

TAPE FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 9

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA IS 9.6 PERCENT. THE NUMBER OF MANUFACTURING JOBS HAS DROPPED BELOW 100,000 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1940, AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE COAL INDUSTRY IS NEARLY 20 PERCENT.

THESE SKILLED WORKERS NOW FIND THEMSELVES WITHOUT JOBS, AND WITH LITTLE PROSPECT OF RETURNING TO THEIR JOBS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

TO ADDRESS THIS GROWING PROBLEM NATIONWIDE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RECENTLY PASSED A BILL WHICH AUTHORIZES \$1 BILLION FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR DISPLACED WORKERS. ASSISTANCE FROM THIS MEASURE WOULD SEEK TO LOCATE ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT, RETRAIN WORKERS, AND HELP TO CUSHION LOCAL COMMUNITIES FROM THE ECONOMIC ILLS CAUSED BY HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS LEGISLATION DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE EMOTIONAL STRESS THAT IS BEING PLACED ON DISPLACED WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. ONLY A REVAMPING OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC POLICIES WILL DO THAT.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.