

TAPE FOR FEB. 24

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS PRESENTED HIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE TO THE NATION. DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, CONGRESS WILL STUDY HIS PROPOSALS VERY CAREFULLY, AND I AM SURE MANY OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONCEPTS WILL RECEIVE BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT.

HOWEVER, IN THE AREA OF SYNTHETIC FUELS, I BELIEVE PRESIDENT REAGAN'S REDUCTIONS MAY HALT THE GROWTH OF AN INDUSTRY THIS NATION GREATLY NEEDS TO FREE ITSELF FROM ITS RELIANCE ON FOREIGN OIL.

WHILE GOVERNMENT SPENDING SHOULD BE CUT, HIGHER ENERGY PRICES MUST COME DOWN IF THE UNITED STATES IS EVER TO WIN THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION.

WHILE I AM PLEASED FUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SRC II PLANT IN MORGANTOWN, THE MOMENTUM BUILT DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE SYN-FUELS PROGRAM COULD SLOW DOWN IF THE PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTIONS ARE ADOPTED.

THE NEED TO REDUCE AMERICA'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN, THE NEED TO MINE MORE COAL, AND THE DESIRE TO PUT MINERS BACK TO WORK, DEMANDS THAT THE SYNTHETIC FUELS PROGRAM MOVE AHEAD AT FULL STEAM.

FOR THIS REASON, I HAVE ASKED PRESIDENT REAGAN TO MEET WITH ME, AND MY COLLEAGUES ON THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.