

tions, and on and on. Our competitive way of life just won't permit us to have a partner with full and final authority unless he shares the economic risks with us.

We judge our equipment, our facilities—all of our activities—on dollars spent and whether or not we can stay in business. So it is not whether we will reclaim or beautify. We will. We have said so. It is not whether; it is how.

So, please, will someone who doesn't want to take away our rights, read and understand or, at least, acknowledge our proposed regulations.

The difficulties of mining and reclamation go hand in hand. Restoring the land in our case is much more difficult than restoring the land on a flat deposit. We don't have rivers adjacent to our mines. Our average rainfall is very low and the water in the summertime is at a premium in the mine areas. We don't pollute waters. We don't form acid waters—phosphate and other components of the phosphate are not soluble in water.

Last, one must consider the alternate uses of our desert lands and what those uses contribute to our States and Nation. For the most part, we are located in isolated areas away from the eyes of the tourist. No one can say the mining areas are scenic, or at least few can call a sagebrush hill scenic. Since we have been reseeding for 2 years, we do not destroy food for deer. The less than 2,000 acres western phosphate mining has disturbed over its entire history would not feed 100 head of deer.

The western phosphate industry is important to our Nation and particularly important to the economy of our Western States. We submit herewith, as exhibit F, a report which illustrates the economic significance of the western phosphate industry. As pointed out in the brochure, phosphate has many uses from fertilizers to pharmaceuticals.

We have contributed millions of dollars of cash flow to the people of our States in the form of payrolls, taxes, supplies, purchase of power and railroad freight, et cetera.

In 1967 our annual payroll was \$122 million, our plant investment directly related to western phosphate was in excess of \$654 million over the Nation, and out of this we have disturbed in the past 20 years, 1,781 acres, all of which will eventually be reseeded.

We will cooperate with our Government in its efforts to beautify America. We simply want to keep the freedoms necessary for us to survive in a competitive industry.

Senator METCALF. May I interrupt at this time before Mr. Olsen starts? Mr. L. Boyd Finch is in the audience and representing the Secretary of the Interior. I wonder if, Mr. Finch, you would not see that these regulations are acknowledged and if you choose, the record will be open for you to make the necessary comments on them. I feel that the phosphate industry is entitled to an acknowledgement and some feeling on the part of the Department of the Interior as far as the regulations are concerned.

Will you relay that suggestion to the Secretary?

Mr. FINCH. I will, Mr. Chairman. I would add that I think it has been acknowledged in official conferences with the representatives present here today.