



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION
1666 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20235

**press
message**

FOR RELEASE: August 2, 1977

Amy J. Hardy
News & Public Affairs
(202) 673-7859

THE DAY OF THE COAL CAMP IS OVER

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Robert W. Scott, Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, in testimony before the Subcommittee on Regional and Community Development today responded to the problems of formulating a national economic development policy (in relation to the increased demand for energy) that reflects the crucial economic problems facing the Appalachian Region.

Called to testify on legislation that will deal with the impacts of energy development on Appalachia, the former Governor of North Carolina called for policies that will incorporate local and state governments, and grass roots community groups in the decision-making process.

Governor Scott emphasized that the Region has long been plagued with the problems of providing adequate housing, water and sewer systems, education and health care to those people working and living in the coal fields. The scarcity of developable land in Appalachia is now compounded with the increased demands on the Region's land from accelerated coal mining.

Alabama
Georgia
Kentucky
Maryland
Mississippi
New York
North Carolina
Ohio
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Virginia
West Virginia



-over-

Governor Scott stressed that the development of the Region's energy must be coupled with a concern for its environment. "We must seek ways to prevent a repetition of the wrongful exploitation of these vast national resources, ...and assure the people of these states that increased energy production will be consistent with their economic, social and environmental well-being...We must provide adequate safeguards to protect the environment ... The severe flooding in Central Appalachia this spring suggests we must examine current practices to assure adequate safeguards."

"I believe I speak for my fellow Commission members when I say that as far as we are concerned the day of the coal camp is over. If we are to produce the coal the nation needs, we must have the assurance of participation in a shared decision-making process that will provide the nation the energy it so urgently needs, and for the people of Appalachia the quality of life they deserve."