

For Distribution

9/18/81

TAPE RE: MINE INSPECTIONS

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

THE FACT THAT REQUIRED MINE INSPECTIONS ARE NOT BEING CARRIED OUT, DUE TO THE LACK OF QUALIFIED INSPECTORS, IS PUTTING LIVES IN JEOPARDY.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE LOGAN FIELD OFFICE OF THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, HAS ONLY 11 MINE INSPECTORS. IN 1978, THERE WERE 33 INSPECTORS.

DUE TO THIS UNDERMANNED STAFF, MINE INSPECTIONS, WHICH ARE MANDATED BY LAW, ARE NOT BEING CONDUCTED. AS A MATTER OF FACT, ONLY 67 PERCENT OF THE REQUIRED INSPECTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT DURING THE PERIOD OF APRIL TO JUNE, 1981.

I HAVE CALLED UPON THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF THE SITUATION IN LOGAN.

GREAT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE OVER THE YEARS TO PROTECT COAL MINERS ON THE JOB, AND I WILL NOT STAND FOR AN AGENCY CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN A HALF-HEARTED MANNER.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

✓ WVDW
✓ WLOG

WUPB

✓ WBTH

WCHS