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Editor's Page

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EDITOR'S PAGE

As this nation and the rest of the industrial world evolves to a greater dependence on coal to meet tomorrow's energy needs, the *Review* is pleased to present the forum for a discussion of the industry's responsibility to conserve its most precious resource—the miner. To this end, the *Review* is proud to present to its readers the following three articles by Messrs. McAteer and Collinson and Ms. Chernoff.

Mr. McAteer, of the Washington, D.C. based Center for Law and Social Policy, reviews the progress of the law to date in making the mines a safe place to work and proposes a course for the future. As Great Britain has demonstrated a better mining safety record than the United States, the *Review* is proud to present Mr. Collinson's article on Britain's mine safety program. As Chief Safety Engineer of Britain's National Coal Board, Mr. Collinson is well qualified to address the issue. Ms. Chernoff traces the government's regulatory response to the mining safety violations of independent contractors. Her article provides a case study of the obstacles which do arise in the current regulatory scheme at the expense of the industry and the miners alike.

These articles are by no means exhaustive of the safety issues currently confronting the American mining industry. Rather, they only cover the tip of the iceberg. However, if they call attention to the mining industry's responsibility to its miners, they will prove worthwhile. The *Review* regrets the noticeable absence of articles representative of the government's and the industry's positions. Both were invited to participate, but declined to do so.

On my part, I wish to express my appreciation to Davitt McAteer, a member of the National Coal Issue Advisory Board, and Mr. Donal Huffman, Assistant Professor of German at West Virginia University, for whose consultations on the solicitation and preparation of articles I am indebted. Finally, it is with deep appreciation that I acknowledge the long hours spent by Messrs. Rick Jones and Jack Smith on the preparation of these mining safety articles.

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With genuine satisfaction, I now commend to you the 1981 National Coal Issue of the West Virginia Law Review.

*James M. O'Brien,
Co-editor*