

have given up because everybody wants to make a speech in favor of his bill. I am sure that those of us who are concerned with this problem of surface mining are also aware of the progress that you are talking about and are interested in having the States do the job. It is only because of the failure of some States to do the job that this legislation has been introduced to provide for Federal regulations at all levels.

From time to time you have heard me mention the Federal Coal Mine Safety Act, which was passed before I came to Congress. Congress passed a Federal Act and made the States subject to Federal inspection, but then turned the inspection and so forth over to the respective States if they passed acts that complied with certain standards.

That was also done in the Nonferrous Mine Safety Act. I introduced a bill for a severance tax, as you probably have heard mentioned and know about, which will try to encourage all the States at the various levels to impose the severance tax. Then no one will be able to say, "Well, we can't mine coal because of the 5-percent tax so we will move over into some other State and mine coal. I would like to have you supplement and point out what we should do in this case because I think the members of this committee want to do just exactly what you are saying.

Mr. AGNEW. Thank you, Mr. Senator. I appreciate that and I believe yesterday and the day before a couple of the witnesses have mentioned the fact that, although they appreciate the sentiments and the feelings of the members of this committee now and of Secretary Udall, it is the change in personnel as times goes on that causes them to wish to have this kind of wording inserted.

Senator METCALF. I have heard that several times. I hope that that is not an expression as to the current political climate, a prediction of a change of administration.

Mr. AGNEW. I don't think so, sir. I am recalling the time when I worked in the mining district in Wisconsin. I was working with the U.S. Geological Survey then and we were attempting to get mine records from some of the mining companies. They were very tight with their information because they figured they had spent their own money for it, so why should they make it available to the Federal agency and to all mining companies? We told them that we would protect the sanctity, the confidential nature of these records, and what they said is substantially what you said here, that we trust you personally, but we don't know who is going to come along after you.

Senator METCALF. Thank you. Pardon me for interrupting.

Mr. AGNEW. The action that we have been speaking about here has been directed mainly at the problem of acid mine drainage by several State and Federal agencies. The problem of acid mine drainage, along with some attempt at reclamation, reforestation, seeding, et cetera, has been studied by Federal agencies, individual agencies such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration and Interior, and some joint efforts have been made, such as the demonstration projects in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, and not too long ago by several Federal bureaus and a couple of States. In addition both Federal and State agencies have been active in the reforestation and reclamation field.

We have had the Department of the Interior's report, "Surface Mining and Our Environment," referred to many times during the