

TAPE FOR WEEK OF MAY 24

Coal Exports

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

LAST YEAR, 110 MILLION TONS OF AMERICAN COAL WERE EXPORTED TO A NUMBER OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES. NEARLY HALF OF THAT COAL CAME FROM WEST VIRGINIA---IT WAS WORTH \$2.2 BILLION TO OUR STATE'S ECONOMY AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR 20,000 JOBS IN THE COAL INDUSTRY.

BEING WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COAL EXPORTS TO OUR STATE AND ITS PEOPLE, I RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN A COAL EXPORT MISSION, SPONSORED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND STATE, ~~TO FOUR EUROPEAN NATIONS~~ <sup>The purpose was</sup> TO DEMONSTRATE AMERICA'S AND WEST VIRGINIA'S COMMITMENT <sup>TO</sup> OVERSEAS BUYERS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THEIR MOST RELIABLE AND SECURE COAL SUPPLIER.

FIRM ASSURANCES WERE MADE TO OUR COAL TRADING PARTNERS THAT WE HAVE THE WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO FULFILL OUR OBLIGATION AS A MAJOR COAL SUPPLIER TO THE WORLD.

COAL EXPORTS ~~PROVIDE~~ PROVIDE NOT ONLY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND JOBS FOR WEST VIRGINIA ~~AND OTHER COAL PRODUCING REGION OF THIS COUNTRY--~~ BUT THEY ALSO SERVE AS A DIPLOMATIC TOLL IN TODAY'S ENERGY HUNGRY WORLD.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.