

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 23, 1980

CONTACT: MICHAEL SERPE  
202-225-3452

WASHINGTON D.C. --- THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TODAY APPROVED A PROPOSAL SUPPORTED AND CO-SPONSORED BY WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL.

THE PROPOSAL CAME IN THE FORM OF AN AMENDMENT TO HR 7584, AND WOULD BAR ANY FEDERAL AGENCY FROM SPENDING MORE THAN 20 PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL APPROPRIATION DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

THE AMENDMENT'S CHIEF SPONSOR WAS CON. HERBERT HARRIS (D-VA).

"IN THE PAST, WE HAVE HAD A SITUATION IN WHICH AGENCIES FEEL THEY MUST SPEND ALL OF THEIR APPROPRIATED FUNDS BY THE END OF THE YEAR, FOR FEAR CONGRESS WOULD CUT BACK IN FUTURE YEARS," RAHALL OBSERVED.

"WELL THEIR ASSUMPTION WAS CORRECT," RAHALL STRESSED, "AND WE HAVE DONE JUST THAT."

RECORDS SHOW FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SPENT 47.2 PERCENT OF THEIR BUDGET IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER OF LAST YEAR. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SPENT 41.7 PERCENT, THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT SPENT 30.3 PERCENT IN THESE TWO MONTHS.

"THIS IS A FLAGRANT MISUSE OF FUNDS," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STATED, "AND I AM PLEASED THAT WE HAVE TAKEN THIS STEP IN AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE WASTE IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF THE FUNDS HAVE GONE FOR THE PAINTING AND REMODELING OF OFFICES.

"THIS SORT OF THING HAS TO STOP, AND I BELIEVE SUCH ACTION, LIKE THE PASSAGE OF THIS AMENDMENT, WILL IN TIME BRING ABOUT TRUE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL CONCLUDED.