

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEB. 1, 1978

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WASHINGTON D.C. --- FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, (D-WV), HAS SPONSORED A RESOLUTION THAT URGES THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSERT ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE WITH RESPECT TO THE DISPOSITION OF U.S. PROPERTY AND TERRITORY IN THE CANAL ZONE.

"I BELIEVE IT IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE CANAL ZONE, TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA BY TREATY ALONE," RAHALL SAID.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL POINTED OUT THAT, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3, CLAUSE 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION GIVES TO CONGRESS THE EXCLUSIVE POWER TO DISPOSE OF U.S. PROPERTY AND TERRITORY. "FAILURE TO EXERCISE POWER IN THIS CRUCIAL QUESTION," RAHALL STATED, "WILL BE A BAD PRECEDENT FOR THE SEPARATION OF POWERS IN OUR GOVERNMENT."

H. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 328, AT THE PRESENT TIME HAS 204 OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SUPPORTING IT. THE MEASURES CHIEF SPONSORS ARE REP. GEORGE HANSEN, (R-IDAHO), AND REP. JOHN M. MURPHY, (D-NY).

RAHALL OBSERVED THAT, "THIS IS A CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE AND NOT ONE OF PARTISAN POLITICS. IT IS OUR DUTY AS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE TO ASSURE THAT THEIR VOICE IS HEARD."

THE TEXT OF H. CON. RES. 328 FOLLOWS.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress of the*
- 3 United States that any right to, title to, or interest in the
- 4 property of the United States Government agencies in the
- 5 Panama Canal Zone or any real property and improvements
- 6 thereon located in the Zone should not be conveyed, relin-
- 7 quished, or otherwise disposed of to any foreign government
- 8 without specific authorization of such conveyance, relin-
- 9 quishment, or other disposition by an Act of Congress.