

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 31, 1988

CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT
202-225-3452

30 NEW JOBS COMING TO HUNTINGTON'S ROSE LAUNDRY, RAHALL SAYS

HUNTINGTON, W. VA. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced today that Rose Linen and Uniform Service will be hiring 30 new workers at its Huntington plant. These workers will be hired in 1989 as part of the expansion of Rose Laundry which began last year.

Speaking at a luncheon commemorating the one year anniversary of the re-opening of Rose Laundry, putting some 100 employees to work, Rahall announced that the expansion begun by Initial Holdings, USA would continue. "I am happy to stand here today, at the site of the grand re-opening one year ago today, to report on the progress that has been made and to share with you the plans for the future," Rahall told the gathering at the facility. "During this past year, the Rose Laundry has doubled its business revenue, added 20 new employees, installed a 700 pound high-tech washer, and established a new computer system. I am pleased to announce that they will also be adding 30 new jobs in the coming year."

Rahall has been working with officials of Initial, USA and its parent companies, Initial, plc, and BET Public Limited Company in the United Kingdom, ever since a fire completely destroyed the old Rose Laundry premises on January 23, 1987. "Over the past 22 months, I have worked very closely with Ambrose Ethington, president of Initial, USA and other officials of his company, both here in the U.S. and abroad, in an effort to rebuild and expand the Rose Laundry facility," Rahall said. "Obviously, our efforts have met with great success. The credit, however, goes not to me, or to Ambrose and his people. The credit goes to the working men and women of Rose Laundry. They are the real heroes in this saga."

Rahall also lauded the British investors and their U.S. counterparts for showing faith in the people of West Virginia. "When I first got together with the Ambrose and his associates, I told them that the best selling point I could make for rebuilding Rose Laundry was the quality of our people," Rahall noted. "Sure, it would have been easy to just go ahead and shut this place down but I told Ambrose to wait until he met the people here in Huntington before making a final decision. He did so and they have spent the last 22 months justifying the decision that Initial made to rebuild and expand. It is a tribute to their faith in our people and the pride and dedication shown by the Rose Laundry family in making this a true American success story."

At the luncheon, Rahall was presented with BET's Public Service Leadership Award by Ambrose Ethington. "Without Congressman Rahall's commitment to a private-public partnership approach to economic development and job creation for West Virginia, these seventy jobs and a new \$2.5 million laundry plant would have been located outside of West Virginia," Ethington stated in presenting the award to Rahall.

Rose Linen and Uniform Service re-opened October 31, 1987 with a ceremony attended by Rahall, Ethington, and many of Initial's and BET's American and British officials.