

TAPE FOR WEEK OF MARCH 29

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

ALTHOUGH THE INFLATION RATE NATIONWIDE IS ON THE DECLINE, COUNTLESS WEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES ARE FINDING LITTLE OR NO RELIEF FROM HIGH NATURAL GAS UTILITY BILLS.

IN A MOVE THAT COULD PLACE AN ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC BURDEN ON MANY OF OUR STATE'S RESIDENTS, THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED A SPEED-UP OF THE DECONTROL OF NATURAL GAS PRICES --AN ACTION THAT COULD HAVE A DRASTIC EFFECT ON THE NATION'S ECONOMY AND ON THE POCKETBOOKS OF WEST VIRGINIANS.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE ACCELERATED DECONTROL OF NATURAL GAS PRICES WOULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS, AND COST CONSUMERS TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS--WITH A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON THE ELDERLY AND OTHERS ON FIXED INCOMES.

FOR THIS REASON, I HAVE JOINED AN EFFORT IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO URGE THE PRESIDENT NOT TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACTION, FOR IT IS UNWISE--IN MY BELIEF--TO THROW THE ECONOMY INTO FURTHER DISARRAY.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.