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MS. DETRAZ: I don't know if you can read this back in the back or not, but it says -- I guess first of all, I need to introduce myself.

My name is Majory I. Detraz. That's D as in David, e-t as in Tom, r-a-z as in zebra. Sometimes they call my Betraz, and that is incorrect.

MR. HADDER: May I assist in holding the prop?

1... MS. DETRAZ: Okay. Our sign says: "Do we oppose nuclear waste in Lincoln County? You bet. Our families are not expendable."

Now we have another sign that also says: "Do we oppose nuclear waste in Nevada? You bet. Our families are not expendable."

If Dolores thought she was unprepared, I've just gathered this material out in the back of my car, so I'm up here and I really am speaking extemporaneously.

...1 First of all, I'd like to tell you why this sign says: "Do we oppose nuclear waste in Lincoln County?" As you know, the State of Nevada has seventeen counties, and sixteen counties stood shoulder to shoulder in the beginning of all of this and said, "We will not accept nuclear waste in Nevada."

And who was the one county, and I say they played Judas Iscariot for the State of Nevada. It was Lincoln County.

I am a native of Lincoln County. I resent this. I also resent the fact that Yucca Mountain or the State of Nevada is the only site selected to put this rotten nuclear waste.

This is hazardous. It will kill people. Who do you think you are to put our families in jeopardy?

I come from a family of thirteen. I have -- I have lots of little nieces and nephews. Who is going to protect these tiny ones, their parents, and yet you can see very few parents here, very few grandparents here.

Part of the problem is communication. You don't advertise this. I found out about this meeting and my niece woke me up at seven o'clock the other morning and she said, "Aunt Marge, turn your radio on. They're talking about something about Yucca Mountain."

Well, I -- she woke me up. It took me five minutes to wake up. Got in, finally got the radio, finally found 840 and all the man kept saying was "they want to change the rules in the middle of the game," and I thought -- and then he mentioned there was going to be a meeting in Pahrump and one in Las Vegas, and first I thought it was a DEIS meeting, and then he kept saying. "they want to change the rules in the middle of the game," and I kept saying where is the meeting? He just said Pahrump and Las Vegas. No time, no date.

Is it any wonder that there are no parents and no grandparents, no aunts and uncles?

I've been working against nuclear waste in Lincoln County since 1995 when some of our political leaders passed this resolution, and it was the opening for the DOE to get their foot in the door in the State of Nevada, and I'm telling you right now the people of Lincoln County -- I'm not talking about the business people or some of our political leaders, and it isn't all of our political leaders, but evidently the majority of them, they do not want nuclear waste in Lincoln County or Nevada.

2 We know that the people in the State of Nevada, seventy percent of them are opposed to nuclear waste. Our governor doesn't want it, or Congressmen, Shelley Berkeley, our Congresswoman and our Congressman does not want it. Our two State Senators, our national senators do not want it.

Will you tell me why then we have to take nuclear waste in the State of Nevada? Do we live in Russia or China or do we live in the United States of America?

We should not have to take it and we are not going to take it, and I think for the DOE to keep pushing like they are, it's about time that we ask to have the DOE abolished. Everything they touch, they ruin. Even giving our nuclear secrets to China.

Can you imagine that? What would happen if they did that in Russia? They'd been dead the next day, wouldn't they with a bullet right in their head?

But here in America we -- we try to follow the rules, but they're not following the rules. Here they want -- what is this tonight? Want to change the rules in the middle of the game?

3 You see what they do to our Indians, our Native Americans. They own Yucca Mountain. They have a treaty with their government. They've never done anything to break the treaty. Then who did break it? The government. And that's tied in with the DOE.

And I still cannot understand why the people have to accept this, and we don't have to accept it.

Let me just tell you here. Now we know we're going to be -- if they have their way, we're going to have the high-level waste here in Nevada, and then this comes from Friday, December 10th, 1999 from the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

"The Energy Department has chosen two sites, one in Nevada and one in Washington State to become the nation's permanent dumps for low-level -- low-level. Get that, folks -- "government officials said," and they never tell you -- now who's that official? How come we never get a name so we can write him a letter?

"A government official said the Nevada Test Site, 65 miles north of Las Vegas and the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Washington," which is so contaminated so they want to put some more up there, "would receive and dispose of low-level waste from other federal sites around the country."

Yippy Skippy. We get it from all the country. Yeah. We don't want it, folks. We've taken our turns in the '40s and '50s. Let's let Mr. Murkowski from Alaska take it. He's trying to push it. He's in the Senate. He wants to put it in Nevada. Let's just tell him "Hey, Senator. Take it to Alaska. Larry Craig from Idaho. He wants to give it to Nevada. Mr. Craig, you can have it in Idaho. Idaho doesn't want it. They just shipped theirs out to WIPP in New Mexico.

You tell me how much sense this makes. Dig up this -- this nuclear waste that's been in Idaho for fifty years. Boy that ought to be in great shape to take it from Idaho to New Mexico.

4 How many states is that going to cross? How many people are going to be in jeopardy because it's crossing their state?

And then let's just talk a little bit about bringing this from Back East out to Yucca Mountain. It's going to cross forty-three states, mind you. How many millions, millions of people are going to be put in jeopardy? Their families, are they expendable? I think not.

5 I'm sick and tired of these games. You know we go to these meetings and it's well, we go to the ones up in Lincoln County and it's well, now we're going -- tonight we're going to push this little thing, and then we're going to push this one and then we get up and we oppose it, you know, and then they tell us no.

6 They tell us all the time it's coming, anyway, so you might as well accept it because you're going to get some money for it.

How many of you would sell your kids? Would you sell your kids for a million dollars? Would you sell one of them, all of them? No, you wouldn't. Who do they think they are?

Because we're a small state, but we're not a small state. Look what's coming into Clark County. It's the fastest growing city in the nation, and yet they want to put that stuff one hundred miles north of Las Vegas. They want to put it fifty-five miles from where I live.

7 I have a husband with Parkinson's. He's in the Lincoln County Hospital. Do you know what? If they bring it through and there's a nuclear incident, do you know where they're going to take those contaminated people? To the Lincoln County Hospital where my husband with Parkinson's is, where a sister with a stroke is, where a brother who has rheumatoid arthritis and can hardly move is, and besides all of those other patients that I know so well that they're like an extended family, to those people that hospital is home.

Some of them are 90 years old and they want to bring these contaminated people in there.

Okay. You can't see this, but it's a picture, picture of a tornado in Oklahoma. This gentleman can tell you. Does it look like an atomic bomb in this picture?

This photograph of a tornado in Oklahoma --

MR. BROWN: I'm sorry. You're at the 10-minute mark. I just wanted to let you know.

MS. DETRAZ: Okay. Are there others speaking?

MR. BROWN: Let me ask. Are there other folks who -- we've got at least two here.

MS. DETRAZ: Okay. Do we have till ten o'clock?

MR. BROWN: I believe we do.

MS. DETRAZ: Okay. Well then, is it all right if I speak a little longer?

MR. BROWN: Of course. Yes, it is.

MS. DETRAZ: Thank you.

8 It said this photograph of a tornado in Oklahoma note the date May 6th, 1999, last year, folks, and it carries a double message. "What would a nuclear explosion look like? Do you think a tornado of this magnitude could overturn a truck or a train as it carries nuclear waste across forty-three states including Nevada to reach Yucca Mountain?"

I think -- yeah, I think that could do it. I think that really could.

Now this is an article from the Las Vegas Sun, and it's dated Sunday, December 5th, 1999. That's just a couple of months ago, and they -- they title it the "Day of Reckoning," and I crossed "reckoning" out and I put "infamy," the day of infamy, and it says: Nuke plants running out of space as they wait for Yucca decision," and it goes on here to describe how wonderful it is back in Calvert Cliffs County, Maryland.

Oh, that says that the leaves are gold and green and the -- that the birds are flying and the deer are just running through the woods, and then it says: "This beautiful setting seems a strange place to find one of the nastiest substances on earth.

"But nestled on this former Maryland tobacco farm is the State's only nuclear power plant where two 850 megawatt nuclear reactors generate electricity for 450,000 households" -- we don't have any of those out in the west, do we -- and 35 to 40 tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste a year."

9... Now I'm just going to skip around because this is pretty long one, but right here -- they're always telling us how safe this is. They're going to put it in these casks that last 10,000 years.

...9 Do you know anybody that's been around 10,000 years that could vouch for these things? I don't.

10 Okay. It says: "Armed guards and radiation experts escort a truck transporting a nuclear waste cask from an indoor storage pool at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant to an outdoor storage bunker nearby."

Now, you tell me that -- that it's safe and it takes armed guards and radiation experts to escort one truck, one truck, and folks, they're not talking about bringing this for one year. They're talking about thirty years, folks.

You think they're not going to have a whole bunch of accidents in thirty years? And you know if they -- if they get it out there, it won't be thirty years because they'll keep generating it Back East and they'll be shipping it out to the west. It won't be just thirty years.

This is such an insane idea, it's worse than the MX missile.

Okay. Let's go on to the second page. I have to look here. Well, you're going to be lucky. I'm going to skip to the last page, but it's a good one, too.

"Senate's two leading supporters of storing nuclear waste in Nevada are preparing for a fierce battle with Nevada Senators Richard Bryan and Harry Reid. Senator Larry Craig, Republican Idaho, and Frank Murkowski, Republican Alaska want to send the nation's nuclear waste, eventually 77,000 tons, to Nevada for permanent storage.

"Waste now stored at nuclear power plants across the nation would be shipped to Yucca Mountain ninety miles northwest of Las Vegas" -- let's see. Lost my place here.

Well, it's shorter than I thought. I said a hundred, they said ninety. "Northwest of Las Vegas as early as 2007, according to the latest nuclear waste storage bill.

"Craig and Murkowski are gearing up for another debate on the bill to come after Congress resumes January 24th," and they're getting ready to do it next week, I understand.

"The two will continue to clash with Bryan and Reid, Democrats who are well-known for opposing waste storage in Nevada."

Now get this, folks. "The biggest problem is what to do with the waste in this country." Now listen. "'It's a political problem,' Craig said. 'It's not a scientific problem. It's not an engineering problem. It's purposely political.'" How blatant can you get?

And then he says, "Not in my backyard," and when somebody says that to me, I say to him "and not in my front yard, either."

"Murkowski and Craig spoke recently with the Sun, the Las Vegas Sun in separate interviews. Together they receive more than $140,000.00 from nuclear industry related political action committees between 1994 and 1998."

They should be in prison. They should be in prison and they're probably running to -- this year. I hope not, but to go back to the Senate. Six years is way too long for them.

"'This is something the country has to do,' Craig said. 'We cannot sit idly by and let nuclear waste pile up across the country. The waste debate likely could come down to an important issue.' Who should set standards for radiation emitted by stored waste at Yucca Mountain? Reid and Bryan advocate the Environmental Protection Agency standards, 15 millirem per year with a separate 4 millirem standard for groundwater.

"Craig and Murkowski" -- sure, of course. "Craig and Murkowski prefer the Nuclear Regulatory Commission standard, 25 millirem. 'What we want is to make sure that the measuring is under a regulation that allows waste to go to Yucca,' Murkowski said."

This is an insult to every citizen in the State of Nevada.

"Craig and Murkowski say the EPA standard is so low, it could disqualify Yucca as a waste site." Yippy. That's what we want.

"The EPA has reduced the radiation standard to a drinking water standard that is unreasonable and unrealistic." Now get this one, folks. This is a dandy. "Craig said, 'If anyone sits in front of the TV, you will receive more radiation than is being proposed for Yucca Mountain.'" Do you feel pretty dumb you don't understand that?

"Bryan and Reid say the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should not set standards because it has a cozy relationship with power plants.

"Murkowski and Craig can't say, 'We don't like what the EPA says. They can't just pick another agency that agrees with their position,' Reid said in a recent interview with the Sun.

"The Nevada Senators said they were confident thirty-two other Senators would oppose the bill, enough to sustain a veto which President Clinton has threatened to use if the bill passes.

"'The linchpin of all this has always been the presidential veto,' Bryan told the Sun. Craig said, 'The Nevada Senators' -- Larry Craig said, 'The Nevada Senators have used inflammatory rhetoric in attempts to kill the bill.' Both Craig and Murkowski say, 'Nevada Senators are unfairly trying to scare other senators by overstating the dangers of transporting waste.'

"'Military waste has been moved around the United States for years without one injury,' they argue. 'Clearly you can move the stuff safely,' Murkowski said. He added, 'They move it in Europe all the time by ship, by train, by truck. It can be very easily done.'"

Good, Murkowski, then you move it up to Alaska.

11... "'It's safer, cheaper and more efficient to store the waste in one place.'" You bet. Right where they generate it. I lost my place.

In one place, "Craig said: 'Yucca seems the safest place to store it.' He said, 'Scientists have been studying Yucca for years to determine if it's the best location for waste with no final conclusions.'"

I'll agree with him there. Can you imagine how many billions and billions of dollars have been used out there at Yucca Mountain? You can't even comprehend the number of dollars.

"'I have an obligation to address the oversight and we all have a responsibility'" -- oh, wait. "Murkowski assumed the lead role in advocating Yucca because he is chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. 'He said'" -- now get this -- "'Alaska has no stored nuclear waste." That's what Murkowski said. Good. He can have ours.

"'I have an obligation to address the oversight and we all have a responsibility to do something with it.'"

...11 Yep. Let's put it back there where we generate it and keep it there.

"Murkowski said -- he said, 'Clinton was irresponsible for ducking the issues. They don't want to have to do it on their watch,' Murkowski said. 'Our technology created this and we have a responsibility to resolve this. Our bottom line is that we welcome a better solution. That is what Congress decided a long time ago, long before I got here, and this is what we would do.'

"Craig and Murkowski said they support funding for accelerated transmutation, a process of breaking down waste faster than it would normally decay, but not in lieu of proceeding with Yucca.

"'The government needs to purpose sue both transmutation technology and permanent waste storage at Yucca,' they said. Craig said, 'Senators are likely to debate the nuke waste issue for more than a week in February or March." We're in February, folks.

"'It's been debated quite a bit,' Murkowski said. 'There's not a lot left to debate. I think the temperament of the senators is that if it isn't us, then it will be those that follow. It won't go away.'"

MR. BROWN: I'm wondering if --

MS. DETRAZ: I'm going to conclude now.

MR. BROWN: Okay. Because there are two others who'd like to speak.

MS. DETRAZ: I just want to read this. "I am Nevada. Like my country, like my schools and my churches, I have a favorite song which is known and sung as my state song. It is called 'Home Means Nevada.' If you love me, you will learn my song and sing it, especially at public gatherings. As you read its words, you will see that it tells about and praises many things about me. I love its words and its tune. I know you will, too. When you sing it, be proud of its message. It really has one." Well, I'm just going to read it. Not going to sing it.

Okay. It says: "Home means Nevada." Now you just think about this, folks. This is our state song.

"Way out in the land of a setting sun where the wind blows wild and free. There's a lovely spot just the only one that means home sweet home to me.

"If you follow the old Kit Carson trail until desert meets the hills, oh, you certainly will agree with me it's a place of a thousand thrills.

"Home means Nevada. Home means the hills. Home means the sage and the pines. Out by the Truckee silvery rails, out where the sun always shines.

"There is the land that I love the best. Better than all I can see. Right in the heart of the golden west, home means Nevada to me.

"Whenever the sun at the close of day colors all the western sky, oh my heart returns to the desert gray and the mountains towering high.

"Where the moon beams play in shadowed glen with the spotted fawn and doe, all the live long night until morning light is the loveliest place I know.

"Home means Nevada, home means the hills, home means the sage and the pines. Out by the Truckee silvery rails, out where the sun always shines.

"There is the land that I love the best. Fairer than all I can see. Right in the heart of the golden west. Home means Nevada to me," and as a native Nevadan, I can say this is very true as do all of you who live in Nevada. You live here because you like Nevada or you wouldn't be here, and I -- I thank you people for giving us the opportunity, although not nearly enough people have been given this opportunity, but I'm grateful to have had this minute -- few minutes to speak and to -- to just tell you how I feel about this issue, and thank you very much.