

TONS OF DEBRIS SEAL TOMB OF MINE VICTIMS

Removal of Bodies May Re-
quire and Additional
30 Days

Special to The Pittsburgh Press

BELLAIRE, Ohio, March 20—
With thousands of tons of rock still
blocking the path of rescue workers,
state and company officials re-
luctantly announced today that it
might be another month before the
last of 56 bodies still entombed in
the Willow Grove mine are removed.

"It might be 30 days before we
get the last man out," declared
Adolf Pacifica, vice president of
the United Mine Workers of Ohio,
after inspecting the mine with other
officials yesterday.

"There are thousands of tons of
rock to be removed, which is pre-
venting rapid progress," said George
A. Strain, director of the Ohio De-
partment of Public Relations, who
also made the inspection tour.
"Everyone is doing everything pos-
sible to expedite the work. Men
have been working in six-hour shifts
24 hours a day."

The total of victims in the dis-
aster, resulting from a gas explosion
Saturday, was reduced to 71 today
when the Hanna Coal Co., owner of
the mine, discovered that two men
believed trapped were out and alive.

The bodies of 15 already have been
recovered.

"I have worked in 51 mine ex-
plosions, but Willow Grove is the
worst I have ever seen," H. E. Mc-
Ginnis, a powder expert said. "Only
the fact that the mine entry of the
mine was sprayed with liquid con-
crete from a force gun prevented
the entire mine from caving in and
burying the men inside forever."

The Congressional subcommittee
on Mines and Mining, which is con-
sidering a bill which would require
Federal mine inspections, likely will
open its own investigation of the
disaster today or tomorrow.

Mine to Co-operate In Blast Probe

By The United Press

NEFFS, O., March 20—The Hanna Coal Co. prepared today to co-operate with a Congressional group which will investigate an explosion that apparently took the lives of 71 miners in the Willow Grove Mine.

Representative Fred M. Bradley (R., Mich.), a member of the House Mines and Mining Committee, said before leaving Washington to go to the mine:

"I'm going to find out what happened. The Neely Bill, providing for Federal safety inspectors, which has been approved by the Senate, is pending before our committee. I want to determine whether the inspectors provided for in that bill could reasonably have been expected to prevent that accident."