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HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS UNITED STATES SENATE

EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

THE NOMINATION OF WALTER R. HIBBARD, JR., TO BE
DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF MINES

JANUARY 18, 1966

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Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

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INTERIOR NOMINATION

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NOMINATION OF WALTER R. HIBBARD, JR., TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF MINES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1966

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 11 a.m., in room 3110, New Senate Office Building, Senator Henry M. Jackson (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Senators Henry M. Jackson (Washington); Clinton P. Anderson (New Mexico); Frank Church (Idaho); Ernest Gruening (Alaska); Frank E. Moss (Utah); Carl Hayden (Arizona); Thomas H. Kuchel (California); and Len B. Jordan (Idaho).

Also present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director, and Stewart French, chief counsel.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

This is an open, public hearing by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on the nomination by President Johnson of Dr. Walter R. Hibbard, Jr., to be Director of the Bureau of Mines, a division of the Department of the Interior.

Dr. Hibbard appears to be extremely well qualified for the very important position to which he has been nominated by President Johnson. The basic law governing the functions and duties of the Bureau of Mines is found in title 30, United States Code, section 3. This statute states in pertinent part:

It shall be the province and duty of the Bureau of Mines, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, to conduct inquiries and scientific and technologic investigations concerning mining, and the preparation, treatment, and utilization of mineral substances with a view to improving health conditions, and increasing safety, efficiency, economic development, and conserving resources through the prevention of waste in the mining, quarrying, metallurgical, and other mineral industries; to inquire into the economic conditions affecting these industries; to investigate explosives and peat, and on behalf of the Government to investigate the mineral fuels and unfinished mineral products belonging to, or for the use of, the United States, with a view to their most efficient mining, preparation, treatment, and use; and to disseminate information concerning these subjects in such manner as will best carry out the purposes of the provisions of this Act.

Dr. Hibbard brings to this post a wealth of both theoretical and practical experience. He was a member of the faculty at Yale University, but in 1951 the General Electric Co. persuaded him to leave the ivory towers and come to its research and development center in Schenectady, N.Y., where he has served as the manager of metallurgy and ceramics research. Without objection, I will direct that a biographical sketch of Dr. Hibbard, supplied by the Department of the Interior, be incorporated in full in the record of these hearings at this point.

(The biographical sketch referred to follows:)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF WALTER R. HIBBARD, JR., DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF MINES, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Dr. Walter R. Hibbard, Jr., one of the Nations' outstanding metallurgists, became Director of the Bureau of Mines on December 1, 1965, following earlier successes as an educator, researcher, and as an industry manager of scientific and engineering research.

Born in Bridgeport, Conn., January 20, 1918, Dr. Hibbard was graduated from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., and received a doctor of engineering degree from Yale University in 1942. Following his military service in World War II as an officer in the Navy Department's Bureau of Ships, he joined the Yale faculty as an assistant professor and later became associate professor.

Dr. Hibbard's growing reputation in teaching and research attracted industry, and in 1951 the General Electric Co. enlisted him for its research and development center in Schenectady, N.Y. There he progressed to the position of manager of metallurgy and ceramics research, which he held until he was beckoned to public service by President Johnson as Director of the Bureau of Mines.

As an expert in such fields as the plastic deformation of metals and the metallurgy of copper and its alloys, Dr. Hibbard has won wide recognition from many professional societies. In 1950 he received the Raymond Award of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical & Petroleum Engineers. From 1957 to 1961 he served as a director of the institute, and is now its president-elect for 1966. In addition, Dr. Hibbard belongs to the British Institute of Metals and the New York Academy of Sciences, and is a fellow of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also is a member of the Materials Advisory Board of the National Academy of Science, and is currently its Chairman.

Dr. Hibbard has been elected to many honorary and professional fraternities including Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Alpha Chi Sigma, and Gamma Alpha. He is the author of more than 70 scientific papers and has been widely recognized as a major contributor to the science of metallurgy.

Dr. and Mrs. Hibbard have three children and reside in Rockville, Md.

The CHAIRMAN. Unless some member of the committee wishes to make some comment at this time, I will call upon Assistant Secretary Cordell Moore, who is in charge of Mineral Resources, to present the nominee to us.

Secretary Moore, would you wish to present the nominee? And we want to extend to you, Secretary Moore, a warm welcome this morning.

You may be seated.

STATEMENT OF CORDELL MOORE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is with great pleasure that I am here this morning representing Secretary Udall to present to you the President's nominee for Director of the Bureau of Mines, Dr. Walter R. Hibbard, Jr. As the chairman has stated and the record bears out, Dr. Hibbard is well qualified for the post and we at the Interior Department are fortunate indeed to have him working with us.

I am glad to have the honor of presenting him to you.

The CHAIRMAN. Dr. Hibbard, we will be very pleased to have any statement you wish to make at this time. I think it would be well to give your background, and to have your comments regarding the duties and responsibilities, as you see it, of the office of Director of the Bureau of Mines.

STATEMENT OF DR. WALTER R. HIBBARD, JR.

Dr. HIBBARD. I was born in Bridgeport, Conn. I went to school at Wesleyan, in Middletown, Conn., where I studied chemistry and geology. I then went to Yale, where I took graduate work in the school of engineering and was awarded a doctor of engineering degree in the field of metallurgy.

From there, I went into the Navy and spent 4 years here in Washington in the Research Division of the Bureau of Ships, working on problems concerned with materials and their application to naval vessels. I was particularly concerned with the conservation of scarce materials at that time and the substitution of alternatives.

After the war, I returned to Yale on the faculty as an assistant professor in the school of engineering in the field of metallurgy, and stayed there for approximately 6 years. During this period I taught students and engaged in research, and became active in the professional society, the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical & Petroleum Engineers.

Also during this period I became a registered professional engineer in the State of Connecticut, in 1948. In 1951, I moved to General Electric, largely because I had three children who were becoming of school age and I couldn't afford to stay at Yale under the university salary conditions at that time.

At GE I became concerned with research and development in the field of metallurgy and ceramics, and participated both actively as a scientist and subsequently as a manager. For the last 6 years at General Electric, I was manager of metallurgy and ceramics research, which was concerned with research and development in the use and application of materials. Subsequently that research was also concerned with the sources of material, particularly in the fields of copper and steel, of which the General Electric Co. is a very large user.

During this period, I also became more active in the AIME and served as their vice president and on their board of directors. I became more and more knowledgeable through association with professional people from other areas of the mineral resources industry; as for example, petroleum and mining. I also had the opportunity to serve on a number of Government advisory panels. The National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council has a materials advisory board, and I served on a number of their panels, and on the Board itself, and subsequently became chairman.

I was also active on the engineering panel of the National Science Foundation and on several advisory panels of the Bureau of Standards and the Department of Defense.

During this period I became more knowledgeable about some of the mineral resources problems of the Federal Government, and became very interested in their solution. In particular, I had the feeling that serving on an advisory panel gives one an opportunity to recognize the problems, but really doesn't permit one to participate in their solution. And, so, in addition, I became involved in the leadership in the AIME.

About a year ago, I was asked if I would become the president of the AIME, and I serve as president-elect in 1966 and am scheduled to be president in 1967. This also was as a result of my broader interests in the mineral industry field. During my associations with the AIME, I met John Calhoun, who was the science adviser to the Secretary of the Interior, and in the autumn of 1965 he called me and asked if I

would be interested in being considered for the position of Director of the Bureau of Mines. Because I had this interest and desire to help in the Federal Government, I said "Yes, I would," and I came to Washington and visited with the Secretary and his associates and described my qualifications and my interest. And it appeared to them and to me that there was a real opportunity here to help with some of the challenges and some of the needs and problems in the mineral resources area by bringing to bear the kind of experience that I have had in the management of research and development, and in particular to develop a program of research activity related to broad national goals and with some rewards and returns in the national interest.

With this challenge and this opportunity, and having looked at the people in the Department of Interior, and they having looked at me, I said I would be very pleased if it could be arranged and I could have the opportunity to serve in this position.

Subsequent to that, I talked to John Macy in the Civil Service Commission, whom I had known since my days at Wesleyan, and to others in the Federal Government, and eventually in late October President Johnson submitted my nomination to you.

The CHAIRMAN. Dr. Hibbard, while you have not been in the mining business, do you feel that your background in metallurgy qualifies you for the duties and responsibilities of this office?

Dr. HIBBARD. The field of mineral resources is so broad that I think it would be very difficult for any one individual to have experience in the entire breadth of this activity. I have been generally familiar and generally associated with the mining area. I have not had mining operating experience, but I think that my association has brought to me an appreciation of the problems, and the needs, and the goals of the mining industry. And on this basis I believe I can handle it.

The CHAIRMAN. You feel research is a very important aspect of the office?

Dr. HIBBARD. Yes, sir; I think in the mining field particularly, as has been shown in the coal mining area where there are some very substantial problems with the use of coal, a vigorous research program has led to new uses and revitalized the whole coal industry. Similarly, I believe in those minerals and materials which are in short supply, where there is a need to develop and expand the resources, that the application of appropriate research on methods of mining extraction can develop new technology which will expand and augment the mineral resource base.

The CHAIRMAN. As far as the mine safety program is concerned, I take it that you feel that you can carry out those duties and responsibilities fairly and objectively.

Dr. HIBBARD. Yes, sir. Health and safety have always been a concern of mine in the activities at General Electric, where we had a strong health and safety program.

As you know, in the field of experimental research and development one frequently is doing things which have never been done before, and considerable regard for the safety of the scientists and technicians is of great importance, since these people are the most valuable resources in research.

With respect to health and safety in coal mining, there are people in the Bureau with whom I have worked for the past 6 weeks such as

Deputy Director Frank Memmott and James Westfield, Assistant Director responsible for health and safety, who are experienced in this field. I find that these people are very fine people to work with, and with guidance from Mr. Memmott and my associates, I believe this important activity will be vigorously handled.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to say for the benefit of members of the committee, in accordance with our practice, Dr. Hibbard has submitted a statement of his finances. When we go into executive session, we will have an opportunity to discuss with him at that time any possibilities of conflicts of interests. I did want, however, in the public session, to ask you, Dr. Hibbard, if you have any plans, directly or indirectly, to return to the General Electric Co.

Dr. HIBBARD. No, sir. I have resigned from the General Electric Co. with the idea that—

The CHAIRMAN. I mean upon the completion of your duties in this office or any other public office you might hold.

Dr. HIBBARD (continuing). This is a career. There has been no discussion of my returning, and I have no intention of doing so.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you have any plan when you left General Electric, written or unwritten, or an understanding of any kind that you would return?

Dr. HIBBARD. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And the severance that you have made is one that is unconditional?

Dr. HIBBARD. There is no condition involved; it is a complete and utter resignation.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Anderson?

Senator KUCHEL?

Senator KUCHEL. What was your salary, Dr. Hibbard, when you terminated your employment with General Electric?

Dr. HIBBARD. My salary at General Electric was \$38,000 a year, and I had an annual bonus of about \$15,000.

Senator KUCHEL. And what is your salary in your present public position?

Dr. HIBBARD. \$26,000.

Senator KUCHEL. What was your basic motivation to come into public service?

Dr. HIBBARD. I think the basic motivation is that I have seen some of the problems in this area, and it is of tremendous importance to the Nation, to my profession, and therefore to me, to solve these problems. The opportunity to help is here and I think I can be of service. I would like to do this very much.

Senator KUCHEL. All I can say, Mr. Chairman, is, I don't know Dr. Hibbard but I have heard of his reputation. I have read his biography. My own view is that men like you, Dr. Hibbard, who are willing to take a substantial decrease in compensation to perform a service for the people of this country, are entitled to respect. Surely the ideas you express ought to be the basis on which people want to serve this country.

I am not unmindful of the fact that we have two political parties. I belong to the outs. And I am not unmindful of the fact that on occasion matters of political consideration affect in one degree or another decisions which are made. You, however, are in a position where your responsibilities ought not only to be relatively free, but

completely free from matters of partisan political concern. What is your registration?

Dr. HIBBARD. I am a Republican.

Senator KUCHEL. Well, you just got one vote from the minority. I can only repeat I am delighted. I am delighted, because in the era in which we live people from the academic community many times have shied away from Government service. The relationship between people in the business of government and people in the business of teaching has not been an especially close one in many areas. So, all I can say, Mr. Chairman, is: I am delighted at the opportunity to meet this gentleman and to listen to his testimony. I trust the frankness with which he answered my question will not be misinterpreted by my brothers representing the majority.

The CHAIRMAN. Merely an indication of objectivity.

Senator Anderson?

Senator ANDERSON. Dr. Hibbard, you could have told Senator Kuchel that the only political experience you have had was under a Republican administration; is that correct?

Dr. HIBBARD. Excuse me, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. I say, you could have told Senator Kuchel the only public activity you had was under a Republican administration.

Dr. HIBBARD. I have had no public activity as a Republican Party member. I voted regularly, both in the primaries and in the regular elections, but I have had no participation in political activity.

Senator ANDERSON. Did I understand you to say somebody named John Calhoun had called you about this job?

Dr. HIBBARD. I met John Calhoun through the AIME. He was active in the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical & Petroleum Engineers. This is the professional society in which I have also been active, and we met each other through this professional activity. And when the vacancy occurred, he called me and asked me if I was interested.

Senator ANDERSON. The provisions of the Federal laws covering the responsibilities of the Director of the Bureau of Mines state: "The Director shall be thoroughly equipped for the duties of said office by technical education and experience." Have you had any experience in mining?

Dr. HIBBARD. I have had no operational experience in mining. I have had educational courses in this activity.

Senator ANDERSON. Have you visited a coal mine?

Dr. HIBBARD. Yes, sir; I have.

Senator ANDERSON. Many times?

Dr. HIBBARD. I visited one once.

Senator ANDERSON. Once?

Dr. HIBBARD. Yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. One day?

Dr. HIBBARD. One day; yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. That is the basis of your experience in that field?

Dr. HIBBARD. This is the extent of my experience.

Senator ANDERSON. Within a mine?

Dr. HIBBARD. Within a mine.

Senator ANDERSON. How about metal mines?

Dr. HIBBARD. I have also visited metal mines. When I was vice president of the AIME, I made a tour through Utah and Idaho and

Washington, and I visited the large open-pit mine in Salt Lake and I visited lead and zinc mines in the Coeur d'Alene area.

Senator ANDERSON. There is another section of the Federal Code that concerns investigation of lignite and peat. Have you had any connection with or experience with lignite?

Dr. HIBBARD. No, I have had no experience with lignite.

Senator ANDERSON. Still another section is on potash, so dear to some of us. Have you had any experience with potash?

Dr. HIBBARD. No, sir; I have not.

Senator ANDERSON. Then the section of the Code dealing with the responsibilities of the Bureau of Mines says—

conduct inquiries and scientific and technologic investigations concerning mining, and the preparation, treatment, and utilization of mineral substances with a view to improving health conditions.

Have you had any experience with health conditions?

Dr. HIBBARD. Oh, yes, sir. My experience with health and safety has been associated with my activities in research. We had an extensive health and safety program in connection with our research laboratory.

Senator ANDERSON. There is something about quarrying here in the law. Have you had any experience with quarrying?

Dr. HIBBARD. I visited a quarry; yes, sir. I have had no operating experience in a quarry.

Senator ANDERSON. You say you visited a quarry. This talks about quarrying as a business.

Dr. HIBBARD. I thought you asked whether I had visited a quarry.

Senator ANDERSON. You have visited a quarry?

Dr. HIBBARD. Yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. Many times?

Dr. HIBBARD. On several occasions: one up in Vermont, and also when I took mineralogy and visited quarries in the Connecticut area in connection with my course program.

Senator ANDERSON. Some of us have had quite an interest in lead and zinc and have introduced some bills concerning the matter. Have you had any experience with lead and zinc?

Dr. HIBBARD. No, sir; no practical operating experience.

Senator ANDERSON. I have no other questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. Dr. Hibbard, I am impressed, and I think we all are, with your fine background in research. I am pleased too that you have been in the Coeur d'Alene area, that great mining region in Idaho that produces lead, zinc, and the greatest amount of silver of any State of the Union. I hope you will come back again and come often. I am impressed to hear also one statement in the press release which accompanies your biography, and I am reading now:

Dr. Hibbard considers the carcasses of cars a valuable resource that should be recovered instead of left to litter the countryside or concealed in abandoned coal mines (as some Pennsylvania Congressmen have suggested).

I think if you could make a contribution in this area you would be one of the most popular men in the administration, if not in the whole United States. Would you elaborate on that a little bit, Dr. Hibbard?

Dr. HIBBARD. Well, I believe that we should use and reuse our mineral resources as efficiently and as effectively as we can. I was

delighted to find, when I came to the Bureau first in December, that they had an extensive research and development program aimed at utilizing the steel scrap from cars by roasting it with nonmagnetic taconites, with the object of transforming these taconites from nonmagnetic to magnetic. If this process can be handled commercially and effectively, such a development would be an opportunity not only to reuse the steel and the iron in the scrap auto bodies, but also to open up the resources in the nonmagnetic taconite area.

This research has progressed to the point where it is being evaluated and it looks very promising.

Senator JORDAN. I hope that research can be pressed to an early and satisfactory conclusion, because we certainly need that kind of research. It would seem to me that the advantage of transportation cost, both shipping in and shipping out, would certainly have a bearing on the success of this venture.

Dr. HIBBARD. Yes, sir.

Senator JORDAN. I appreciate the fact that you are eminently well qualified for the research end of this job. I look forward to talking to you more in closed session.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Gruening?

Senator GRUENING. Mr. Chairman, I have had the opportunity to become acquainted with Dr. Hibbard, and I am pleased with his appointment.

As we all know, mining has been a kind of a stepchild in the national family, and we are particularly concerned about the development of mining in Alaska. Just recently in the first Alaska field committee report, not yet officially released—and that committee was really born out of the efforts of Senator Anderson after the earthquake to get a long-range comprehensive study of Alaskan resources and recommendations for their development—there was a very interesting chart which I showed Dr. Hibbard. It made clear that right across the border from Alaska in British Columbia and in Yukon Territory there is tremendous mining activity. This chart shows that this geographically related region right across the border from Alaska is more or less peppered with mining activities. The implication, of course, is clear; namely, that these same mineral deposits or similar deposits exist in Alaska, but they haven't been developed. And this is one of the issues with which we are very much concerned and to which we hope you and Assistant Secretary Cordell Moore will turn your attention and try to promote appropriate action. We must find out why what is being done in Canada cannot be duplicated in Alaska, and what needs to be done to bring about this desirable result.

Mining has been in the doldrums in Alaska, and yet we are informed that we have 31 out of 33 strategic minerals. We know that there are problems in transportation that have militated against their development, as well as other adverse factors, but I think we really need intensive research to ascertain what can be done practically to make them available and thereby to help Alaska's economy.

I would say also that I once read a column written by my friend Heywood Broun, who was in Harvard when I was there, which was entitled "Some of My Best Friends Are Yale Men." The column went along to indicate the tolerance and breadth of spirit of Harvard men in regard to the graduates and faculty of our New England

junior institution. And I want to assure Dr. Hibbard that that is my spirit also.

The CHAIRMAN. You mean to say you are not biased?

Senator GRUENING. Not at all.

The CHAIRMAN. We are glad to have such continuing objectivity in these deliberations.

Senator Moss?

Senator Moss. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I also have had the opportunity to meet and talk with Dr. Hibbard, and I am impressed with his attitude in undertaking this assignment, and impressed with his background. As he responded to Senator Kuchel on the salary that he left at GE, it seems to me he will be getting just a little over 50 percent of the amount of money that he was earning in order to take this position as Director of the Bureau of Mines. I think this ought to impress some of our citizens with the fact that we do have people in this country who are willing to render public service at a great personal economic sacrifice, and apparently Dr. Hibbard is one of those. I commend him for that.

In your response, Dr. Hibbard, to the questioning, it appears that your area of expertise is in research and in technical matters dealing with metals and mineral substances rather than in the practical operation of extraction. Is that what it comes down to?

Dr. HIBBARD. That is correct, sir.

Senator Moss. But you have as Deputy Director, as you have mentioned here before the committee, Mr. Memmott, who comes from my State of Utah, whose experience is on the practical side of the actual operation of mines and safety and matters of that sort, so would your response be that this happens to be a good relationship of a director and a deputy director who have expertise across the board, as it were?

Dr. HIBBARD. Yes, sir. I have been very pleased with the opportunity to work with Mr. Memmott. We seem to complement each other. We have worked very closely together on all matters so far and intend to continue to do so. I think his experience, and knowledge, and practical activities in mining complement my own background very well, and that this makes a really first-rate team. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to work with him.

Senator Moss. I think there has been a feeling in the committee and elsewhere that perhaps the Bureau of Mines has sort of lagged in the research area, has at least slowed down quite a bit. Would it be your proposal to emphasize a strong research program, such as was mentioned by Senator Jordan in this area of taconite and old, used metal?

Dr. HIBBARD. Yes, sir. I believe that there is an appropriate balance between research and other activities. I think, as you say, research has lagged a little bit.

I have been very pleased with the competence of the scientists and engineers whom I have met in the Bureau of Mines. I think that with appropriate direction, guidance, and planning this research activity can be strengthened and enhanced and can be brought to bear in a more effective way for expanding and improving our minerals resources base and tackling some of the mineral resource problems which we are facing today.

Senator Moss. Thank you, Dr. Hibbard.

I am personally pleased that you have been nominated for this position, and I expect you to tackle it with enthusiasm and vigor; a new man to inject new spirit, as it were, into the Bureau of Mines.

As Senator Gruening has mentioned, we who come from mining States have felt that perhaps we have been sort of left at the end of the line on national interest, and yet the development of our minerals and our mineral resources is one of the very fundamental ingredients of the economy of this country of ours.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Moss.

I believe Senator Anderson had a question or two.

Senator ANDERSON. I only wanted to explain my interest in the fact that you have had a limited experience in mining itself. I think there is a new awareness of the importance of mining in this country. The Bureau of Mines ought to be a leader in stimulating interest and support. I appreciate everything that Senator Gruening said because I think in Alaska there are tremendous opportunities for development and they ought to be realized as rapidly as possible with every help we can give them and every suggestion for help.

In my own state of New Mexico, the Kaiser Co. came in and bought the old Dawson Coal Products organization. A new railroad is now almost finished. They have been talking about shipping several thousand tons of coal a day, and the Bureau of Mines seemingly doesn't care a hoot if this development takes place. The people in our part of the country, do care, and care greatly.

Efforts are now being made to develop coal on the Navajo Reservation. Plans for transporting coal from our State to the west coast are under discussion. I don't find the Bureau of Mines is doing anything to aid this project. I would like the Bureau of Mines sometime to be interested in development projects such as those underway in New Mexico.

The coal opportunities of our country are tremendous right now and ought to be utilized and ought to be developed every way they can. I would hope that in addition to interest in metallurgy and pots and pans you get interested in actual mining of coal and see what can be done to develop these areas that I think need to be developed.

Phelps Dodge closed down the Burro Mountain properties many years ago. Now they are talking of possibly reopening on a very large scale. They talk about it and the people of our State are enthusiastic about it, but the Bureau of Mines hasn't been interested. I think the Bureau of Mines ought to be interested.

Dr. HIBBARD. I agree, sir. I think the Bureau of Mines should be concerned with the technology and development of all of our mineral resources where they are of importance and significance to our national economy.

Senator ANDERSON. I am very glad that somebody who has the background and training can be appointed to head the Bureau of Mines so that he can assist us in developing our resources. The Bureau needs to exercise leadership to this end.

The CHAIRMAN. Any further questions?

If not, in accordance with the practice of the committee in connection with nominations, the committee will stand in recess briefly for the purpose of resuming in executive session.

Before closing, I have received a statement from Senator Byrd of West Virginia endorsing this nomination and a telegram from Senator Allott of Colorado which was sent to him by Mr. Robert S. Palmer director of the Mining Industrial Development Board, Denver, Colo., also endorsing the appointment of Dr. Hibbard. Without objection, they will be placed in the record at this point.

(The statement and telegram follow:)

STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT C. BYRD, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

I wish to lend my support to the nomination of Dr. Walter R. Hibbard, Jr., to become the new Director of the U.S. Bureau of Mines. I cannot stress too strongly the importance of the Bureau of Mines to my State of West Virginia, and, in Dr. Hibbard, I feel that the vital work of this agency will be carried out with foresight regarding the advancements and progress that must be made.

The need for this foresight in both the operations of the Bureau of Mines and in new research was brought home to me most vividly just this week. It followed an announcement that a recent study by the U.S. Geological Survey had discovered vast untapped deposits of valuable oil shale underlying our country, and, of importance to West Virginians, it was noted that this shale can conceivably be mined someday in most western sections of the State.

I do not know of any announcement that has stirred more interest in West Virginia than the thought of this new natural resource and of its value.

I was informed that the Bureau of Mines is now engaged in preliminary research to convert this shale into oil—but only in locations where the shale is found to have a high productive potential. I believe this is one of the fields in which Dr. Hibbard will turn his attention in order to expand and perfect the research and to produce the oil necessary for our industry and the other needs of our expanding population.

Dr. Hibbard served as the manager of the Metallurgy and Ceramics Research of the General Electric Research and Development Center in Schenectady, N.Y., prior to coming to Washington. In this field, I am told, he directed the work of more than 100 scientists in fundamental and applied research. He has also had experience as an associate professor in the Yale School of Engineering and was a member of the National Academy of Science's Materials Advisory Board, which he now serves as chairman.

Upon his selection to become the Director of the Bureau of Mines, I wrote to Dr. Hibbard welcoming him to this agency and emphasizing some of the work performed by the Bureau of Mines which is of extreme interest to West Virginia. I believe his reply should be noted here. It said, in part:

"Although new in my present capacity, I am well aware of the importance of our Bureau's work in the development of the natural resources of West Virginia, notably the Morgantown laboratory and the health and safety activities throughout your State.

"I have been told about the joint work of the Bureau with the Public Health Service on dust control and you may be sure of my continued support of this undertaking. The importance of coal to West Virginia and the Nation is well known to me. You can be sure that I shall enthusiastically support the efforts of the Bureau in furthering the technology of coal and the economic well-being of the coal mining industry, including those whose livelihoods depend upon it."

In this day of changing technology, we find not only a greater demand for those ageless natural resources—coal, oil, and gas—but also an ever-expanding need for newer, more convenient, and more economic development of them. I have great hope that Dr. Hibbard will lead the Bureau of Mines along the road toward reaching these goals.

DENVER, COLO., *January 12, 1965.*

Hon. GORDON ALLOTT,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.:

The Colorado Mining Association endorses the appointment of Dr. Walter Hibbard, Jr., as Director of the Bureau of Mines.

We appreciate his wide interest in mineral production.

ROBERT S. PALMER,
Director, Mining Industrial Development Board, State of Colorado.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Dr. Hibbard. We appreciate having your forthright comments and candid responses this morning.

(Whereupon, at 11:44 a.m., the committee recessed, to reconvene in executive session.)

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