

WTNJ TAPE FOR DEC. 16

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

WITH LENDING INTEREST RATES HITTING AN HISTORIC HIGH OF 20 PERCENT, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE AGAIN BEING SQUEEZED BY THE INABILITY TO BORROW MONEY, AND BY THE CONSTANT PRESSURES OF INFLATION.

THIS PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION POSES A MAJOR CHALLENGE TO THE NEW PRESIDENT WHEN HE TAKES OFFICE NEXT MONTH.

THE TIME FOR SIMPLE SOLUTIONS HAS LONG SINCE PASSED IN THE WAR AGAINST INFLATION. ~~AND~~ THE DESIRES OF MANY TO CUT TAXES, BOOST DEFENSE SPENDING, AND <sup>Balance the budget</sup> ~~FIGHT~~ INFLATION ALL AT THE SAME TIME, MAY INDEED PROVE TO BE TRICKY <sup>as our new pres. takes office next month</sup>

CONGRESS HAS ALREADY ACTED ON CUTTING THE FEDERAL DEBT WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL.

THIS MEASURE IS SIGNIFICANT, BECAUSE IT REDUCES THE SIZE OF THE BUDGET DEFICIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1981, <sup>by</sup> \$8.3 BILLION DOLLARS. IT ADDITION, THE MEASURES LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

I SUPPORTED THIS LEGISLATION, AND WILL SUPPORT SIMILAR MEASURES IN THE NEW CONGRESS THAT ADDRESS THE INFLATION SITUATION IN A FAIR AND RATIONAL MANNER.

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTNAT THAT WE GET A HANDLE ON THE ECONOMIC CRISIS THAT HAS HAD MANY AMERICANS IN ITS GRASP FOR SOME TIME NOW. BUT I REALIZE, AS YOU DO, THAT IT WILL TAKE ~~ACTION, NOT WORDS.~~

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.