

This is one of those happy incidents. I have known his father, and mother, too, for more years than I care to mention, and I suspect that I have known him practically all of his adult life. He is the coordinator of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Colorado which position he has held now approximately 6 years.

This department is charged with the responsibility of all of the resources of Colorado, not alone mining, and stabilization and pollution, but also responsibility for the reclamation of water and the conservation of water within the State of Colorado. He has done a very brilliant job and I am very happy to be able to make these remarks before he testifies.

I thank you.

**STATEMENT OF RICHARD T. ECKLES, COORDINATOR, DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF COLORADO**

Mr. ECKLES. Thank you, Senator Allott, for those very kind remarks.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee: I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear before you today not only to comment briefly on S. 3132 but also reflect on some of the problems the States are experiencing in the field of natural resources. The continual necessity to react instead of acting on these great problems is becoming an unacceptable position.

The Public Land Law Review Commission, which was established by the Congress of the United States, is directed to complete its studies and come before you with recommendations by 1971. The Western States futures depend on these recommendations. Since the Public Land Law Review Commission was established, the States have experienced a flood of legislative proposals and executive orders from the Federal agencies which cover the same subjects this Commission is studying. It is obvious to me the implications of these actions. What are we to do; wait in good faith until 1971, or continually react on these current proposals?

I will give you a specific example of the cooperation the States of Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado are having with the Secretary of the Department of the Interior regarding the oil shale lands. The Governors of these States, along with myself, met with Mr. Udall in Denver on May 4, 1967, to discuss Interior's oil shale leasing program. During this meeting, Mr. Udall suggested the establishment of liaison between the appropriate State and Federal agencies to combat problems in the areas of water pollution, spent shale dumps, air pollution, land restoration and reforestation, wildlife protection, and so forth.

The Governors responded to Mr. Udall's suggestion in a positive manner.

Since that meeting, we have not had any further word about this most important subject.

With reference to S. 3132: I am not impressed with the proposed authority in this bill. Section (3)(b) is an infringement on States rights and also creates a conflict with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The continual inference that the States are not capable or interested in controlling the resources within their boundaries is no longer acceptable to me.