

RAHALL *Report*

by Congressman Nick Rahall

As chairman of the Congressional Coal Group in the U.S. House of Representatives, I called a meeting last week of high level Reagan Administration officials and Members of Congress, to discuss the future of coal as an export product. It was a very worthwhile session, as the State of West Virginia can benefit from the effort to increase coal's attractiveness overseas.

Last year, the United States exported over 90 million tons of coal, and I should point out, that almost 40 percent of that amount came from West Virginia--making it the nation's chief coal exporting state.

According to numerous studies and estimates, coal exports could triple by the year 2000, which in turn could make the United States, the Saudi Arabia of coal.

Over the past few years, we West Virginians have been well aware of the fact that coal holds the key to America's energy future. We realize, as do other nations in the world who are running low on oil, that steps must be taken to develop alternatives to petroleum. With this in mind, the United States, and in particular West Virginia, stand to benefit if a few wrinkles can be ironed out.

Today, the problems faced by exporters of coal include the lack of proper facilities to move the coal from mine to port, outdated loading operations that slow down ship movement, and the cost increases as a result of these delays.

Legislation is presently being considered to improve America's port facilities, and I plan to work with my colleagues to bring about an effective solution to this issue.

We hear a great deal about how America will become the "Saudi Arabia of coal", but we West Virginians know that it takes more than just talk, it takes determination and a commitment to move forward--to mine more coal, to sell more coal, and to create more jobs for coal miners in southern West Virginia.

OK *un* For 92 approval also *ms*

Rahall Report
~~NICK'S NEWS~~

DRAFT: 10/12/81

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COAL GROUP IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I CALLED A MEETING LAST WEEK OF HIGH LEVEL REAGAN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF COAL AS AN EXPORT PRODUCT. IT WAS A VERY WORTHWHILE SESSION, ⁹⁵ ~~AND~~ THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA CAN BENEFIT FROM AN EFFORT TO INCREASE COAL'S ATTRACTIVNESS OVERSEAS.

LAST YEAR, THE UNITED STATES EXPORTED OVER 90 MILLION TONS OF COAL, AND I SHOULD POINT OUT, THAT ALMOST 40 PERCENT OF THAT AMOUNT CAME FROM WEST VIRGINIA--MAKING IT THE NATION'S CHIEF COAL EXPORTING STATE.

ACCORDING TO NUMEROUS STUDIES AND ESTIMATES, COAL EXPORTS COULD TRIPLE BY THE YEAR 2000, WHICH IN TURN COULD MAKE THE UNITED STATES, THE SAUDI ARABIA OF COAL.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE WEST VIRGINIANS HAVE BEEN WELL AWARE OF THE FACT THAT COAL HOLDS THE KEY TO AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE. ~~BUT~~ OTHER NATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ARE RUNNING LOW ON PETROLEUM ~~AS WELL~~, AND THEY ALSO REALIZE THAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES TO OIL. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE UNITED STATES, AND WEST VIRGINIA IN PARTICULAR, STAND TO BENEFIT IF A FEW ^{wrinkles} ~~FACTORS~~ CAN BE ^{ironed} ~~WORKED~~ OUT.

TODAY, THE PROBLEMS FACED BY EXPORTERS OF COAL INCLUDE THE LACK OF PROPER FACILITIES TO MOVE THE COAL FROM MINE TO PORT, OUTDATED LOADING OPERATIONS SLOW ~~MR~~ DOWN SHIP MOVEMENT OVERSEAS, AND IN THE ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ LONG TERM INCREASE THE COSTS OF THE PRODUCT, WHICH IS COAL.

LEGISLATION IS ~~XXXXXX~~ PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED TO IMPROVE THESE PORT FACILITIES, AND I PLAN TO WORK WITH MY COLLEAGUES TO

BRING ABOUT AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

WE HEAR A GREAT DEAL OF TALK ABOUT HOW AMERICAM WILL BECOME THE ~~XX~~ SAUDI ARABIA OF COAL, BUT WE WEST VIRGINIANS KNOW THAT IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST TALK, IT TAKES DETERMINATION AND A COMMITMENT TO MOVE FORWARD--TO MINE MORE COAL, TO SELL MORE COAL, AND TO CREATE MORE JOBS FOR COAL MINERS IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA.

NICK J. RAHALL, II
4TH DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

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Dear Editor:

1981 has been a very eventful year in the nation's capitol, as major changes have been made in the operation of the Federal Government. Many of these changes have a direct impact on the State of West Virginia and its people.

To answer the increasing need and desire of your readers to be kept up-to-date on the activities of Congress and government agencies, as they relate to our region of the country, I am initiating, "The Rahall Report."

Each week you will receive a brief column from me discussing programs and actions of government, which are of interest and affect southern West Virginia. I would very much appreciate if you would publish it for the benefit of your readers.

I welcome your comments and or suggestions on this effort, because our joint goal is to keep the public informed in an objective manner.

With warm regard, I am

Sincerely,

Nick J. Rahall, II
Member of Congress

enc.

INTEROFFICE MEMO

DATE:

10/6

TO:

NJR

FROM:

(mf)

mg

mt

To be attached
to weekly column
that will go out
this week.

(mf)

DRAFT --- for NJR approval

to Editors re: weekly column

OK
me

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Sincerely,

NJR