

### STOP KILLING MINERS

The management of the Willow Grove Coal Mine in Neffs, Ohio, according to a report issued by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, "has been exceedingly favorable" toward the problem of safe-guarding its men. And yet—

Secretary Ickes, in that very same report, describes conditions under which 72 miners lost their lives in the Willow Grove explosion in March. That shows how horribly insufficient were the measures taken for their safety.

Equipment was faulty.

Ventilation was inadequate.

Explosive methane gas was in the air.

Black blasting powder—long condemned as unsafe by the Bureau of Mines—was in use.

Now, it is reasonable to suppose, the mine management, already "exceedingly favorable" toward safety provisions, will provide better equipment, proper ventilation, protection against gas detonation and safer blasting powder.

The doors of death will be closed. The 72 miners will rest, unaware, in their graves.

Wouldn't it have been better if this mine had been inspected by agents of the United States Bureau of Mines before the tragedy? Wouldn't such an inspection have given the management a better chance to put into effect its "exceedingly favorable" attitude toward the protection of the miners?

We think there can be only one answer.

Congress should pass the Neely bill providing for compulsory inspection of the workings by the United States Bureau of Mines.

Incidents such as the Willow Grove disaster, repeated over the years, have demonstrated that voluntary action by the mine operators, followed by investigations, have not been enough.

It's time for the members of the Senate and the House to stop listening to the lobbyists and think about the dead and injured miners, their wives and children.