

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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WASHINGTON D.C. --- "IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WANTS TO PRODUCE COAL, IT SHOULD SAY SO AND MAKE ITS' RULES AND REGULATIONS ACCORDINGLY," SAID WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, TODAY.

RAHALL COMMENTS CAME IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE'S TASK FORCE ON INFLATION, WHICH BEGAN HEARINGS INTO THE EFFECTS OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS ON INFLATION.

"IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE COAL INDUSTRY IS IN TROUBLE," RAHALL OBSERVED, "AND IRONICALLY, THE PROBLEMS HAVE COME AT A TIME WHEN COAL'S POTENTIAL IS AT ITS' GREATEST."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP, POINTED OUT, "IN A PERIOD OF INFLATION IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO AVOID ADDING COSTS AND PRICES AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION, HOWEVER IN REGARDS TO COAL, THE REGULATIONS HAVE NOT ONLY FUELED INFLATION, BUT HAVE PUT PEOPLE OUT OF WORK."

RAHALL CITED STUDIES THAT SHOW THE COAL INDUSTRY WILL HAVE TO PAY \$3 BILLION ANNUALLY TO COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS ON SURFACE MINING ALONE. THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO POINTED OUT, THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME, 6,000 MINERS ARE OUT OF WORK IN WEST VIRGINIA, AND OVER 15,000 ARE LAYED-OFF NATION-WIDE.

"DUE TO THE GROWING AND COMPLICATED PROBLEMS THAT ARE ENGULFING THE COAL INDUSTRY," RAHALL STATED, "IT IS OBVIOUS THAT COAL WILL NOT PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN OUR NATION'S ENERGY FUTURE UNLESS CURRENT TRENDS ARE REVERSED."

"I DO NOT IMPLY THAT ALL REGULATORY ACTIONS SHOULD BE BANNED," RAHALL WENT ON TO SAY, "HOWEVER THE EFFECT ON PRICES AND INFLATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE RESULT IS WORTH THE COST."

"THE COAL INDUSTRY CAN PROVIDE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH THE ENERGY THEY NEED, BUT ONLY IF WASHINGTON DOES NOT BURY THEM IN A REGULATORY NIGHTMARE," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL CONCLUDED.