

tion of surface mined areas is not feasible; . . ." Then, the bill proceeds to establish a mechanism whereby the Secretary of the Interior could impose on a nationwide basis uniform regulations for surface mining operations and for the reclamation of surface mined areas. Section 8 does not set forth any requirement that the regulations promulgated by the Secretary be other than uniform for all States and types of operations. It provides that he shall issue regulations "in consultation with an advisory committee appointed pursuant to this Act," but this is a reference to only one advisory committee, and makes no provision for advisory committees for particular States or particular types of operations. We believe that the diversity declared by the bill itself is sufficient grounds to reject the approach embodied in the bill.

In addition to the objections of the diversity of conditions to be regulated and the virtually uncontrolled power to be delegated to a centralized non-elective official, it is apparent that the interest and activities of the States and of the various affected industries in regard to safeguarding surface mining operations are at an all-time peak. In this connection, we would like to submit for the files of the Committee a copy of "Our Native Land," a basic handbook on the wise use and management of natural resources published by the National Association of Manufacturers. We would especially call attention to the section on "Beautification," which includes a picture of a reclaimed surface mined area illustrating revegetation and recreational opportunities for fishing. The caption on the picture reads: "Beautification efforts are advanced by reclamation programs carried on by surface mining operators. Trees and forage crops turn the land into excellent pasture, and hundreds of lakes have been created like this one in Kansas which abounds with bass, bluegill and perch."

The section on "Beautification" includes a quotation from Mr. Laurance S. Rockefeller, Chairman of the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Recreation and Natural Beauty, at the 70th Annual Congress of American Industry sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers, which states in part as follows:

"I think a milestone was established when business and industry participated in the recent White House Conference on National Beauty. Leaders from the electrical, steel, automobile, scrap, outdoor advertising, and other industries were there working hand-in-hand with labor leaders, government officials and conservationists. There was some encouraging progress on common solutions to some long standing problems beyond individual interest."

The section on "Beautification" also make reference to "the program of the Mined Land Conservation Conference, a voluntary organization formed by strip mine operators in the 22 states where surface mines are operated, which promotes the restoration of mined lands so that they will not only be productive of trees and forage but also pleasing to the eye."

We would also like to call attention to the article which appeared in the March 1968 issue of Coal Age Magazine entitled "Hybrid Poplars Renew Mined Land." This article tells the story of how research developed a hybrid poplar which is ideally suited for reclamation of surface mined areas because it is extremely fast growing and can grow under extremely dry and adverse conditions. It was written by Mr. John D. Kendig, Forester, Manheim, Pa. This article refers to the fact that "The Central Pennsylvania Open Pit Mining Association's Conservation Division has been working to get many strip-mined lands planted with hybrid poplars, being aided by men from the U.S. Forest Service and the Pennsylvania State University."

The article concludes "At the present time, hybrid poplars offer a very promising opportunity to clothe spoil banks with a solid vegetative cover that conserves soil, water and wildlife and makes strip-mined areas more attractive. In addition, a renewable resource is introduced on the coal-exhausted lands and with a little care and management it should produce valuable crops of pulpwood, saw timber, and veneer wood, over and over again."

It is obvious that, not only are private industry and the State governments capable of handling all the problems involved—water pollution control, air pollution control, reclamation and beautification, and conservation of fish and wildlife—but are doing so.

On the other hand, a perpetual, overhanging possibility of federal intervention with a set of differing regulations applicable to all these problems would make realistic planning—from both the operational and economic standpoints—practically impossible.

It should be noted that the Secretary of the Interior would presumably not be required to publish in the Federal Register the criteria by which he would