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Editors' Notes

North Dakota Law Review Associate Editors

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Editors' Notes

This issue of the *North Dakota Law Review* is our third project on Natural Resources and/or Energy. We are publishing as a preface portions of a commencement address delivered by the Honorable Myron H. Bright of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals at the Chicago-Kent Law School in 1976. Judge Bright's address points out the importance of the growing area of environmental law to young lawyers. In addition, we were fortunate to receive introductions for this issue from Cecil Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, and Douglas Costle, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The articles in this issue involve a variety of natural resource and energy-related topics. Andrew Imes and Mohan Wali give an assessment of mined land reclamation performance standards from both an ecological and legal standpoint, with emphasis on proposed federal standards. With the passage of the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, this article should be very helpful to natural resource attorneys in the western states. An article by Norman Dean and

Alan Miller of the Environmental Law Institute discusses an issue that is becoming very important—the relationship between the solar energy user and the utility company. We are also publishing an article by Ronald Little on social consequences of boom towns caused by energy or industrial development. Although this article is not legally oriented in the strict sense, it does point out that important social consequences are not seriously considered in the environmental impact assessments required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and several corresponding state statutes. North Dakota and other western states are already experiencing the consequences of the influx of large transient populations into small towns that have suddenly become mining or industrial centers. With increased emphasis on the development of western coal, the social aspects of the boom phenomenon present issues that should be given serious consideration.

In addition to the articles, there are three interesting student notes dealing with the Garrison Diversion Project Environmental Impact Statement, trans-

portation of coal by slurry pipelines, and independent tribal coal development on the Northern Great Plains Reservations. Finally, in this issue there is an excellent book review of K. Ross Toole's *The Rape of the Great Plains*.

The Board of Editors is pleased

to announce that the State Bar Association of North Dakota has made a generous contribution that will be used to publish a complete index of the *North Dakota Law Review*. This index will be published as a separate issue after Volume 53, Number 4 has been completed.