

RAHALL

Weekly Report

STEEL AND COAL

A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AMERICAN WAY AND THE EUROPEAN WAY IS THE USE OF SUBSIDIES FOR BASIC INDUSTRY AND THE SALE OF GOOD BELOW COST -- KNOWN AS DUMPING. THEY DO AND WE DON'T.

A GOOD EXAMPLE OF "FOREIGN DUMPING" IS THE CURRENT FATE OF THE U.S. STEEL INDUSTRY, WHICH IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, FILED AN UNPRECEDENTED AND HISTORIC 110 PETITIONS FOR REDRESS UNDER THE TRADE LAWS AND AGREEMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND CASES INVOLVING ABOUT 90% OF THE APPARENTLY DUMPED OR SUBSIDIZED STEEL HAVE HAD FINDINGS OF PRELIMINARY INJURY AND CURRENTLY ARE BEING PROCESSED.

IN WEST VIRGINIA, WE ARE ALL WELL AWARE THAT AS THE STEEL INDUSTRY GOES, SO GOES THE COAL INDUSTRY. FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1982, COAL PRODUCTION IN WEST VIRGINIA IS DOWN 4.3 PERCENT COMPARED TO THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR. DURING THIS SAME PERIOD OF TIME, OUR STATE'S COAL INDUSTRY HAS LOST 500 JOBS, AND U.S. STEEL HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS LAYING OFF 1,250 MINERS IN MCDOWELL COUNTY BECAUSE OF THE DROP IN STEEL PRODUCTION.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP, IT IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO ME THAT THE COAL INDUSTRY AND OUR NATION IS SUFFERING SEVERE HARDSHIPS DUE TO "FOREIGN DUMPING". FURTHERMORE, AS A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCAS, I HAVE JOINED AN EFFORT TO URGE PRESIDENT REAGAN TO BRING AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO THESE UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES. WITH THIS ACTION, MY COLLEAGUES AND MYSELF WANT TO REAFFIRM TO THE AMERICAN STEEL WORKERS AND COAL MINERS THIS NATION'S COMMITMENT TO FAIR TRADE, AND BOTH INDUSTRIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIONS HAVE SAID THEY SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS.

IN MANY OF THE OLD WESTERN MOVIES, THERE WAS A FAMOUS PHRASED USED WHEN TROUBLE OCCURED--"PUT THE WAGONS IN A CIRCLE." WELL TODAY THAT PHRASE CAN HOLD TRUE, BECAUSE IT IS TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES TO CLOSE RANKS AGAINST FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHO HAVE LITTLE OR NO REGARD FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE AMERICAN WORKER AND HIS FAMILY.

AMERICAN GOODS ARE LIMITED IN QUANTITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, BUT WE SEEM TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW AN "OPEN TRADE" POLICY. THE TIME IS NOW TO PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS FIRST, AND IF WE HAVE TO STEP ON SOME TOES TO DO IT, THEN SO BE IT.