

# RAHALL

## Weekly Report

**\*\*below is Congressman Rahall's statement on the floor of the House of Representative, March 15, in favor of the nuclear freeze.\*\***

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, today we are faced with an opportunity to take a crucial first step toward a removal of the threat of a nuclear war which has been hanging over the heads of mankind, bringing its threat of total devastation to the doorstep of every American home. It is up to Congress to send the message and take the lead. Congress can lead the way by taking this first step today with the passage of House Joint Resolution 13. This legislation will establish guidelines for a reduction of nuclear weapons systems by both the United States and the Soviet Union. This must be done mutually and must be verifiable in a manner acceptable to this country. In order to reduce the nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union, the levels of weaponry must be frozen, the weapons race must come to a halt.

During the recent elections in November, more than 30 percent of the electorate had the opportunity to vote on a nuclear freeze referendum; 60 percent of those voting supported a nuclear weapons freeze. Nuclear freeze resolutions have been endorsed by 13 States legislatures, including my home State of West Virginia, and 125 city councils, including the city councils of Beckley, Huntington, Charleston, and Oak Hill in West Virginia. The nuclear freeze proposal has enjoyed such widespread support due in part to the American public's lack of confidence in the Reagan administration's commitment to meaningful arms control. The massive increases in defense spending in the past and the proposals in the fiscal year 1984 budget all point to a buildup of nuclear weaponry, not a reduction. How long can this insane, unbridled, and unleashed rush continue?

The woefully slow progress of the START talks have shown that the proper commitment and dedication to a reduction in nuclear weaponry have not been achieved.

The adoption of this resolution would establish congressional guidelines for arms reduction talks. The success of these negotiations is crucial in order to eliminate the threat of nuclear war and the United States must show its commitment to the reduction of nuclear arsenals in the United States and the Soviet Union. I urge my colleagues to adopt House Joint Resolution 13 as reported without any of the weakening amendments. A freeze means halt-stop with no ifs, ands, ors, or buts about it. Let us stop this insanity. Our nuclear freeze resolution must establish the United States as willing to negotiate a mutual and verifiable freeze of nuclear weaponry arsenals with the Soviet Union and eliminate the threat of nuclear holocaust from our society.