

JAN 28 2000

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STEVE GANNIS: Hello. I thought there would be 500 to 1,000 people here. I'll try to be very concise. My name is Steve Gannis, I live in Lakewood. I've been, I guess, you could call an opponent of nuclear power for years around here. You know, opposing the Perry Nuclear Power Plant when it was being constructed and nuclear power here in this situation, you know, we're talking about high-level radioactive waste coming from the nuclear power plants and what to do with it or where to put it.

There's a few important points I think I'd like to make and after I'm done, if anybody would like to see me, I'll be hanging around for at least 10, 15 minutes, then I have to go. You know the U.S. Congress over the years, since the 50s, when this started, the nuclear waste thing you know, pretty much and the Presidents of the United States have been very irresponsible in permitting and, in fact, instigating and initiating the start of the nuclear power industry in supporting it, both Democrats and Republicans as a bipartisan thing, never knowing then or now where the radioactive waste can be safely put or what to do with it. [They never knew any safe disposal method, they still don't. And it was incompetent, irresponsible and a blunder and now the Congress and the President are -- and us, are stuck with this problem and no one knows what to do with it, no one knows what the solution is because there is no solution. There is no safe place to put it.]

The high-level radioactive waste, and for that matter even the low level radioactive waste, is so radioactive, it can kill you too, is going to be radioactive for up to thousands of years, many thousands of years, you know. So no matter where you put it, there's a problem.

[The DOE has, apparently, coming now to admit Yucca Mountain is not all that safe either, you know, so. And then the transportation problem. I think we need to look at the root problem, which the Congress wants to ignore, the President wants to ignore, the DOE and Regulatory Commission want to ignore, the nuclear industry, the nuclear utilities want to ignore, which is why keep generating this waste when you don't know what to do with it. If you're sink is over flowing, you don't just bail it out, you turn off the water.] In this case common sense was years ago, don't start making this waste if you don't know what to do with it and that's still true today. However, the Congress is full of corrupt self serving, phony, shifty, conniving politicians whose first priority seems to be get reelected and stay in office and make a whole lot of money and all that. They're not about to introduce legislation to phase out nuclear power and replace it with safe, clean energy like solar and wind. And by the way, solar and wind can be stored, like the sun goes down and the wind stops blowing. Studies have shown that wind power would be economically feasible on the north shore, here in the north coast of Ohio and there are wind farms in the other parts of the country.]

You know, it's like they do not really care about us. It's a tough problem and they don't want to take it on. And if a politician in Congress, a Congressman, or even the President, were to take on this issue, don't you think the nuclear industry would try to destroy them? Most likely. You look at what happened to Dennis Kucinich when he was Mayor of Cleveland. CEI, according to the reports, especially after the dust settled, CEI played a role in getting the banks to demand immediate payment of loans that normally would be rolled over that were, you know, owed by the City causing the financial default because Kucinich refused to sell Muni Light,

which is now Cleveland Public Power. And for his refusal to have the City give up this competitor of CEI, he was severely punished politically, had his political career derailed and was almost in political oblivion and now by hard work and maybe some luck, made a come back. So he learned a lesson of what happens when you go against one utility.

4 So what politician is going to go against 100 nuclear power plants and risk their political career. Well they should but unfortunately, that's not why they're in Congress, they're in Congress for their own personal purposes, it seems, not to knock themselves out to serve the public and jeopardize their political career, but they should. [So as far as where this nuclear waste can go, who knows, there is no safe place.

Leaving it on site is the worst place to put it, short of dumping it in the middle of Lake Erie. And the reason why is every nuclear power plant in the United States is sited on a river, a lake, or around the ocean coast. The reason being they need all that water for their operations, you know, millions of gallons. And yet if you leave the waste on Lake Erie, on a river, on an ocean coast, if there is a tornado, whatever, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has stated in a hearing they had in Lake County about the Perry Nuclear Power Plant that low level radioactive waste, if stored in a special radioactive waste storage building, that CEI was going to do there, but now apparently doesn't have to, could destroy the building and spread radio active waste around the community, according to testimony that was in the transcript from an official at the NRC. So a tornado can pick up a car, it can pick up a cow, can a tornado pick up a dry cask of radioactive waste and throw it in to Lake Erie, sure, why not?

You know you don't want to have it perched over Lake Erie, you got to get it somewhere else, you know, and if you're going to say leave it there until we find a good place, that might be never. There's no good place to put it.

A few other things. You know, Congressman Kucinich is so concerned about this issue, why doesn't he introduce legislation in Congress for a planned phase out of nuclear power, the generator of this high-level of radioactive waste. I think the answer is because he's a wimp. I asked him two years ago -- and I've been a strong Kucinich supporter for years. Two years I asked him, even had a meeting with him, that Connie Kline attended, asking him to introduce legislation to ban the recycling of radioactive waste into consumer products as the Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission have been planning to do and he stalled me for a year and a half before he'd give me an answer. His aides kept staying, "well, we're thinking about it, we'll get back to you," blah, blah, blah. So finally, after a year and a half, he gave me an answer. No, he won't introduce it. And why not? The answer may be found in the August 14th Plain Dealer and Washington Post article which stated that Vice President Al Gore was behind the move to have the deal to recycle radioactive waste, well, some radioactive waste, into consumers products. So if Vice President Gore, who now apparently is going to be President, wants this done would Kucinich want to oppose the most powerful person in the country? I doubt it, you know?

I'll try to sum it up. You know, you got these so called liberal democrat politicians who have these so called environmental positions that people look up to Congressman Stilts, he

refused to introduce legislation against radioactive waste. You gotta make these so called democratic environmentalist people in Congress, like Kucinich, put their money where their mouth is and they can talk all they want and say the right things, it amounts to very little. You know, let's get a campaign going to get Kucinich to introduce legislation to phase out nuclear power and replace it with safe, clean energy. To stop the generation of this waste because it's going to keep coming and coming. We don't know what to do with it. We're running around. We don't know what to do with it. And yet the federal government deliberately ignores the root problem, the generation of the waste, and we, the people, need to exercise our rights and demand Congress introduce legislation to phase out the generation of this waste, or at least most of it, through the nuclear power plants. So we need a campaign here to get Kucinich, Steve LaTurret in Lake County where the Perry plant is, the good republican that he is, he won't touch this issue. That's pretty much the size of it then.

Last but not least, public opinion is formed by the news media to a large extent on public issues. Here we have a case in Cleveland where the Cleveland Plain Dealer ran an article on this issue yesterday about this hearing, about the department of transportation by John Keener. And low and behold, it quoted one local, so called environmentalist on the issue, Chris Trepal or the Earth Day Coalition, although, John Keener in the Plain Dealer concealed and omitted the fact that the Plain Dealer is aware of that and has published a few years ago, that the Earth Day Coalition, which is based in Cleveland and calls itself the grassroots environmental group, has received at least \$100,000 from CEI over the past 10 years. And the Earth Day Coalition says it opposes nuclear power, then why is the nuclear power plant financing it? What a joke. It's duping the public and the Plain Dealer played a role in that article yesterday in duping the public by portraying the Earth Day Coalition as a legitimate environmental group when, actually, it's compromised by receiving over \$100,000 over the last 10 years.