

The key problem is that of sorting out values, sorting out the positive values from the negative. This we are already doing.

An illustration of this is the Hoberusk mine which is of such grandeur and such scope that it has to be regarded as a positive value. That same large open pit mine in the world if surrounded by stock-piles would have to be considered negative.

If at some time in the future Federal assistance is made available to States for general reclamation purposes, it should by all means be on a block grant basis rather than the attrition and the administrative strangulation which accompanies detailed State plans submitted to Federal officials outside the State.

We have underway in Minnesota, as I have mentioned, positive action and cooperation to meet our own needs under the very first statute in our law books, statute No. 1 which says that the State shall exercise jurisdiction over all the lands within its boundaries.

In Minnesota I feel sure that the next 2 years will show that we can successfully solve our own problems. If we cannot, this will also become evident.

It is clear from these hearings that the problems of the various States differ and, therefore, require separate answers. It also seems obvious that the problems of the various types of mining differ and, therefore, require different approaches, particularly with respect to coal. If there is to be Federal legislation we suggest that the committee seriously consider the problems of coal mining separately lest Minnesota be saddled with undesirable legislation created to solve problems that exist in other States but do not exist in ours.

We do not wish to appear unfriendly, Mr. Chairman, but we can see no reason why our State efforts on a State matter should be interrupted or interfered with by officials outside the State.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator BURDICK (presiding). Thank you, Mr. Leirfallom. I just want to ask one question.

The Minnesota statutes provide that the leases shall contain certain conditions. One which you have underlined in your statement is that the lessee shall restore the premises as nearly as the commission deems practical to the natural conditions of the surrounding area.

In practice, how has that proviso worked out?

Mr. LEIRFALLOM. These, Mr. Chairman, are new leases now being negotiated for the copper and nickel industry. The industry has cooperated with us in developing reasonable standards and we anticipate no problems whatsoever because these arrangements are worked out in cooperation with the industry. But they are more a part of the future than of the past.

Senator BURDICK. This is a fairly recent law?

Mr. LEIRFALLOM. That is right. We have a new industry coming up in Minnesota, namely, copper-nickel.

Senator BURDICK. Thank you for your contribution. The complete text of the Governor's statement will be printed at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT BY HON. HAROLD LEVANDER, GOVERNOR, STATE OF MINNESOTA

Minnesota, a land of great natural beauty and the Nation's largest producer of iron ore, is vitally interested in any legislation that could affect the iron mining industry and thus the economy of the state. We therefore welcome the oppor-