

# RAHALL *Report*

U.S. FOREIGN SPENDING

BY CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL

IT WAS RECENTLY BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS SPENDING \$50 MILLION TO DREDGE THE MOMBASA PORT IN KENYA. THIS MONEY IS NOT BEING USED FOR NATIONAL SECURITY REASONS, NOR TO STRENGTHEN OUR MILITARY POSITION IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. IT IS BEING SPENT SIMPLY TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR CREW MEMBERS TO GET FROM THEIR SHIPS TO TOWN ON SHORE LEAVE.

IN LIGHT OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO WITHHOLD \$150 MILLION FOR INLAND WATERWAY AND OCEAN PORT OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS, I FIND THE EXPENDITURE AT MOMBASA PARTICULARLY DISGUSTING.

WHERE ARE OUR NATIONAL PRIORITIES WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION WILL SPEND \$50 MILLION TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR SAILORS TO TAKE SHORE LEAVE IN SOME FOREIGN LAND, BUT WILL NOT SPEND A SINGLE CENT TO ENHANCE DOMESTIC OCEAN PORTS' ABILITY TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE IN THE WORLD COAL TRADE: A TRADE WHICH NOT ONLY BRINGS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TOWARD REDUCING OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT, BUT PROVIDES A MEASURE OF ENERGY SECURITY FOR OUR ALLIED TRADING PARTNERS.

ALSO, PRESIDENT REAGAN WANTS TO SPEND OVER \$350 MILLION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR ECONOMICALLY TROUBLED CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE AT THE SAME TIME THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO MAKE MASSIVE CUT BACKS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS RIGHT HERE IN THE UNITED STATES--THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION HAS HAD ITS BUDGET REDUCED, AND THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION IS EARMARKED FOR EXTINCTION.

IT IS OBVIOUS TO MOST AMERICANS THAT WE ARE FACING SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS RIGHT HERE AT HOME, AND FOR THIS REASON, I BELIEVE OUR FIRST CONCERNS SHOULD BE TAKEN CARE BEFORE AMERICAN DOLLARS ARE SPENT OVERSEAS.