

Strip mining restrictions approved by House

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House, Tuesday, overwhelmingly approved a bill to impose stiff federal environmental and reclamation controls on the strip mining of the nation's coal.

By a 333 to 86 vote, the House approved a bill almost identical to the one President Ford vetoed last December. The vote was well above the two-thirds needed to override a possible new veto.

A House-Senate conference

committee is expected to iron out differences between the House proposal and a similar one passed last week by the Senate.

The bill would ban strip mining wherever the disturbed land could not be completely reclaimed and would impose a reclamation tax of up to 35 cents a ton on coal to finance a program to clean up lands ravaged by strip mining.

Rep. Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., the bill's floor manager called it "a finely

tuned compromise" to balance energy and environmental concerns.

The House action was criticized immediately by the coal industry. National Coal Association President Carl Bagge said the action would further increase the cost of energy. He called the bill "senselessly severe" and urged another veto.

Environmentalists praised the bill, calling it as strong as the one Ford vetoed and in some areas, they contend, even stronger.

The final vote came after the House

agreed to an amendment sought by environmentalists that would ban the strip mining of any coal if it could be extracted through conventional deep mining methods.

The House rejected, 248-170, a proposal to remove from the bill a provision exempting from its environmental standards anthracite or "hard coal." The exemption was sought by Pennsylvania congressmen, the only state where anthracite is strip mined. They said Pennsylvania law governing anthracite

mines was already adequate. Ford pocket-vetoed the 1974 bill last Dec. 31, claiming it would drive up further the already-inflated price of coal and might jeopardize the goal of doubled U. S. coal production by 1985.

The coal industry, strongly opposed to the legislation, contends its environmental standards are so stringent they will add up to \$2.50 a ton to the price of coal and bring 15 percent electric rate increases to consumers.

Proponents of the bill say it will add only a few cents a month to electric bills, if anything. Sponsors contend the price of coal—which has tripled over the past two years from about \$14 a ton to as high as \$50 a ton—depends not on the price of production but the price of oil, its chief competitor.

Strip mining now accounts for about half of the nation's 600-million-ton annual output. The percentage is expected to increase markedly as the coal industry continues its move westward. Three-

fourths of the nation's stripable coal lies west of the Mississippi River. Although the House and Senate bills are very similar, there are some key differences.

In one, the Senate bill would impose a 25 cents-a-ton reclamation tax on deep-mined coal, the House bill, 10 cents tax. Both would tax strip-mined coal at up to 35 cents a ton. The money would finance a fund to reclaim an estimated 1.2 million acres of abandoned strip mine land, mostly Appalachian Mountain states.

Court removes 'Hair' ban Prior restraint of stage disallowed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stage production was substantially the same constitutional protection from prior censorship as books and movies, under a Supreme Court ruling, Tuesday.

The court struck down a ban against performance of the rock musical "Hair" in a Chattanooga, Tenn., municipal theatre.

The court did not rule on whether "Hair" is obscene, but said the procedure by which it was banned fell short of constitutional standards.

The five justices who signed the majority opinion went on to lay down the same standard they have previously prescribed for films and print—essentially that a court must determine obscenity before a work can be suppressed.

The decision drew dissents from both wings of the court — liberal Justice William O. Douglas calling

the prescribed standards "procedural band-aids" and conservative William H. Rehnquist denouncing them as "exaggerated and rigid." However, Douglas agreed with the majority's finding that banning the play was an unconstitutional prior restraint of free speech.

The majority opinion was written by Justice Harry A. Blackmun, himself one of the court's more conservative members.

In other action, the court: Held that 35 states which refuse to count conceived but unborn children in computing welfare grants may continue to do so.

Ruled 6 to 2 that aliens who fail to present themselves for inspection when they enter the United States may be deported even though they became parents while in the country.

The "Hair" decision was the court's first ruling on efforts to suppress a

stage production. The U. S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati had upheld a federal judge's decision that group nudity and stimulate sex in the performance of "Hair" were not entitled to constitutional freedom of speech protections.

The Supreme Court disagreed. "By its nature, theater usually is the acting out—or singing out—of the written word, and frequently mixes speech with live action or conduct," the court said. "But that is no reason to hold theaters subject to a drastically different standard."

The court then reaffirmed the principle it laid down in a 1965 Maryland movie censorship case.

Under that rule, the censor must go to court and prove that the material is not protected by the Constitution. Until this question is decided by a court, the performance can be restrained only for a brief specified period.

ERA, utility control lobbies demonstrate

AUSTIN (AP) — It was one of those days for Texas legislators.

Anti-women libbers on the right. Pro-utility regulation boosters on the left. And all the regular lobbyists in between.

The Committee to Restore Women's Rights originally scheduled a demonstration on the front steps of the Capitol at 11:30 a.m. and the Texas Coalition for Utility Regulation set one for noon.

As it turned out some of the utility regulation fans started waving their placards during the anti-ERA rally and the anti-ERA group was asked to soft pedal their singing so the utility regulation speeches could be heard.

A sparse crowd of maybe 100 persons grew rapidly as the noon hour released thousands of state employees and legislators appeared to see what caused the commotion. Later most of both factions retired inside the Capitol for personal and group lobbying with their hometown legislators.

"Don't liberate me," sang the anti-ERA group, in a paraphrase of the song "Don't Fence Me In."

"You're doing a wonderful job, keep it up," urged Rep. Tony Dramberger, D-San Antonio, co-sponsor of a House measure that would wipe out Texas ratification in 1973 of the Equal Rights Amendment to the national constitution. The resolution is set for a committee hearing in April.

"Keep up the pressure, make your legislators take a firm stand," advised

Sen. John Traeger, D-Sequin. "I'm with you and will vote to rescind." The anti-ERA demonstrators marched down the front walk chanting: "ERA go away. We don't need you anyway."

With the chant still loud in the background, Rep. Charles Wilson, D-Tex., a former Texas senator from Lufkin, took the microphone for statewide utility regulation.

"The time to kill a snake is when you have a hoe in your hand and we've got the hoe in our hand," Wilson said.

"We have an ideal opportunity this year to pass a strong utility regulation bill," said Rep. Latham Boone, D-Navasota. "It is time for the people of this state to stand up and say we want some regulation."

Wilson said he tried for eight years to get public interest in statewide utility regulation, particularly of telephone companies, while he was a Texas legislator. "With the help of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. in current investigations we now have the public attention. Now is the time for us to do the job. . . . Local regulation of utilities is a joke, an absolute joke. And they don't even pretend to regulate the intrastate telephone rates."

Placards in the crowd indicated utility regulation support from Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Tyler, Johnson County, Burnet County and others — or were they anti-ERA posters?

Poetry contest winner's poems to be published

Pamela Palmer of Houston, winner of the Arts Committee's first poetry contest, learned this week that three of her poems will be published in a new liberal arts journal at Stephen F. Austin State University.

She is an English graduate student and teaching assistant.

Dr. Stanley Archer and Dr. Frank Peirce will be published in "English in Texas" and Dr. John Van Dornelen will have works in "Intellect" and "American Notes and Queries."

'Deep Throat' received poorly in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (AP) — Audiences boomed when the controversial movie "Deep Throat" made a return engagement here Wednesday. It lacked enough explicit sex.

About 175 persons paying \$5 each saw a version which had been cut to meet recommendations of vice squad officers.

"Quite a few of them were unhappy about it," San Antonio Vice Squad Sgt. Buryl Moore said.

"I heard one person call the movie a rip-off," he added. "Another said it should have been rated R and not X."

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CHEMISTRY Department Curricula — Room 220 CHEM
MATH Department Curricula — Room 208 ACADEMIC

PHYSICS Department Curricula — Room 302 PHYS
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