

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPTEMBER 19, 1981

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## RAHALL BLASTS REDUCTIONS IN MINE INSPECTIONS

WASHINGTON D.C. --- "THE FACT THAT REQUIRED MINE INSPECTIONS ARE NOT BEING CARRIED OUT, DUE TO THE LACK OF QUALIFIED INSPECTORS, IS PUTTING LIVES IN JEOPARDY," SAID WEST VIRGINIA'S 4TH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

RAHALL'S STATEMENT CAME IN A LETTER TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH, FORD B. FORD.

"THE LOGAN FIELD OFFICE OF THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IS SERIOUSLY UNDERMANNED," RAHALL POINTED OUT. "IN 1978, THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 33 INSPECTORS IN LOGAN. TODAY THERE ARE ONLY 11," RAHALL SAID.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STATED, "UNDER LAW, 91 UNDERGROUND MINE INSPECTIONS WERE TO BE CARRIED BY THE LOGAN OFFICE DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. ONLY 76 INSPECTIONS WERE COMPLETED."

"LIKEWISE," RAHALL STRESSED, "DURING THE MONTHS OF APRIL TO JUNE, THE SAME 91 INSPECTIONS WERE REQUIRED, BUT ONLY 62 WERE CONDUCTED."

"THE FACT THAT THESE INSPECTIONS ARE NOT CARRIED OUT, IS A TRAVESTY OF THE LAW THAT WE IN CONGRESS WORKED HARD TO IMPLEMENT," RAHALL CHARGED.

"THIS NEGLECT," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL SAID, "NOT ONLY IS A REACTIONARY VIEW OF MINE SAFETY; IT IS PUTTING LIVES IN JEOPARDY."

RAHALL HAS CALLED ON ASST. SECRETARY FORD TO "CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF THE LOGAN FIELD OFFICE SITUATION, AND TO SUGGEST MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO RECTIFY THE PROBLEMS."

"GREAT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE OVER THE YEARS TO PROTECT COAL MINERS ON THE JOB," RAHALL POINTED OUT, "AND I WILL NOT STAND FOR AN AGENCY CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN A HALF-HEARTED MANNER."