

TAPE FOR WEEK OF JUNE 21

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

RECENTLY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE COMPLETED THE STUDY I REQUESTED FROM THEM, THAT LOOKED INTO THE OPERATION OF THE MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S COAL MINE INSPECTION PROGRAM. AS WAS ORGINIALLY BELIEVE, MSHA IS NOT CARRYING OUT IT LEGALLY MANDATED RESPONSIBILITY TO INSPECT BOTH UNDERGROUND AND SURFACE COAL MINES.

NATIONWIDE, MSHA HAS CARRIED OUT A SOMEWHAT RESPECTABLE 95 PERCENT OF THE REQUIRED INSPECTIONS. HOWEVER, THE LOGAN, WEST VIRIGNIA FIELD OFFICE OF MSHA, HAS COMPLETED ONLY 65 PERCENT OF THE REQUIRED INSPECTIONS. THE REASON BEING--A LACK OF QUALIFIED MINE INSPECTORS.

I, AND MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES, ARE GREATLY CONCERNED THAT MSHA DID NOT ^{take} ~~take~~ THE PROPER STEPS TO DISTRIBUTE ITS MANPOWER TO DO THE JOB CONGRESS REQUIRES THEM TO DO. THEREORE, IT IS MY EXPRESSED GOAL TO SEE TO IT THAT MSHA HAS THE MANPOWER AND THE FUNDS TO DO A 100 PERCENT JOB--FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL COAL MINE OPERATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.