

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
February 23, 1977

Contact: Mike Serpe
202-225-3452

Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall (D-4th), today introduced legislation to eliminate the automatic cost-of-living increase scheduled for October 1 of this year.

"In order to avoid another uproar over congressional pay raises, it is essential that Congress acts now to stop another pay hike from taking effect without having to cast a vote," Congressman Rahall said.

The cost-of-living adjustment (which may be around 5%), would carry salaries over the \$60,000 mark, Rahall pointed out.

"I feel it was unfair to my constituents, as well as the rest of the people we serve, to have moved ahead last week without a vote and receive more benefits from the taxpayers who are already hard pressed," the Raleigh County Democrat said.

Rahall went on to say, "As we attempt to halt the the cost-of-living increase this year, I hope in the meantime comprehensive legislation revising the method for granting congressional pay raises will be enacted."

Last week, Rahall personally met with Speaker O' Neill to persuade a recorded vote on the pay raise, and fought to keep the House in session to consider the matter.

"With people in my District just barely living on social security or benefits from black lung claims," Rahall said. "I believe we owe them the right to know where there elected representative stands on all the issues, including a pay raise," Rahall concluded.

Congressman Rahall, along with the bill's chief sponsor Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.), expressed confidence that the measure will receive extensive consideration. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.