

However, we do believe that the BLM is acting prematurely in some of their reclassifications and they should wait for the Public Land Law Review Commission report and in the meantime classify land only for multiple use.

Senator ALLOTT. Does local reclassification have any hazards for the mining industry?

Mr. Rigg. We think it does. You can have land withdrawn from mineral entry and then, if a miner makes a discovery in the land, he has to get Federal approval for reclassification to allow mining, and we know of no instance in which this has been done.

Senator ALLOTT. The delicate question always comes up between mining and the wilderness areas and I think my views on this have been well known but has anything been done about the wilderness areas in Colorado recently?

Mr. Rigg. Yes; 230,000 acres of the San Juan primitive area and 560,000 acres of the upper Rio Grande primitive area are now being studied by the U.S. Forest Service for classification for wilderness. They are going to hold hearings this fall in various towns in Colorado and we propose to make a statement at that time. Our statement will be based on the fact that the wilderness area program is contrary to what we believe is more important, this national minerals policy.

Senator ALLOTT. Do you believe that wilderness areas are needed?

Mr. Rigg. Yes, I do, but I think that they can and must be maintained with mining allowed so that we can have our self-sufficiency.

Senator ALLOTT. You, of course, know the concept of wilderness which is that, and I think I quote the statute, "the land must be and remain untrammelled by man" and so forth. Your emphasis, I gather, is that we should not lock up this land irrevocably without determining the needs prior to that that this land might have for our national minerals and the development of our mineral resources in the country.

Mr. Rigg. That is right.

Senator ALLOTT. I want to thank you very much, Jack, for coming here. You have sat patiently through 2 days and we are happy to have you with us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Rigg. Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. No questions. Thank you.

Senator METCALF. If there are no questions, Mr. Rigg, I too thank you for your appearance here and your presentation of the case of the mining interests of Colorado which are very much like those in Montana.

Mr. Rigg. Thank you very much.

Senator METCALF. The next witness is Mr. James L. Cox.

We are pleased to have you before the committee, Mr. Cox.

STATEMENT OF JAMES L. COX, GENERAL MANAGER, INTERNATIONAL MINERALS & CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION, REPRESENTING PHOSPHATE COUNCIL OF FLORIDA; ACCOMPANIED BY ROBERT L. KOOB, DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL MINERALS & CHEMICAL CORP.

Mr. Cox. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Senators. I am James L. Cox, general manager of Florida operations for International Minerals &