

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 17, 1980

CONTACT: MICHAEL SERPE
202-225-3452

WASHINGTON D.C. --- WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT
CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT THE JUMP
IN RIDERSHIP ON THE AMTRAK PASSENGER TRAIN SYSTEM.

"I AM VERY HAPPY THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE USING
AMTRAK AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION THIS
SUMMER," RAHALL STATED. "THE 1.8 MILLION PEOPLE WHO RODE
THE TRAINS RECENTLY NEARLY EQUAL THE RECORD-BREAKING TOTAL FOR
THIS SAME TIME LAST YEAR," THE CONGRESSMAN POINTED OUT.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL WAS ESPECIALLY EXCITED OVER THE
EXTRAORDINARY INCREASE OF RIDERS ON THE SHENANDOAH LINE, WHICH
TRAVELS THROUGH WEST VIRGINIA.

"THE SHENANDOAH'S RIDERSHIP INCREASED BY 117 PERCENT
OVER THIS SAME TIME LAST YEAR," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL OBSERVED,
"WITH ALMOST 7,000 MORE PEOPLE RIDING THE TRAIN."

ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE INCREASE, RAHALL BELIEVES,
IS THE IMPROVED ON-TIME SERVICE.

"OUT OF 60 TRAINS IN THE MONTH OF APRIL," RAHALL
POINTED OUT, "ONLY 5 ARRIVED AT THEIR DESTINATION LATE, FOR
AN ON-TIME RATE OF 92 PERCENT."

IN APRIL OF 1979, THE SHENANDOAH WAS ON-TIME ONLY A
LITTLE OVER HALF OF THE TIME. NATION-WIDE, AMTRAK HAS IM-
PROVED ITS ON-TIME PERFORMANCE BY OVER 26 PERCENT.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, A FREQUENT RIDER ON AMTRAK, OB-
SERVED THAT RIDERSHIP ON THE CARDINAL ROUTE HAS DECREASED
SLIGHTLY. "I AM SURE IT WILL PICK UP THOUGH AS MORE AND MORE
FAMILIES FIND THE TRAIN A GREAT WAY TO TRAVEL," RAHALL SAID.

"PASSENGER TRAINS ARE NOT A THING OF THE PAST," RAHALL
STATED, "THEY ARE THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE."