

RECORDED

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MR. TADLOCK: My name is Joe Tadlock,

9 T-A-D-L-O-C-K.

10 I'm a 36-year resident of Las Vegas. I have  
 11 a wife and two kids that I'm raising here. I'm a  
 12 former construction worker at the Nevada test site, two  
 13 and a half years on the weapons site, a little over  
 14 five years in construction at the Yucca Mountain  
 15 project. I've heard during that time and since then a  
 16 lot of bovine refuse from both sides of the nuclear  
 17 issue.

18 Like the gentleman before me who wishes to  
 19 discuss paid lobbyists in favor of nuclear energy, I  
 20 have witnessed paid protestors bust into this state  
 21 from colleges out of state that when I've discussed  
 22 with them why they were here and what they were  
 23 protesting, their comments to me were, "We were paid  
 24 and we were on a break from school and it sounded like  
 25 fun." Yet, the news media portrays them as concerned

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1 citizens of Nevada, which they're not.

2 My interest in this issue is purely for  
 3 serious science. Having worked up at the Nevada test  
 4 site, I come here tonight and I see signs in the  
 5 parking lot saying Nevada is not a nuclear wasteland,  
 6 that we don't want nuclear waste out here. Those  
 7 people have not set foot on a Nevada test site.

8 I hear a lot of what may be, but I don't hear  
 9 addressed what is. What is, is that the Nevada test  
 10 site is a nuclear wasteland and it has been for over 40

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11 years. I would like someone to tell me what useful  
12 purpose that piece of land will ever serve for anything  
13 else other than nuclear-related issues. Is Steve Wynn  
14 going to fill some of those craters with lakes and put  
15 hotels around them? No. Are the Indians going to move  
16 back on that property? Unlikely. It is contaminated  
17 forever and cannot serve any other useful purpose that  
18 I know of. If it can, I'm certainly open to anyone to  
19 tell me.

20 In my opinion, we do have serious nuclear  
21 waste issues in this country. I'm not so far convinced  
22 that a safe route has been proposed to bring that stuff  
23 here if, in fact, it does come here. But if through  
24 serious science the Yucca Mountain project is deemed  
25 safe and if there can be a safe route of transportation

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1 constructed to bring it here, then I would be in full  
2 favor of it because I take a view myself not only as a  
3 citizen of Nevada, but as a citizen of the country at  
4 large and this is a national issue.

5 I don't want to see anyone's backyard be  
6 contaminated, but our backyard already has been  
7 contaminated. That's the way things are. We can try  
8 to delude ourselves and call it a pristine wilderness,  
9 but it's not.

10 I had a point I wanted to make and I'm trying  
11 to remember what it was. I guess that's pretty much  
12 it. I have seen the state of Nevada stonewall progress  
13 out there in the study phase. They'll tell the media

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14 that they want to cooperate with the study, to bring  
15 this to a hard scientific conclusion, but that's not  
16 the case. I understand there is a lot of opposition to  
17 that, to the project in Nevada and that's fine, but if  
18 this project is going to be deemed scientifically safe  
19 or unsafe. Then everyone has to cooperate to make sure  
20 that that study can be completed. And I'm not seeing  
21 that.

22 I think DOE obviously paints a very  
23 optimistic picture of the study and its opponents are  
24 painting a pessimistic picture and somewhere in between  
25 there is some hard science that isn't getting out. I

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1 guess if I had something to complain about, that would  
2 be it, is that the citizens of Nevada are getting a lot  
3 of hype. But from what I've seen, based on what is the  
4 Nevada test site is good for nothing else but for  
5 nuclear usages. I'm not necessarily happy about that,  
6 but that's the way it was long before I got here. So I  
7 think we need to make the most constructive use of  
8 what's here as things are now. Thanks. That's all.