

Letters to the Editor

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Editor:

Edyth and I have been in Twin Falls for the past two months and have been out of touch with the latest happening in Elko County, but I see by your editorial of Aug. 23 that things haven't changed all that much.

The big mines are still buying off the politicians and the bureaucrats instead of doing what's right for the future of the country.

The problem is, no one ever talks about how the big mines' policy of payoffs and compromise has put the majority of small miners and prospectors out of business, or how their compromising and payoffs are playing a part in destroying our livestock industry. The big mines don't care about the future of Elko County or the nation. All they want is to get what they can and get out. And if that means sending big checks to certain politicians that the bureaucrats

would like to see in office, and helping the government acquire ranches they desire, so be it.

Which brings me to the point I want to make here today. For quite some time now we have had certain public officials and appointees involved in our county government, who work for the big mines. And if all that I am seeing is correct these appointees and officials are just like their employers. They're not near as concerned about the good of the county as they are about making certain that no one comes down on the agencies too hard. After all, we don't want to make the federal employees mad, for if that were to happen the bureaucrats might cost the mines hundreds of thousands, or maybe even millions of dollars if they began to enforce certain numerous federal regulations as they now have the power to do.

So you can see what we have going on is blackmail — plain and simple blackmail. And for the most part, our politicians have been going along with it, and in some instances even profiting from it. That's why we all need to get out and vote and see that new people are put into office. We can't afford to have anyone who works for the big mines in office any longer.

John Perry
Elko