

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 1977

CONTACT: Mike Serpe
202-225-3452

Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall (D-4th), today told his colleagues on the floor of the House of Representatives that, "It is unfair to ask me to support legislation that authorizes \$25 million to provide prompt disaster assistance to developing nations....when I can't even get more direct aid to help flood victims in Appalachia."

Rahall's remarks were made during the consideration of HR 6714, the International Economic Development Act of 1977.

Congressman Rahall charged that, "Those who live in the developing nations stand to receive disaster relief from the United States Congress quicker than the flood victims in West Virginia, who live less than 6 hours from Washington by car."

"After seeing for myself the hell that the flood victims have experienced," Rahall observed, "It would be ludicrous for me to tell them that their tax dollars were going to rebuild homes in Northern Italy, when they have been sleeping in the rear of pick-up trucks."

Rahall pointed out, "I am asked to support HR 6714, because it will be good for the American economy. But I feel it is time to reflect upon the inequities that exist all too often in our own nation. The elderly, the poor, and the hungry in the United States, suffer just as much as the afflicted in India or the Sahel."

In regards to other provisions of the bill, Congressman Rahall said, "I am astonished that this body would intend to authorize the spending of \$110 million for energy development projects overseas, when we can't even protect our own coal miners from black lung disease."

In conclusion, Rahall stated, "It's mind boggling, and all I ask of my colleagues, is that they consider the needs of their own constituents before voting on this measure."

Afterwards, Rahall speculated, "It seems the only way to receive help for the flood victims in West Virginia is to pack everyone up, move them to a developing nation, and apply for foreign aid."