

TAPE FOR 2/17

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

LAST WEEK, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, WARREN BURGER STRUCK HOME WITH A SPEECH ON CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN AMERICA.

CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER STATED THAT WE HAVE A SYSTEM OF JUSTICE THAT SEEMS TO BE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE RIGHTS OF CRIMINALS, THAN WITH THE RIGHTS OF DECENT, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF CRIME.

SWIFT ARREST, PROMPT TRIALS, CERTAIN PENALTY, AND A LIMIT ON A CONVICTED CRIMINAL'S APPEALS, WOULD SERVE AS A MAJOR DETERRENT TO CRIME, THE CHIEF JUSTICE BELIEVES.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT VIOLENT CRIME IS ON THE INCREASE IN THE UNITED STATES. SOME BELIEVE IT IS DUE TO THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, BUT FOR WHATEVER REASON, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE PROTECTION OF LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS SHOULD BE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS NATIONAL DEFENSE.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE DEVELOPING A LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME. ONE SUCH PROPOSAL WOULD TIGHTEN THE PRESENT BAIL LAWS.

I SHARE CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER'S CONCERN, AND I KNOW SO DO MANY OF YOU. THAT IS WHY I PLAN TO REVIEW LEGISLATION ON THIS MATTER CAREFULLY, AND WILL SUPPORT IT IF IT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.