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CORBIN HARNEY

1 MR. HARNEY: My name is Corbin Harney. I'm a Western Shoshone. I've lived here all my life. I'm one of the natives here in this part of the continent, and today we talk about documents, we talk about law. Now we as a Shoshone people have got a document reading, the land, 26 million acres belong to us under their treaty. Your government made those agreements with us and still today we carry that documents with us. Somehow the DOE, the Congress don't recognize the law. They're saying we're operating under Federal law. Where is that law?

2 And today I'd like to see people stand up to the right of what we been through as a native people. Remember 600 years ago we were massacred as a native people throughout this part of the continent, and today the DOE's doing the same thing to you people by telling you a lie, not truth at all. The people that's working for them is telling them it's not that dangerous, but at the same time when they get sick, you suppose they take care of them? No, they don't. They always have excuse as something else taking place. Spending money like if it's no end to it, coming out of your pocket.

3 Somehow we the people going to have to stand up to our right and purify our water, purify the air and take care of the people that's working. Them are my concern. I don't like to see people dying from cancer. I seen so many of it around the world. Somehow we are going to have to do something about it, so we have to be concerned about our younger generation. The younger generation behind us is the one going to suffer from the hands of the people that develop nuclear weapons.

4 How many people did we massacre in the other part of the country with a development that we done? Then we going still to do those things to us here in United States? We say this is supposed to be a peaceful land. I don't see that at all. When I talk to the DOE, the people, they always say you're word of the government. Where is the promise that they say they were going to take care of us? Where is that treaty they say, "This is your land"? They're not here. Somebody is telling somebody a lie here. This is my concern about each and everyone of you today. Your young folks that you're going to bring on to this mother earth, what kind of water are you going to give them? What kind of food are they going to be eating?

We are already beginning to see throughout the world contamination of all kinds. Plant life are dying. We see that. Bird life is dying. Everything is dying, and it, the DOE, the Congress -- I guess you say it's the Congress that makes the decision. They don't have no feeling for us. Don't seem like it to me. This is something that we got to think really strong on and talk about it, not to put it under the rug, let somebody else do the dirty work.

We are the people. Supposed to be the backbone of our government, I've been told. You are the backbone of the government, each and everyone of you. We got to have a healthier life. We cannot leave the dirty mess that we're putting on this mother earth when we leave. Maybe some of you people got homes to go back to. We as a native people can't. This is where we are born and raised. This is our land, but some of our ancestors come from some place else. Maybe you think you can go back over there. I don't think so. They're going to tell you you're already over there, so don't come back.

MR. LAWSON: Excuse me, Mr. Harney. I don't like to interrupt, but how much more time would you like?

MR. HARNEY: A few more minutes.

This has always been a white man way, time. Shut me off when I'm trying to say something.

MR. LAWSON: I apologize.

MR. HARNEY: It's always been that way. I've been shut off three times when I try to talk about that important issue that we're all faced with, each and everyone of us. We have to start talking about it. We cannot think somebody's going to do the dirty work.

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Each and everyone of us, I don't care where you come from, we're on this one earth together. We're drinking that same water everybody drinks, everyone drinks. I don't care what it is. Even the mosquito drinks water. Those are the things that we're going to have to protect. The life that was put here by the nature, we cannot walk away from it. We're going to have to change the direction. Our scientists are going to have to come up with a cleaner power, a cleaner water. Ain't no way that we're going to stop this water from flowing underneath us. It's already happening throughout the world.

Let's do something together. Let's talk to one another. Let's not go agin' each other and say, "I know better than you do," and I say there for you people. You don't know too much about this earth at all. Now you coming back to me and asking me what kind of herb can I use to heal myself? The native people know that. They lived here for millions of years, but we're not going to tell you unless if you want to begin it.

I see so many of you people that work at the Nevada Test Site told me I'm taking the butter -- bread and butter out of their mouth. The same people come back to me "Why didn't you holler a little bit louder? My aunt would have been a live, my brother would have been a live if you spell it out." So this is what we're all up against. Let's do something about it. Let's work together, be good neighbors to one another. Thank you.