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WASHINGTON D.C. --- "AS EACH DAY GOES BY, WE SEE MORE AND MORE WHY THE UNITED STATES MUST INCREASE ITS UTILIZA-TION OF COAL, AND WHY WE MUST PUSH FOR LEGISLATION TO CON-VERT UTILITY PLANTS TO COAL," PROCLAIMED WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL.

RAHALL'S REMARKS CAME AT THE OPENING OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WEDNESDAY SESSION.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL POINTED TO THE RECENT ACCIDENT AT THE CRYSTAL RIVER NUCLEAR PLANT IN FLORIDA AS THE REASON FOR HIS RENEWED CALL FOR, "COAL NOW."

"NUCLEAR POWER IS BEING FORCED UPON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT THE VERY TIME WHEN WE SHOULD BE USING MORE OF OUR MOST ABUNDANT ENERGY RESOURCE, COAL," RAHALL STRESSED.

RAHALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP POINTED OUT, "COAL CAN BE BURNED CLEANLY, IT CAN BE MINED SAFELY, AND IT CAN DECREASE OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN ENERGY SOURCES."

THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO ADDED, "BY USING MORE COAL, WE WILL FIGHT INFLATION, WHICH IS GREATLY ENHANCED BY IMPORTED OIL."

"IT MAKES SENSE FOR US TO GO WITH COAL, NOW," RAHALL CONCLUDED.

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