

RADIO TAPE FOR FEB. 3

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MY MEETING THIS WEEK, WITH THE NEW SECRETARY OF ENERGY JAMES EDWARDS. JOINING US FOR THIS SESSION, WILL BE MY COLLEAGUES WHO SERVE ON THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP.

OUR MAIN TOPIC WILL CERTAINLY BE, THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON THE GREATER PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF COAL.

IN RECENT STATEMENTS, SECRETARY EDWARDS HAS OUTLINED A PROMISING FUTURE FOR AMERICA'S MOST ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCE, BUT I, LIKE MANY WEST VIRGINIANS, KNOW THAT WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH. ACTION -- POSITIVE ACTION IS NEEDED TO MAKE OUR NATION ENERGY INDEPENDENT.

ANOTHER TOPIC OF OUR MEETING WILL BE THE FEDERAL BUDGET, WHICH CURRENTLY CALLS FOR A 44 PERCENT INCREASE IN COAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MONIES. I WILL URGE THAT THESE FUNDS BE MAINTAINED.

U.S. COAL RESERVES ARE MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO MEET THE NATION'S ENERGY REQUIREMENTS. I WANT TO WORK WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO SEE THAT THESE RESERVES ARE USED TO THEIR FULLEST, AND THAT MINERS ARE PUT BACK TO WORK.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.