

regions, such as the Florida people near the phosphate deposits, potentially the Colorado and Utah residents around where the oil shale may be mined if the retort system is used to refine it, are also worried about the surface-mining impact on fish, on wildlife, on the natural beauty of the countryside, but while, although for these reasons we would support a general bill, we feel that the primary focus of any national legislation should be on coal mining as was suggested to the exclusion of other forms of mining in S. 217.

As I said, contour stripping is considered a more serious problem than area stripping in flatter terrain. Our membership feels that in certain types of terrain contour stripping simply should not be allowed the way it is presently practiced.

It is fruitless and futile to talk about reclamation. The Kentucky law forbids contour stripping on any grade more than 28 degrees in steepness. We feel such regulation by the appropriate authority may be necessary.

Another point we wish to make is that we think State actions in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania may be sufficient to deal with this contour stripping problem. New and strong laws are all fairly recent, and the time to see whether they are going to be sufficient without further public action has not yet passed.

Since West Virginia enacted its law, which our West Virginia division feels to be the strongest coal mining control law in the Nation, not even a single growing season has passed and it does take time to see how laws work as well as to see how methods such as reseedin~~g~~ by airplanes would work.

Briefly analyzing the legislation then, we state that, if congressional action were necessary, not to supplant these good State laws in the name of uniformity but to prod the other States who are ignoring problems caused by surface mining at the present time. We think S. 3132 presents a more workable approach, that is, rather than laying down standards nationwide in the Federal Register as the other bills provide, the administration bill suggests that each State submit a control plan which is tailored to its topography, its own mineral deposits, and so forth, and departmental review would be based on this ad hoc sort of circumstance.

We would like to see the Agriculture Department involved, particularly in the Appalachian region, where we do think reclamation of orphan lands should be seriously considered as a national responsibility.

The profits were taken out of Appalachia sometime many years ago to enhance the general economy and the taxpayers of the entire Nation could make some kind of contribution to reclamation of orphan lands in the Appalachian regions.

Here we think the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service are organized in counties and on every State level, have years of experience, know the vegetation and the topography as well as anyone in this entire region does, and we feel they should have an active role in reclamation.

I believe I can let my summary rest at that point.

Senator METCALF. You have also a statement from Mr. Grover C. Little. You wish to file that for the record?

Mr. TIPPY. Yes; both statements stand as the Izaak Walton League's statement.