

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR RELEASE: MARCH 21, 1981

CONTACT: MIKE SERPE

RAHALL ADDRESSES KENTUCKY COAL CONFERENCE

LEXINGTON, KY --- "U.S. COAL EXPORTS WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN THE FUTURE, BECAUSE WE HAVE SOMETHING THE REST OF THE WORLD WANTS AND NEEDS," STRESSED U.S. CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, (D-WV), IN REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY AT THE KENTUCKY COAL-TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT LEXINGTON, ON MARCH 23.

THE EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. GOV. JOHN Y. BROWN, JR. IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO SPEAK.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP SAID, "WHEN THE WORLD COAL STUDY WAS RELEASED LAST MAY, COAL'S STOCK INCREASED ALL OVER THE WORLD. BUT THE INDUSTRY IS NOT ANY BETTER OFF TODAY."

RAHALL EXPLAINED THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD COAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK TO SPUR PRODUCTION AND USE. "COAL'S TRANSPORTATION CHAIN IS MADE UP OF FOUR LINKS, RAILROADS, HIGHWAYS, INLAND WATERWAYS AND EXPORTING FACILITIES," THE CONGRESSMAN POINTED OUT, "AND THEY MUST BE EFFICIENT."

"RAILROADS TRANSPORT 65 PERCENT OF DOMESTIC COAL PRODUCTION," RAHALL SAID, "AND MUST BE ALLOWED ADEQUATE REVENUE, JUST AS THE SHIPPERS MUST BE PROTECTED FROM HIGH PRICES." CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STATED THAT SUCH ASSURANCES WERE PART OF THE STAGGERS/RAHALL COMPROMISE TO THE RAIL BILL WITH PASSED IN THE LAST SESSION OF CONGRESS.

IN DISCUSSING HIS MEASURE TO ASSIST STATES IN THE UP-GRADING OF COAL HAUL ROADS, RAHALL SAID, "THE COAL PRODUCING STATES OF APPALACHIA ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION FOR GETTING THEIR COAL TO MARKET."

"WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE COAL HAUL ROAD SYSTEM," RAHALL STATED, "STATES LIKE WEST VIRGINIA AND KENTUCKY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GROWING DEMAND FOR COAL."