News From _____

CONGRESSMAN
Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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WASHINGTON D.C. --- "WITH ONE OUT OF EVERY SEVEN JOBS IN THIS COUNTRY TIED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY, WE MUST REDUCE THE HIGH LEVELS OF JAPANESE CAR IMPORTS," STATED WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL.

RAHALL HAS JOINED A NUMBER OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN URGING JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER OHIRA TO BRING ABOUT, "A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IN A TIMELY MAN-NER."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL POINTED OUT, THAT SINCE 1972, JAPANESE IM-PORTS HAVE JUMPED FROM 5.5 PERCENT TO 21.2 PERCENT. "THESE IMPORTS NOW ACCOUNT FOR ALMOST ONE-FOURTH OF U.S. SALES," RAHALL SAID, "WITH THE JAPANESE ALONE CAPTURING A LARGER SHARE OF THE MARKET THAN FORD OR CHRYSLER."

"THE IMPACT OF THESE IMPORTS CAN BE SEEN THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE ECONOMIC SPECTRUM," RAHALL OBSERVED. "LAY-OFFS IN THE STEEL IN-DUSTRY, THE RUBBER INDUSTRY, AND SMALLER COMPANIES THAT SUPPLY AS-SEMBLY LINES, NOW TOTAL ALMOST 200,000 AMERICAN WORKING MEN AND WOMEN," THE CONGRESSMAN STATED.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN A LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER OHIRA STRESSED, "EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN GOOD FAITH BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AUTO INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER THAT SUCH REQUESTS WILL RECEIVE EITHER PROMPT OR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION."

RAHALL EXPLAINED, "A TYPICAL U.S. CAR MAY ARRIVE IN JAPAN, WITH A STICKER PRICE OF OVER $6,000. BUT BY THE TIME JAPANESE CUS-TOMS OFFICIALS TACK ON NUMEROUS TAXES AND FEES, THE PRICE OF THE CAR TO A JAPANESE CUSTOMER MAY HIT OVER $20,000."

"WITH LABOR COSTS IN JAPAN BEING HALF OF THE U.S. LEVEL," RAHALL POINTED OUT, "A TOYOTA, DATSUN OR HONDA MAY EVEN SELL WELL BELOW THE COST OF AN AMERICAN CAR IN THE UNITED STATES."

"THIS SITUATION MUST STOP, AND IT MUST STOP SOON," RAHALL CON-CLUDED.