

tions continue to damage water, farm land and wildlife habitat long after the miners have left.

We have been disappointed to note that at some time between publication of the 1967 report, Surface Mining and Our Environment, and the drafting of the bill which was introduced as S. 3132, the Department of the Interior forgot about the need for a rehabilitation program. Under these circumstances, we favor Senator Nelson's proposal that the Department of Agriculture be given a major role in the reclamation effort. Title IV of S. 3126 has the additional merits of dealing with state governments and developing project plans, each to cover a number of landholdings. This procedure is preferable to direct arrangements between the federal government and individual landowners.

S. 217 contains several worthwhile provisions which should be incorporated in the legislation. Section 404(b), providing for public access, section 405, governing rights to remine lands which have been reclaimed, and Section 502(e), providing for revenue sharing with counties are all sections which we support.

My remarks are followed by a statement of Mr. Grover C. Little, Jr., of Kenova, West Virginia. Mr. Little is the Executive Director of the West Virginia Division of the Izaak League and has devoted much of his time and energy over the past several years to the goal of securing effective regulation of strip mining in his and neighboring states. He serves as chairman of the League's national Subcommittee on Mining and is generally considered our most knowledgeable member on strip mining problems.

STATEMENT OF GROVER C. LITTLE, JR., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Very briefly the Izaak Walton League of America is a citizen organization concerned with the conservation and wise use and management of the Nation's natural resources for the benefit of all the people, today and throughout the future. We appreciate the privilege of appearing before you.

In some ways we feel that we are qualified to be of some benefit to this Committee for many of our members know first-hand something about the damaging effects of surface mining. For several years our chapters and members have been observing and studying the magnitude of problems involved in the stripping for coal and other forms of surface mining. We have seen and read some things which pleased us but at the same time we have observed operations and received reports which were shocking—shocking because of the lack of concern by some surface mine operators for human beings themselves and for the total disregard displayed for other natural resources that were sacrificed to extract one particular mineral.

We have come here today to give support to proposed, strong federal legislation that will help control and correct the ravaging effects of some types of strip and surface mining. The legislation that we are seeking must be broad enough to encompass all forms of surface mining but should emphasize primarily the strip mining of coal since it is here where critical circumstances are evident, and where prompt federal concern is needed. Such federal legislation must be so written and strong enough in content so as to prevent the undercutting of strong state controls presently in effect in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Weak federal controls would betray the dedicated people in these states who with considerable courage and sacrifice have won such notable victories.

We want to make it very clear that we oppose the intervening of the Federal government to regulate surface mining in the states where strong laws are in effect and enforced. We are requesting federal legislation as an omen to those states who are dragging their feet, that it should be clearly understood that unless they move now to regulate surface mining and establish high reclamation standards, then the Federal government will assume the task.

Certainly we are not opposed to mining, for the products of mines are as necessary to us as to anyone else. We sympathize particularly with the problems that confront our deep mining industry and their efforts to cope with acid mine drainage and air pollution. We are not opposed to surface mining as such, for we know that it is often the only feasible and economical method of producing needed materials. We have not come here today to ask our congressional representatives to outlaw an industry, but rather to control the devastating effects of surface mining that is evident across this land.

There are regions, however, where we feel that a hard look is needed. The ghettos of our metropolitan areas and their depressing effects on our society are readily discernible to the populace. However, the impoverished areas of