

DEC 01 1999

MR. LEWIS: Hi. My name is Corey Lewis. I'm here representing the Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities and the Great Basin Institute.

The Great Basin Institute is a field studies institute where we take students out into the back country of Nevada, and we study the wonderful ecological diversity of these areas, their value and their worth, and they are important to us and they are beautiful.

Even though many think they are wastelands.

1... [] What I'd like to address is the illusion of democracy I see before me, the illusion that we're following the NEPA process. []

The specific problems with the Draft EIS I'll address in my written comments, and they have been spoken about very clearly and

1 cont. articulately by the people who have been here before me. [] What I would just like to speak about right now is the smoke screen, the smoke screen that this is a democratic process. []

2... [] In the Republic Plato coined a term called the tyranny of the majority, and the tyranny of the majority simply defined is when one majority group imposes conditions on a minority group which they themselves would not agree to. And we have many examples of this throughout history.

We have examples that led up to the civil rights movement. Examples of the white majority treating African Americans differently, treating the western Shoshone in specific differently. Giving them conditions that they themselves would not wish on themselves.

Another term for this might be called domestic imperialism. I noticed that DOE is very quibbling to say there is no nuclear waste coming from foreign governments to our lands.

Well, what about domestic imperialism? What about the fact this waste is coming from places and states where they are benefitting from nuclear energy, they are creating nuclear waste, and yet 75 percent of Nevadans have said no to nuclear energy and nuclear waste? We're not generating it here, but we're supposed to take the conditions of its existence.

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2 cont.

That's what I call domestic imperialism. And my hat's off, even though they have already left, to all the young people that were here. There is a group that I think understands the term domestic imperialism. A minority that has conditions imposed upon them the majority does not follow.

They cannot vote. They cannot drive yet. They got on a bus and got here to speak about their future. They didn't create this waste, but they are going to have to live with it.

The Western Shoshone are another group which understand the term domestic imperialism and take it very seriously. Anybody who has ever had their land stolen out from under them, anybody who has read the Ruby Valley Treaty will take that term domestic imperialism seriously. I think as a whole Nevadans have shown that they are taking it seriously.

I would just like the DOE and the federal government to take the term domestic imperialism seriously because history has shown you cannot keep a minority group down for long. They will come back up, they will bite you in your back, and that's exactly what will happen if you do not listen to the minority you're stepping on here today.

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