



## Washington Report

By U.S. Senator Dick Schweiker

### A Strong Federal Strip-Mining Law

In 1964, under the guidance of Governor Scranton and Pennsylvania's sportsmen and conservationists, Pennsylvania adopted the nation's toughest strip-mining restoration law, which requires that stripped land be returned to its "approximate original contour."

Contrary to the warnings of skeptics, strip-mining production in Pennsylvania has actually increased since the law went on the books. In addition, our production surpassed West Virginia, which has a weak strip mine law. And while production has increased, the incidence of environmental destruction caused by stripping has been significantly reduced.

Now Congress is considering extending the principle of the Pennsylvania law nationwide. The Senate has already passed a bill containing my amendment requiring restoration to the "approximate original contour" and prohibiting unsightly and unsafe highwalls.

Irresponsible strip mining has an impact on wildlife, on drainage and water resources, and on the overall

ecological balance which is felt far beyond the legal boundaries of the property being mined.

The mere fact that a mining operator acquires mineral rights to extract valuable coal should not exempt him from the restoration of this land to its original condition. I believe such restoration is the minimum requirement to protect our outdoor resources.

What many critics of strip mining restoration seem to overlook is that approximately \$35,000 is realized from one acre of strip-mined coal. It costs only \$500 of that \$35,000 to return that acre to its approximate original contour. That's a small investment—less than 1½ percent—to make to be able to utilize coal as an energy source and still protect the environment.

There also are those who argue that strip mining should be banned outright. I reject this view.

Coal is by far our most abundant energy resource—comprising about 80 percent of our known fossil fuel reserves. About half the 600 million tons of coal produced in the U.S. each year is surface mined. To meet our pressing energy needs we cannot turn our backs on such a fast and inexpensive short-range solution to the energy crisis as strip-mining, particularly when a tough federal reclamation law, similar to existing Pennsylvania law, can protect the environment and guarantee that the strip-mined land is restored for further public use.

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## Solanco FFA Teams Compete At Penn State

The Solanco F. F. A. Chapter will be in full swing this year as far as competition is concerned. There will be 23 members and three advisors going to F. F. A. Week at the Pennsylvania State University June 18-20 to test their skills in eight different categories.

The various teams and individuals will all be vying for state titles. The spotlight will be especially directed toward the dairy cattle judging team and the land judging team. Both have taken first place county and state titles in previous years. The dairy cattle judging team consists of Tom Galbreath, Joe Winters, David Reath and Gary Welk. The members of the land judging team, who will be competing as individuals,

are Mark Hohenwarter, Charles Coates, Jim Bucher, Peggy Stottlemeyer, and Gary Keefer.

Another team which will be closely watched is Parliamentary Procedure. This team consisting of Gordon Herr, Jeff Rutt, Randy Ranck, Dave Hanks, Marshall Trimble, and Glenn Weidman, placed second in the Regional Contest.

In other contests, Scott Heckel and Bob Peifer will be in Dairy Products; Tom McMillion and Jim Kreider in Livestock; Jeff Glackin will be serving as a State Delegate representing Lancaster County; and our three advisors, Dr. Wm. M. Fredd, Arba L. Henry, and Ronald J. Althoff, will be going to coach us to victory.

Jeff Rutt, Chapter Reporter

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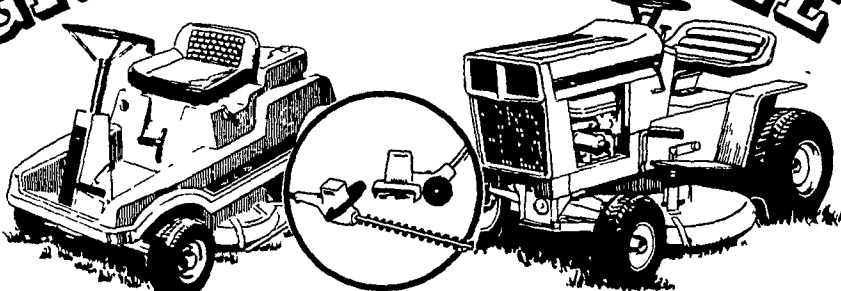
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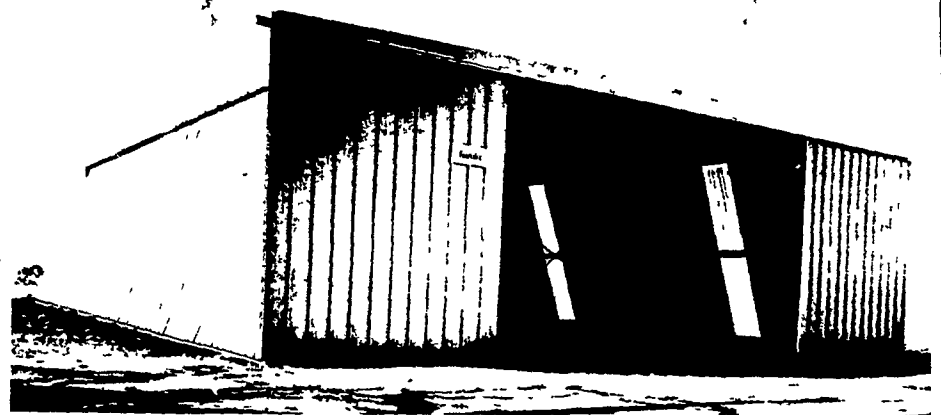
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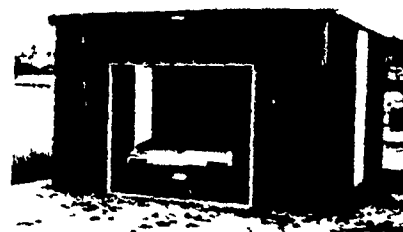
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