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HOMER JOHNSON

MR. JOHNSON: Hell. I've been here all day waiting to speak. I've heard a lot from educated people, from lawyers, from doctors, but I'm a working class American and I noticed a large contingent of union people in here earlier and they're wondering about jobs. This isn't about jobs. It isn't about unemployment or employment. It isn't about unions or non-unions. It's about the right thing for the American people.

1 I come from east Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. I'm a carpenter by trade. My whole life has been that. My father was a carpenter, my grandfather was a carpenter. They both worked at the Oak Ridge Test Site, which -- I don't know if you're familiar with it. There's a lot of facilities up there, a lot of construction going on constantly, and my first job in the union as a carpenter was in Oak Ridge, and I had to wear a little meter, and at the end of the day, they checked not to see if I had caught any radiation, but to measure the radiation I had caught, and it's a low level thing, but yet my father right now is suffering from cancer because of that, because he worked there a lot. That was where a lot of the construction was.

My grandfather died of cancer, but at that time we didn't realize it was linked to that, but it is linked to that, and at the time the government guaranteed the workers there was no problem. "Ah, this is nothing." When they put it on me, this is nothing. Just to make sure. Just to make sure that you don't catch anything in here. So the government has always been trying to tell people that the problem doesn't exist, but it does, and low-level, high-level, no matter how you look at it, we get radiation from the sun, and believe me, I put on my sunglasses when I go outside because it's -- it's intense. You wouldn't imagine that you'd get that much, but yet there are astigmatisms in people's eyes when they get older, and I don't plan on being blind when I get to be 60.

2 But as for the rest of this, the transportation and everything. I'm not against a dump site. Right now there is nuclear radioactive stuff in Oak Ridge that I would hate to see get into the system in East Tennessee because the mountains there are beautiful, but it's been contained there. They have no mistakes. It's -- there's never been a leak there, that we know of, but yet our river systems are polluted by the industry in the area, anyway. But my main concern is if you're going to put it somewhere, put it in each state. Let this state be responsible for its nuclear waste. This state doesn't have that much nuclear waste, if any. I don't know the statistics, but I do know that if you put it in each state, find a spot, put it there and leave it there until technology can come up with a way to either spend it further and get rid of the radioactivity or just leave it into a deep line thing for hundreds of years until maybe they can control it.

6 But I know for a fact -- I was in the military and I took NBC Warfare, nuclear biological and chemical warfare training. It's not a joke when there's a spill. It's not a joke. It's not funny. It wouldn't be funny in your town. It wouldn't be funny to your children. Because once there's a spill, the cleanup effort alone, you can't expect it to just lie on the street and wait on you to clean it up. It's in the air, it's in the water that you're using the runoff to wash it. To decontaminate it you have to use water with chemicals in it to decontaminate that; then that becomes contaminated. You have to get rid of it.

3 On a large scale, if one of these trucks wrecked, and know I've seen the canisters, I've read the reports. I don't trust them. I don't trust them. I'm an American. I care about what's going on. I'm a carpenter. I'm a union carpenter. I care about the jobs. We don't stand to make any jobs up at Yucca Mountain, but even if we did, I would still be against it at Yucca Mountain because it has been tested. It's not -- every time I hear about Yucca Mountain, there's another problem as to what's going to happen. What would happen. What if there's an earthquake, what if that. I don't want to see it in this -- this whole state ruined because of something that the government overlooked.

4 There's an aquifer that runs down, and believe me, I lived on a property out on East Charleston that well  
water was all I drank. I thought it was the best tasting water around, and I'd hate to think that all the wells in  
this area would be destroyed because you had overlooked one small thing at Yucca Mountain.

5 So I'm not saying stop studying Yucca Mountain. Keep studying it if you want. Drill all the holes you want  
in that mountain, but make sure before you start bringing truck loads off it across the country, which it's  
being shipped across the country anyway right now, but a lot of people don't realize that, but make sure  
before you make this the whole site for the nation, but I myself think that it should be in the states that it's  
produced in. We're not the ones that are building the nuclear power plants in Nevada. The ones that are  
building the nuclear power plants Back East, they should have to get rid of theirs the way that they are  
supposed to, in their state, but they aren't. They're the big money. They're the ones that are pushing on this.  
They want to ship it across the country. They don't care if it dumps into Kansas. They don't care if a truck  
wrecks in Idaho. They don't care because it's out of their state by then.

So please, as an American, I'm asking you, look into everything before you decide on anything. Thank you  
for your time.