

Accordingly, the Phosphate Lands Conference was formed for the purpose of working with Interior to develop regulations to accomplish the objective of mined land reclamation without the onerous problems of Interior's proposals of May 1966, which, at least, we in the western phosphate industry see from our side.

Because we feel that the peculiarities of western phosphate mining and western phosphate deposits are of extreme importance in the consideration of S. 3132 and S. 3126, Mr. Power will devote the first portion of his comments to this subject.

In addition, he will comment on the past activities of the conference relative to mined land reclamation which form a further basis for our comments on the provisions of S. 3132 and S. 3126.

Mr. Olsen's comments will then be directed specifically to the provisions of S. 3132 and S. 3126 in the light of the background information provided by Mr. Power. Because we three are making a joint presentation, perhaps it might be in order for questions to be withheld until the three of us are finished; however, we would be very happy to answer questions at any time.

In closing my brief presentation to you, we of the Phosphate Lands Conference believe that no laws or regulations are needed to force mined land reclamation on western phosphate producers because these producers are already implementing this reclamation. We also believe that any such laws or regulations should only be adopted after the findings of the Public Land Law Review Commission are available.

Should it develop, however, that legislation is to be enacted at this time, then we hope that our constructive comments presented to you here will receive careful consideration.

Our next presentation is by Mr. O. A. Power, who will talk about, as I mentioned, the way our western phosphate physically occurs and the problems that it causes and then he will comment on the 2-year history of our Phosphate Lands Conference.

Senator METCALF. Thank you.

Mr. Power.

Mr. POWER. Dr. Emigh has touched briefly on the Phosphate Lands Conference. In my presentation I should like first to discuss the unique features of the western phosphate deposits. I will then briefly review the past activities of the Phosphate Lands Conference. Our comments on both these subjects provide the background for understanding our specific comments relative to S. 3126 and S. 3132.

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF WESTERN PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS

About 200 million years ago western phosphate was deposited from an inland sea stretching from the Gulf of Mexico northward into Montana. The phosphate was deposited in only a small area of that sea, and the deposition was related to the chemistry of the sea and its temperature.

At that time the phosphate was flat lying, as are all other phosphate deposits now being mined in the world with the possible exception of Russia.

After the sea evaporated, mother nature sprinkled hundreds of feet of other rocks on top of the phosphate for the next few million