

TAPE FOR WEEK OF MARCH 8

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

RECENTLY, THE NIGHTLY NEWS PROGRAMS AND DAILY NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN CARRYING EXTENSIVE REPORTS ABOUT CENTRAL AMERICA. COUNTRIES LIKE: EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA, AND GUATEMALA, ARE PLACES WE ARE HEARING MORE AND MORE ABOUT EACH DAY.

RECENTLY, PRESIDENT REAGAN ADDRESSED THE SITUATION IN THIS REGION OF THE WORLD, AND WHILE ALL AMERICANS SHARE HIS DESIRE TO STEM THE TIDE OF SOVIET-CUBAN INFLUENCE IN THIS REGION--I AM CONCERNED ABOUT HIS METHODS.

THE PRESIDENT HAS PROPOSED THAT \$350 MILLION BE SPENT THIS YEAR ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO ASSIST CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE HARD HIT ECONOMICALLY.

I FIND THIS RATHER TROUBLING, SINCE THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CALLED FOR MASSIVE CUT BACKS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR THIS COUNTRY--AND HAS EVEN CALLED FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY FEELING THAT CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME, AND I HOPE WE TAKE CARE OF THE ECONOMICALLY TROUBLED HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, BEFORE SENDING MONEY OVERSEAS.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.