

Gates to Ask Inspection of Small Mines

Indianapolis, Dec. 21 (UP)—The state bureau of mines proposed today that all small Hoosier coal mines be brought under state jurisdiction, and the recommendation drew prompt support from Governor Gates.

Griffith Morris, director of the state bureau, made the recommendation in a report he filed on small mines in general and the Christmas mine at St. Meinrad in particular.

Only mines which employ 10 or more men are subject to state regulation now.

Christmas Mine "Deplorable"

Morris said condition at the Christmas slope mine, where four men were trapped and killed last week, were "deplorable." He said he felt that anyone working underground was entitled to state protection.

Gates said he concurred, and that he would include "something on this in my message to the General Assembly." Gates' address to the legislature will be one of his last official acts before he is succeeded as governor by Democrat Henry R. Schricker.

The Christmas mine was poorly constructed and ventilated, Morris charged, and added that it had never been inspected by state or federal mine authorities.

The bodies of three of the four trapped men are still in the Christmas mine. Rescue workers have been stymied in their efforts to remove the bodies because of additional cave-ins.