

of our state, (3) the responsibility of the state for the control of its resources, (4) the further abrogation of state authority by federal agencies, and (5) a coercive approach to a problem rather than the encouragement of a cooperative approach at the grass roots levels.

We are not unmindful of the problems in some areas of this great nation resulting from surface mining. We note that states have already made great progress in solving those problems, and we have no doubt that many others are at work on the problems and are preparing to adopt the necessary legislation. For these and other reasons, we do not believe that S. 3132 is necessary, nor do we believe it to be the proper solution for the problem.

I should like to emphasize that conservation and conservation problems are of concern to all citizens of Wyoming. As we seek to develop Wyoming's natural resources and build our state's economy, we most certainly want to preserve Wyoming's beauty and grandeur. We want to conserve its natural resources.

There is no question in our minds that some regulation of surface mining is required. Each state in which there is surface mining has problems unique to its conditions. This is primarily the responsibility of the state.

Another factor which is of importance in some areas is the competitive situation resulting from mining the same mineral under similar conditions in two or more neighboring states. It is recognized that the failure of one competing state to enact adequate control measures can have a significant effect upon the competition for markets by a neighboring state. This, we are convinced, can be corrected without the establishment or expansion of administrative edicts. Further, we wish to emphasize that surface mining regulation should not be used to equalize competitive situations. It should be limited to its stated purpose—to conserve natural resources.

Until recent years there was a very limited amount of surface mining in Wyoming. Now our surface mining is increased and has become an important factor in our economic development. For some time we have realized that the rehabilitation of surface mined areas would cause increased concern. We knew that our soil, climate and moisture conditions would result in different land use and revegetation problems than those found in the Middle West and in the Eastern states.

Four years ago, one of Wyoming's major coal companies provided for a grant of \$25,000 to the University of Wyoming for research in the revegetation of disturbed lands. This research is being continued. Other mining companies have been experimenting with various rehabilitation practices. Some have had encouraging results. A Federal Field Study Team from the Department of the Interior, acting under the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, inspected a number of our surface mine operations. This team was very favorably impressed by one surface mine rehabilitation project in particular. The members of the team stated it was one of the finest examples of rehabilitation that they had seen in their extensive travels to surface-mined areas. We stress this because this work was done on a voluntary basis. There was no compulsion.

We should like to emphasize that the interest of our mining people and their cooperation, along with that of the various conservation groups, can contribute much to the success of any regulatory program. We in the West believe this to be the most desirable method of attacking our problems.

In Wyoming, as we gain more knowledge of our problems in the rehabilitation of surface-mined land, we plan to take the necessary steps to develop a sound program. We believe that we have much of the information needed to aid us in establishing standards for rehabilitation practices. We shall seek state legislation to establish the regulations required to ensure compliance.

I should state that our mining industry has kept us informed on its progress in securing voluntary cooperation in research and experimentation.

The industry has met with various conservation groups and discussed its problems with them. I have personally been assured of the industry's cooperation in seeking legislative action to establish the authority of the state in this field. It is my conviction that our state can and will do the job in rehabilitating lands disturbed by surface mine operations.

We do not believe it is necessary for the federal government to encroach in the area of conservation of a state's resources for the following stated reasons:

1. States are aware of the problems and are working on solutions; indeed, some states already have satisfactory programs for the regulation of surface mining.
2. The states can regulate surface mining effectively. In each state there can be found the necessary expertise and competence to develop effective control measures.