

Keep Nick Rahall in Congress Committee

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RAHALL STRESSES UNITY IN ADDRESS TO MERCER DEMOCRATS

Bluefield, W.Va. - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) this evening told members of the Mercer County Democratic Club in Bluefield that a great deal of work remains to be done to revive West Virginia and that together that goal can be accomplished.

"In seeking re-election, I ask for your help," Rahall said. "We have a great deal of work to do to bring Southern West Virginia and Mercer County roaring back, and it will take a unified effort on our part to pull together in pursuit of this endeavor."

Rahall lauded Mercer Countians for their past support and called them pioneers in West Virginia's efforts to diversify its economy. The six-term Congressman held an Economic Development Seminar in Bluefield in May, 1987, in which a whole myriad of people interested in working together to rejuvenate the struggling economy of Mercer County were brought together.

"The enthusiasm shown at the seminar was very encouraging," Rahall stated. "The can-do spirit was evidence to me that this area could write the first chapter of a long success story in West Virginia."

Rahall added that the same kind of enthusiasm will carry the Democratic Party in West Virginia to victory on Election Day.

"The true Mountaineer Spirit is embodied by the Democratic Party in West Virginia. We are the party of the people -- compassionate, caring, people who look to the future rather than wallow in the past," Rahall commented. "We are the party of progress, the party of the working men and women of West Virginia, the party of our veterans and senior citizens. We are the party of the homeless, the voiceless, the poor and the handicapped, and above all, we are the party of the children, of the family."

Rahall said no other state in the union upholds the family values as proudly as West Virginia. He added that the family and children are the future of America and the education of children is a requirement for a successful future.

"Our future is based upon education -- the education of the bright young minds that are our greatest hope for the future, our most valuable natural resource. While the Reagan administration has consistently called for cuts in education throughout its seven years in the White House, it has always been the Democratic Party that has restored the funding and enabled so many of our young people to further their education," stated Rahall. "It is our young who will become the keeper of our national security and the custodian of the American dream. The dream that Democrats share of America, and which we share in West Virginia, is one that can be realized. It is not the impossible dream that the Republicans have tried to paint in defense of their own shortcomings and failures. It is not the budget-buster that the president constantly tries to lay on our doorstep."

Rahall commented that the dream of a thriving and prosperous America is one that is very real and attainable and that the Democratic Party has shown that it is the party most capable of making that dream reality.

"Democrats live in a real world, not fantasyland," Rahall declared. "The President in his final State of the Union address dusted off an old theme of his vision of America as a shining city on a hill. Undoubtedly, he was referring to the Hollywood Hills and not the West Virginia hills because he has never bothered to look past the false lights of his Hollywood presidency and see what his policies have done to the real people of America, our citizens of Appalachia."

Rahall concluded by stating that Reagan's proposal for local funding of educational improvements is out of focus with reality.

"Here in West Virginia, due to the Reagan administration policies, our economic base has eroded. How can the schools be adequately funded when there is such a huge vacuum in the revenue pool?" Rahall asked. Yet, this is what the president's grand vision was based upon. A mind is a terrible thing to waste, particularly when it can be saved. Yet, that is precisely the path we are being called to follow by the Republicans. It is surely a path I choose not to follow."