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# news from ... Congressman Nick Rahall

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## Rahall Calls Reagan Budget Unfair to West Virginia

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today blasted the President's 1987 budget as grossly unfair to West Virginia and predicted bad times ahead for the state under the newly enacted Gramm-Rudman budget law.

"My worst fears about the enactment of Gramm-Rudman came true in the form of the budget the President sent to Congress today," Rahall said. "We in West Virginia are once again being asked to sacrifice unfairly while the President's irresponsible defense build-up continues to spiral upward. In his State of the Union last night the President said the wrong people are being asked to tighten their belts. I totally agree with him; he is asking the wrong people to tighten their belts -- the average working men and women of this nation. I challenge him to ask everyone to tighten their belts equally, particularly the fat-cat defense contractors and the procurement people in the Pentagon."

The President's budget terminates such programs vital to West Virginia as AMTRAK, the Appalachian Regional Commission, Soil Conservation Services and Flood Protection, Community Services Block Grants, Urban Development Action Grants (UDAG's), the Economic Development Administration (EDA), and Revenue Sharing, as well as an elimination of SBA's Disaster Loan Program.

Slated for drastic cuts are veterans benefits and services, Medicare, and several highway programs, as well as many health care services and education programs.

"I would note, however, that the Department of Defense will enjoy a healthy increase in their budget at the same time all of these programs which inner America relies on for survival are being eliminated or cut to the bone," Rahall pointed out. "I fear that the President's new commission he referred to during the State of the Union Address to study the plight of poor families will have much to observe in West Virginia should his travesty of a budget be enacted. I will be more than happy to personally guide the commission on a tour of West Virginia to show them first-hand the disastrous effects of Gramm-Rudman and the Reagan budget."