

Congressman NICK RAHALL's

WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEK ENDING: JUNE 6, 1980

WASHINGTON D.C.

VA BENEFITS:

ON JUNE 4, THE HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMENSATION, PENSION, INSURANCE, AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS, APPROVED THE BILL, HR 7511. THIS MEASURE WILL PROVIDE A 13% GENERAL RATE INCREASE IN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY PAYMENTS TO VETERANS AND SURVIVORS. HR 7511, WILL NOW BE CONSIDERED BY THE FULL VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

GAS TAX DEFEATED:

CONGRESS THIS WEEK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, OVERRODE THE VETO OF A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT, AND WITH GOOD REASON. MR. CARTER'S GASOLINE TAX, WOULD HAVE ADDED 10¢ TO THE PRESENT PRICE OF GASOLINE, AND IN EFFECT WOULD HAVE SPURRED THE RATE OF INFLATION.

I OPPOSED THE GAS TAX, BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY CAN CUTBACK ON THEIR ENERGY USE. OUR IMPORTS OF FOREIGN OIL ARE DOWN 10% FROM THIS TIME LAST YEAR. I ALSO OPPOSED THE PRESIDENTS PROPOSAL BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT NEED ANOTHER TAX.

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL THOUGH, IS THE FACT THAT THE GAS TAX WOULD HAVE ONLY SAVED 100,000 BARRELS OF OIL PER DAY. COAL CONVERSION, WHEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED WILL SAVE 1 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL PER DAY.

LOGAN WOMAN PRAISED ON HOUSE FLOOR:

THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT I MADE ON THE HOUSE FLOOR, ON JUNE 4:

PEOPLE ARE PRECIOUS

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am sure we would all agree that "people are precious," but I would like to take this opportunity to explain why I am involved in a special cause, and am joined by a very special lady.

Mrs. Harry F. "Judy" Boone, is the national and international president of the Shut-In's Day Association. I am proud to have her as a constituent.

When she was a very small child, Mrs. Boone began a life of love and dedication to those who were shut-in's. Each day she would deliver cakes and pies made by her mother, to those shut-in's in her community. She has continued this work all through her childhood and married life.

In 1962, beginning with the shut-in members of her church, Mrs. Boone organized a Shut-In's Association chapter in her hometown of Logan, W. Va., and later on spearheaded chapters all over the State of West Virginia.

In 1971, Mrs. Boone was installed as national president of the Shut-In's Day Association by former president, Mr. Donald Jones of Greenwich, N.J.

Dedicated is too little a word to describe Mrs. Boone. She lets nothing deter her in her efforts for others wherever and whenever she can. Regardless of age, race, or creed, this wonderful lady does her best to make the shut-in's day brighter and a little less lonely, for her actions certainly reflect what she feels in her heart.

After a life of accomplishment, at 74 years of age, Mrs. Boone still maintains the desire to achieve her ultimate goal. To have the first Sunday in June, of each year, proclaimed, "National Shut-In's Day."

Mr. Speaker, early in this session, I introduced House Joint Resolution 145, which would honor our Nation's shut-in's. At the present time, 59 of my colleagues have joined me in this effort, but many, many more are needed to sign on.

Passage of this measure would recognize and call public attention to a great number of Americans who constitute an often neglected segment of our society.

These are persons who have contributed to others their entire lives, and have brought happiness to their children and to their friends.

Although, in most cases they are older or physically impaired, they are still valuable for the qualities they possess as individuals with a rich past, which can be shared with others, if someone will only listen.

The National Shut-In's Day Association has a poem they often quote when talking about the association's work. I would like to read it now:

Nothing makes a friendship blossom—
Grow into a joy so rare.
than to breathe a silent prayer
for a loved one with care.
From this friendship grows a flower
that make living so worthwhile—
and the days are like happy hours
when we see the loved ones smile.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are trying to do with House Joint Resolution 145. I urge my colleagues to support this effort, because as a nation we will gain from such an observance.