

# WOULD OUTLAW BASIC HAZARDS MINE BLASTS

WASHINGTON, May 22. (AP)—The outlawing of "basic hazards" of explosions in coal mines through a federal mining code was proposed yesterday by Rep. Bradley (R-Mich), member of a House subcommittee hearing testimony about a bill for federal inspection of all coal mines.

Bradley made the suggestion during the appearance of J. J. Forbes, engineer in charge of Bureau of Mines Safety activities with headquarters in Pittsburgh, on the measure introduced by Senator M. M. Neely (D-W. Va.)

Forbes outlined the "basic hazards" in replying to a question whether the bill (S2420) might have prevented an explosion which killed 71 men at Willow Grove, Ohio.

Forbes said:

"If the mine had been examined by a Bureau of Mines representative prior to the explosion he would absolutely have recognized the basic things—he would have recommended that the mine be completely rock-dusted; that use of black powder (reported to have caused the blast) be discarded—it would certainly have greatly minimized the possibilities of explosion."

Ernest L. Bailey, mining engineer and former chief of the West Virginia Bureau of Mines, expressed the belief that the measure would be "definitely helpful in reducing mine accidents and increasing mine safety."

He listed as a defect of some state mine departments "politics in the selection of state inspectors." Bailey now is director of the office of government reports in West Virginia.