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Business Week and Coal Development; 1974 May 14

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May 14, 1974

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (DEM., MONTANA)

"BUSINESS WEEK and Coal Development"

Mr. President, in my continuing effort to keep my colleagues here in the Senate informed on issues surrounding the development of vast coal deposits in the West, I would like to direct your attention to the current issue of BUSINESS WEEK, May 11, 1974, which contains yet another interesting feature on the development of low sulfur coal deposits in the West.

This article analyzes the more recent controversy associated with the move of coal company interests from the East to the West. The new concentration on the coal resources of the Northern Great Plains is likely to have less than a happy influence on the existing coal industry in the eastern half of the nation.

Interestingly, the BUSINESS WEEK article examines another aspect of the current move toward surface mining of coal in the West. It is pointed out that most western coal will not be mined in large quantities until the 1980's. According to present projections, the 1980's are when we anticipate that technology for purging sulfur oxides from utility stacks will probably be successful. This will enable utilities to burn the vast high sulfur reserves in the East. The question then arises, why look to the West for coal deposits, especially when this is a development which is not eagerly anticipated by many residents of the Great Plains. The

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article explores this aspect giving some interesting observations.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the BUSINESS WEEK article entitled "The Coal Industry's Controversial Move West" printed at this point in my remarks in the Congressional Record.

RD: ws