

DECEMBER 1, 1980

to AP, UPI

CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL ANNOUNCES THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS JUST PASSED THE BILL, HR 7745, WHICH AMENDS THE BLACK LUNG LAW, AND ELIMINATES LENGTHY PROTESTS THAT HAVE OFTEND DELAYED BENEFITS TO NEARLY 8,000 BLACK LUNG VICTIMS.

COAL MINERS WHOSE LAST DATE OF EMPLOYMENT WAS FROM JANUARY 1970 TO JULY 1973, WILL NOW HAVE THEIR CLAIMS PAID BY THE BLACK LUNG TRUST FUND, INSTEAD OF DIRECTLY BY THE COAL OPERATOR.

NJR said " THE PASSAGE OF THIS MEASURE MEANS THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RED TAPE WILL BE CUT FOR BLACK LUNG CLAIMANTS, AND COAL MINERS AS WELL AS COAL OPERATORS WILL SAVE EXPENSIVE LEGAL FEES THAT RESULT FROM A PROTESTED CLAIM."

NJR was a sponsor of the bill.