

TAPE FOR WEEK OF FEB. 28

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

THE COST OF UNEMPLOYMENT CANNOT BE MEASURED IN DOLLAR AND CENTS ALONE, IT IS A SITUATION THAT EFFECTS THE VERY STRUCTURE OF OUR NATION--THE FAMILY, AND THE COMMUNITY. IT CANNOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY, OR BE USED FOR PRIVATE OR POLITICAL GAIN.

TODAY, OUR STATE RANKS NUMBER ONE IN AMERICA IN THE RATE OF THOSE OF OUR CITIZENS WHO ARE OUT-OF-WORK---17.8 PERCENT, AND AS THE REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FOR SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA, I AM WELL AWARE OF THE HARDSHIPS MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS ARE CURRENTLY FACING.

IN AN EFFORT TO BLUNT THE GROWING NUMBERS OF THE UNEMPLOYED, I HAVE UNDERTAKEN A TWO-PRONGED PROGRAM TO PUT WEST VIRGINIANS BACK TO WORK. ONE IS LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EMPLOY INDIVIDUALS ON RECLAMATION PROJECTS AIMED TO RESTORE ABANDONED MINE SITES. THE OTHER IS A PUSH TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR SUCH JOBS IN THE EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT BILL CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS.

WHILE ALL THOSE WHO ARE OUT OF WORK WILL NOT BE RE-EMPLOYED IMMEDIATELY BY THESE EFFORTS, IT IS A START TO REBUILD THE BROKEN FOUNDATIONS OF OUR NATION AND STATE.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.