

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR RELEASE:
9:30AM -- OCT. 6, 1980

CONTACT: MICHAEL SERPE
202-225-3452

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA --- "\$37 MILLION HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY WASTED ON AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA, BECAUSE OF THE LOSS OF SO MUCH AIR SERVICE," OBSERVED CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, TODAY IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD HEARING IN CHARLESTON.

"SINCE 1978," RAHALL POINTED OUT, "AIRLINE SERVICE TO OUR STATE HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 266 FLIGHTS PER DAY, TO 155."

"WITH WEST VIRGINIA BEING IN A STATE OF ECONOMIC TRANSITION, ADEQUATE AIR SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL TO ATTRACT NEW INDUSTRIES TO IMPROVE OUR ECONOMIC PICTURE," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STRESSED.

RAHALL, A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, AND A MEMBER OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION STATED, "SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA IS THE HEART OF THIS NATION'S BITUMINOUS COAL FIELDS. WE MINE THE MINERAL THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE OF AMERICA. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE BUSINESS TRAVEL INCREASES, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE POPULATION GROWTH, AND WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE IMPROVED AIR SERVICE TO MEET THOSE NEEDS."

"THE 1980 CENSUS WILL SHOW THAT GROWTH HAS OCCURRED IN BECKLEY, BLUEFIELD AND HUNTINGTON AND THEIR SURROUNDING AREAS AND GOOD, RELIABLE, DEPENDABLE AIR SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CONTINUATION OF THIS GROWTH," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL WENT ON TO SAY.

"THESE CITIES ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE STABILITY OF THEIR CURRENT SERVICE," RAHALL STRESSED. "IMPROVEMENTS MUST BE MADE TO GIVE THE RESIDENTS THE PROPER TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL CONCLUDED.

-30-