

entire predictable life of a given property as would be required by Senate bill 3132 would be in large part infeasible and futile.

Second, we point out that open pit copper mining today is a mass production operation involving the handling of staggering tonnages of material with the utmost of efficiency. After years of diligent study the decision to undertake the development of a new property or the expansion or extension of an old property often hangs on the smallest of cost factors.

The imposition of unrealistic requirements for preplanned programs of reclamation of surface mined areas very easily could discourage management from recommending the needed investment of stockholders' money.

Please do not draw from what I am saying, however, the inference that the mining industry in general, or the Arizona copper mining industry for which I speak specifically, is unmindful of the need for the preservation of natural beauty, watersheds, and the many other values we are considering here today.

We have already demonstrated on a voluntary basis our abiding interest in such values. For example, the Anaconda Co.'s Twin Buttes operation was named the Arizona Conservation Organization of the Year 1966 by the National Wildlife Federation, the Arizona Game Protective Association, and the Sears Roebuck Foundation. This award was made in recognition of the company's extensive, expensive, and purely voluntary program to preserve as many of the environmental amenities as possible.

I feel entirely justified in saying that today the mining industry across-the-board is fully aware of the need to preserve insofar as it possibly can the environmental values of this Nation. It is already accepting its share of the responsibility to do so. But it is at the same time very actively conscious of other obligations:

The obligation of mine management to earn for the owners of the company, the stockholders across the country, a fair return on investment, or lacking reasonable expectation of such, to reject expansion plans;

The obligation to produce for the United States a reliable and adequate supply of the metals and minerals which are absolutely indispensable for the industrial and military welfare of the country;

The obligation to meet these demands in future as in the past by way of the free enterprise system of economic development;

And the obligation to point out to you, the members of this important committee, what we are convinced would be the inevitably extremely harmful effects upon this vastly important industry of such legislation as Senate bill 3132.

I would like to interject here, sir, a note which does not appear in the typed version of my testimony that you have before you.

It has to do with another reason we feel that such legislation would be ill advised. The proposed permit system would seriously discourage exploration for such minerals as copper. Today a company spends hundreds of thousands of dollars in the long and complex process of exploring a body of metal-bearing rock to determine the size, shape, grade, and other characteristics before a decision can be made whether the body is minable.