



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 23, 1990

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RAHALL PROTESTS FURTHER: STOP FOREIGN AID, AMERICA SHOULD BE FIRST

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today furthered his attack on the supplemental assistance bill, which would provide yet another billion dollars in aid to Nicaragua, El Salvador and Panama. The bill was defeated on the House floor, 244-171.

Questioning whether America has the resources during a time of severe budget crunching, Rahall said: "Mr. Speaker, I do not question the fact that there are many nations around the world which require economic assistance. Clearly, this is true. What I question is if we have the resources to provide assistance when there such severe need in our own country."

Rahall continued, "Our deficit stands at \$152.1 billion, our gross federal debt at \$2.8 trillion. We have seen real earnings between 1973 and 1986 decline 17 percent, and our merchandise trade deficit rise from \$19.3 billion to \$118.5 billion since 1980."

"Our method of addressing our serious budget problems has been tragically ironic. While we have freely provided economic development and assistance to foreign countries, we have simultaneously cut to pieces every 'little guy' program that would encourage economic development and assistance for our own people. EDA, ARC, UDAG, CDBG, EPA Construction Grants, all cut to feed the fire of foreign aid," said Rahall.

"Even more ironic is that while we are poised to pass a bill authorizing yet another billion dollars for foreign countries, we are struggling in a budget summit to make \$60 billion worth of cuts to a patchwork economy crippled from the twisted hand of foreign competition," said Rahall.

"The answer is not more taxes. The answer is to reorder our spending priorities," said Rahall. "Our first step should be to heal the wounds at home before we bandage the cuts of foreign countries. The answer is to defeat this bill and use that billion dollars to solve our own problems. If you don't know what to do with the money, I've got a couple of sewers in southern West Virginia that need building."

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**STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL
IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4636**

**MR. SPEAKER. I RISE IN STRONG
OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4636, A BILL TO
AUTHORIZE YET ANOTHER BILLION DOLLARS
TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

**MR. SPEAKER, I DO NOT QUESTION THE
FACT THAT THERE ARE MANY NATIONS AROUND
THE WORLD WHICH REQUIRE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. CLEARLY THIS
IS TRUE. HOWEVER, I DO QUESTION IF WE
HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PROVIDE SUCH
ASSISTANCE WHEN THERE IS SUCH NEED IN
OUR OWN COUNTRY.**

OUR DEFICIT STANDS AT \$152.1

BILLION, OUR GROSS FEDERAL DEBT AT \$2.8 TRILLION. REAL EARNINGS BETWEEN 1973 AND 1986 HAVE DECLINED 17 PERCENT. OUR MERCHANDISE TRADE DEFICIT HAS RISEN FROM \$19.3 BILLION TO \$118.5 BILLION SINCE 1980.

OUR METHOD OF ADDRESSING OUR SERIOUS BUDGET PROBLEMS HAS BEEN TRAGICALLY IRONIC. WHILE WE HAVE FREELY PROVIDED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, WE HAVE SIMULTANEOUSLY CUT EVERY SMALL PROGRAM THAT COULD PROVIDE NEEDED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR OUR OWN PEOPLE. EDA, ARC, UDAG, CDBG, AND THE EPA CONSTRUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR WATER AND SEWERS ARE JUST A

FEW OF THE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO THIS BUDGET CUTTING.] WHAT IS WORSE IS THAT THIS METHOD HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY INEFFECTIVE.

[EVEN MORE IRONIC IS THAT WHILE WE ARE POISED TO PASS A BILL AUTHORIZING YET ANOTHER BILLION DOLLARS FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES, WE ARE STRUGGLING IN A BUDGET SUMMIT TO MAKE \$60 BILLION WORTH OF CUTS, AND FIND A WAY TO EXCLUDE ANOTHER \$60 BILLION, USED TO BAIL-OUT MISMANAGED SAVINGS AND LOANS, FROM OUR DEFICIT CALCULATION.] WE MUST DO SO, AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO CHANGE OUR DEFICIT REDUCTION LAWS TO ALLOW FOR MORE DEBT THAN PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED,

BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE THE FUNDS TO PAY
OFF THIS MASSIVE DEBT AND BECAUSE OUR
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BILLION WORTH OF CUTS.

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PRIORITIES. OUR FIRST STEP SHOULD BE
FOR US TO REALIZE THAT WE MUST ADDRESS
OUR PROBLEMS AT HOME BEFORE WE CAN
AGAIN ASSIST OTHER NATIONS. THE ANSWER
IS TO DEFEAT THIS BILL AND USE THE
BILLION DOLLARS IT AUTHORIZES TO SOLVE
OUR PROBLEMS.