

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 10, 1989

CONTACT: T. KENT KEYSER

Acting Press

Secretary

PHONE: (202) 225-3452

## Rahall Applauds Applied Technology Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.--U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D - W. Va.) said today that an unprecedented version of a vocational education reauthorization bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 402 to 3. "This bill," said Rahall, "redefines the role and focus of vocational education in America and opens the door for American workers to the twenty-first century. The House has set the stage for the development of a world class work force. We in West Virginia will benefit tremendously from the innovations this bill will provide our educational system."

Rahall noted that, for the first time, vocational education is recommended to exceed \$1 billion in authorized funding. "It is about time," he said, "that this country's thinking returns to the prospect that an educated citizenry is crucial to our future economic and national security and stability. If we do not educate today's youth in such manner that they are ready for the workplace -- ready for entry-level jobs so that employers will not have to spend money of their own for remedial instruction in simple reading and math, then we are not going to have a workforce ready to compete within a global society, much less be able to develop the highly technical skills needed for our national defense."

The bill contains special programs of national significance. One, the business-labor-education partnerships, an amendment offered by Congressman Rahall, will infuse schools with the resources of business know-how through cooperative arrangements, under which business/labor will match dollar for dollar, the cost of any program established. Small businesses would only have to match 40 percent of funding projects, and the local chambers of commerce are encouraged, by statute, to get involved. Such partnerships can include internships (teachers apprenticing at the corporate level, corporate businessmen in the classroom in an exchange program), or it can include apprenticeships for students in the partner schools providing on-the-job training for the business partner. This program is authorized to be funded at \$20 million in FY 90 and such sums thereafter.

Rahall found that when he visited vocational-technical centers over the months just before the vocational reauthorization process began, both students and school administrators were desperately in need of state-of-the-art equipment to train students in work-related skills. Rahall introduced legislation with Rep. Chris Perkins (D-Ky.) to provide grants for the renovation and improvement of facilities, and to buy costly technological equipment necessary to teach today's students.

Rahall also took the lead in providing for a continuation of the \$40 million a year Consumer and Homemaking Education Program. With the demand for experienced child care providers on the rise, along with reported cases of

-- more --



child abuse, family violence, and children of homeless families on the increase, teaching young men and women the skills of parenting, coping with small family budgets, balancing home and work, and dealing with teenage pregnancy -- all combine to demand continuation of these programs that address those issues. Rahall stated, "I don't much care whether Jim and Judy learn to read from a cookbook, as long as they learn to read, but Consumer and Homemaking Education isn't about cooking and sewing anymore -- its about learning to read, and learning to balance checkbooks, and learning how to feed a family nutritionally, and how to protect a child and a family's overall health through preventive health practices. It is about the use of computers and other technological skills that even homemakers will use, at some stage of their life, and particularly if those young homemakers are required to work for their family's living."

Thursday, May 10, 1989

- 30 -

#### Rahall Applauds Applied Technology Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D - W. Va.) said today that an unprecedented version of a vocational education authorization bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 397 to 17. "The bill," said Rahall, "reaffirms the role and focus of vocational education in America and opens the door for American workers to the twenty-first century. The House has set the stage for the development of a world class workforce. We in West Virginia will benefit tremendously from the innovations that bill will provide our educational system."

Rahall noted that, for the first time, vocational education is authorized to exceed \$1 billion in authorized funding. "It is about time," he said, "that this country's thinking returns to the forefront that an educated citizenry is crucial to our future economic and national security and stability. If we do not educate today's youth in such manner that they are ready for the workplace -- ready for entry-level jobs as that employer will not have to spend money of their own for remedial instruction in algebra, reading and math, then we are not going to have a workforce ready to compete within a global society, much less be able to develop the highly technical skills needed for our national defense."

The bill contains special programs of national significance. One, the business-labor-education partnership, an amendment offered by Congressman Rahall, will infuse schools with the resources of business know-how through cooperative arrangements, under which business/labor will match dollar for dollar, the cost of any program established. Small businesses would only have to match 40 percent of training expenses, and the local chapters of commerce are encouraged, by statute, to get involved. Such partnerships can include internships (teachers participating in the corporate level, corporate businessmen in the classroom in an exchange program), or it can include apprenticeships for students in the partner schools providing on-the-job training for the business partner. This program is authorized to be funded at \$20 million in FY 90 and such years thereafter.

Rahall found that when he visited vocational-technical centers over the months just before the vocational authorization process began, both students and school administrators were desperately in need of state-of-the-art equipment to train students in work-related skills. Rahall introduced legislation with Rep. Chris Perkins (D - Ky.) to provide grants for the renovation and improvement of facilities, and to pay directly technological equipment necessary to teach today's students.

Rahall also took the lead in providing for a continuation of the 200 million a year Consumer and Homemaking Education Program. With the demand for experienced child care providers on the rise, along with reported cases of

-- more --