

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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REAGAN SOLD-OUT U.S. COAL, SAYS RAHALL

Washington D.C. --- In a statement to his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall charged that, "U.S. coal interests have been sold-out by President Reagan during his trip to Japan."

"Despite the President's rhetoric that his mission to Japan would include protecting U.S. trade interests," Rahall said, "Mr. Reagan has instead legitimized a dramatic reduction in the amount of U.S. coal being purchased by the Japanese."

Citing recent American coal export figures, Rahall pointed out that, "During the first seven months of 1983, our coal exports to Japan have declined 45 percent. We usually supply the Japanese with 30 percent of their coal requirements. Today, the figure is below 16 percent."

"The President accepted a Japanese position not to make any commitment on metallurgical coal purchases from the United States," Rahall claimed.

"In light of the \$22 Billion trade deficit this nation has with Japan, I find the President's action incredible," Congressman Rahall stressed.

"Does the President not realize that Japan is spending \$500 Million in the U.S.S.R. to develop a coal-hauling railroad line? Does he not realize that the Japanese export-import bank has approved a \$2 Billion financing package to China for the development of new coal mines? Does he not realize that a number of Japanese firms are considering becoming involved in a surface coal mine/coal slurry project in Mongolia," Rahall asked.

"At the present time, not a single long-term coal contract exists between an American coal producer and Japan," Congressman Rahall pointed out. "Members of both the House and Senate Coal Groups have urged the President to maintain the traditional U.S. share of the Japanese coal market, but these requests have fallen on deaf ears," Rahall charged.

"I would suggest to the President," Rahall stated, "next time he visits Japan, don't do the coal industry any favors. No agreement would be better than the type the Administration has struck."