

what an asset they are to our society. With proper reclamation laws they can be an asset.

After everything has been said by the mining interests and stripped of window dressing, all that is left is this, "Let us mine wherever the deposits are found and wherever we can, economically to us, reclaim the land we will do so to whatever extent we see fit. If we feel that it is not economical for us to reclaim, let us mine anyway and let someone else at some other time bear the cost of whatever reclamation may be necessary."

There are not two sides to this issue. Quite the contrary, there is only one, and that one is complete control and reclamation on the affected areas in all future strip and surface mining operations.

Gentlemen, our future is at stake, it rests in your hands. Make it bright.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you, testifying in behalf of the people of Kansas and Missouri, urgently requesting the passage of Senate bill 3132.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much, Mr. Spurling. Now you wish to make a statement, Mr. Widner?

Mr. WIDNER. I would say this: That the Secretary of the Interior and Vice President Hubert Humphrey were out to our country last year and they saw land that had been reclaimed and was raising 41 bushels of wheat and producing 300 pounds of beef per acre.

Now, we know that when it is properly done this land can be saved. We need the coal, but we need the land. And we thank you, gentlemen, very much.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much for your very eloquent and moving statement. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. You have made an effective presentation of the irate and aroused citizenry of people who come from an area that has been abused, in your statement, by the miners.

Have you made such a statement before your respective State legislatures and if so, how were you received?

Mr. SPURLING. We might just as well not have been there.

Mr. WIDNER. We are wasting our time until we get a bill like 3132 to back us.

Mr. SPURLING. We have to have this, gentlemen.

Senator JORDAN. Is there any regulation of strip mining in the State of Missouri?

Mr. WIDNER. No.

Senator JORDAN. No regulation at all?

Mr. WIDNER. No.

Senator JORDAN. And your law in Kansas is ineffective?

Mr. SPURLING. We do not know. It will not take effect until 1969. But the coal companies were the authors of the law and consequently we are skeptical of the effectiveness of it.

Senator JORDAN. Don't you have a government of the people in Kansas?

Mr. SPURLING. Yes.

Mr. WIDNER. It doesn't work. It is theory only. Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Thank you both.

Mr. SPURLING. Thank you.