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From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, (D-WV), said today that, "According to the Inspector General, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, in 1977, lost somewhere between \$6.4 and \$7.4 billion of American taxpayer's money."

"Just think of it," Rahall continued, "H.E.W. lost more money than the entire State of West Virginia paid in federal taxes in 1975."

Congressman Rahall's comments were made in regards to his co-sponsorship of a legislative package introduced by Rep. Ronald M. Mottl, (D-Ohio).

Rahall pointed out that the five bills, "Seek to correct the deficient management practices and systems which permit and actually encourage the fraud, abuse and waste responsible for HEW losing so much of our hard-earned money."

Four of the legislative measures, HR 13841, 13842, 13843, 13844, would increase fraud control in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, (AFDC); standardize State and Federal records for various welfare programs; prevent in the obtaining of Social Security checks; and a crack-down on unpaid student loans.

HR 13840, would authorize funds necessary for the Inspector General to investigate the operations of HEW, and combat fraud and abuse.

Congressman Rahall maintained, "By simply cutting Federal spending, waste and fraud are not stopped. We must go to the root of government inefficiency, which is the mismanagement of numerous Federal programs."

"I believe that this legislative program takes steps in the right direction," Rahall stated, "to bring about a more effective operation of our government programs."