April 1974

The New Values of Coal: Introduction

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THE NEW VALUES OF COAL

Introduction

On February 11, 1974, the West Virginia Law Review presented a speakers’ forum entitled “The New Values of Coal” in an attempt to explore the position of West Virginia’s most basic industry in light of current developments in the field of energy. The program was conducted under the joint sponsorship of the College of Law and the School of Mines of West Virginia University. The Law Review was fortunate to obtain the presence of four entertaining and knowledgeable speakers: C. Howard Hardesty, Jr., Sheldon P. Wimpfen, Ronald G. Pearson, and Dr. William H. Miernyk. A question and answer period followed the speakers’ presentations, but time limitations prevented extensive analysis of the panel’s informed opinions.

“The New Values of Coal” was thought to be particularly timely because of the presentation of a report on the West Virginia coal industry by the Subcommittee on Coal Mining to the West Virginia Legislature’s Joint Committee on Government and Finance. On the pages immediately following the articles on “Ad Valorem Taxation of Coal Property,” the central findings of the legislative report are examined and, in some instances, compared with the views expressed by the speakers. While believing that a forum should be given to divergent opinions on current issues, the Law Review does not intend to promote or espouse any particular view. Rather, the intent is to present a collection of articles by knowledgeable authors with varying backgrounds and opinions, thereby allowing members of the Bar to reach their own informed and reasoned conclusions.