

TAPE FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 7

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL

THE PROBLEM OF THE MASSIVE BACKLOG OF BLACK LUNG CASES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS REACHED UNBEARABLE LEVELS. HOWEVER, THROUGH ACTION TAKEN BY CONGRESS LAST WEEK, I HOPE THAT WE CAN BEGIN TO MAKE THIS BACKLOG NOTHING MORE THAN A BAD MEMORY.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED MY AMENDMENT TO THE LABOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$4.5 MILLION TO APPROPRIATED THIS YEAR FOR EXTRA STAFF IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S OFFICE. THE SECRETARY OF LABOR ESTIMATES THAT WITH THIS ADDITIONAL FUNDING, SOME 8,500 CASES CAN BE SETTLED IN EACH OF THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

MANY PEOPLE IN WEST VIRGINIA HAVE WAITED UP TO TEN YEARS FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THEIR CLAIMS. I DO NOT FIND THIS ACCEPTABLE. PLEASE JOIN ME IN URGING THE PRESIDENT TO ENACT THIS MEASURE INTO LAW BECAUSE JUSTICE DELAYED IS, INDEED, JUSTICE DENIED.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.