

tape for week of Dec. 27

This is Congressman Nick Rahall.

As it gets colder, more and more we will see people across the nation faced with the choice of "heat or eat." Because their natural gas bills are literally going through the ceiling. Over last year alone, the rates for natural gas have gone up a national average of 25 percent.

When the 98th Congress convenes on January 3, a chief issue of concern will legislation aimed at pulling in the reins on natural gas prices. For the record, I was a sponsor of two important measures dealing with natural gas prices in the last session of Congress.

Both measures were designed to thoroughly review the Natural Gas Policy Act while protecting consumers who are adversely affected with increase after increase in their home heating bills.

I look at the new Congress as an opportunity to address this issue head-on, being fully aware of the benefit it may have on families in southern West Virginia.

This is Congressman Nick Rahall.