No. This is the world's largest underground mine.

Senator ALLOTT. And there is a development of molybdenum proposed on the East Range, and could you state generally the efforts that have gone on and the cooperation between the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to be assured that the tailings from that mine are adequately taken care of?

Mr. Rigg. The background work they are doing on this new molybdenum deposit is costing millions of dollars just in the development of the capability to place the tails in an area where they will not be unsightly and to prepare them in a manner so that they will never affect adversely the surrounding terrain.

Senator ALLOTT. I notice a number of Colorado counties show on the exhibit that uranium mining has acreages disturbed. Is this surface mining?

Mr. Rigg. Again no. We checked this with the Soil Conservation people and it appears that these acreages that they claim are disturbed by surface uranium mining are discovery pits to meet the requirements of the mining law.

However, we in Colorado changed our law in 1961 so that you did not have to dig a discovery pit and not unnecessarily bother the surface.

Senator ALLOTT. Are counties continuing to control land uses so that mining is encouraged?

Mr. Rigg. Yes. Basically the counties are doing a very good job and they are also cooperating with the Bureau of Land Management, and advisory committees, to rezone land.