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17 MR. CHASE: I'm Steve Chase. I'm a resident

18 of Las Vegas and a business owner. I am a father. I

19 was a teamster at one time myself. And a culinary

20 worker member. And I'm glad that your father is still

21 alive. But some of them aren't. And my father's one

22 of them, actually. And he died of cancer. But it

23 wasn't necessarily specifically from this.

24 I don't have any great prepared statement

25 like many of the people have. I'm amazed that I'm even

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1 here. I'm thankful for the publication of this event,

2 not from the minuscule legal requirements of them, but

3 of that which I saw in the newspaper, and I just felt

4 that since this might be the last opportunity. I

5 wanted to make it abundantly clear to my government

6 that they do not have my permission to put nuclear

7 waste anywhere in our country, and certainly not here.

8 They do not have permission to create any more of it.

9 The problem that we're dealing with here, and

10 the only thing I can think of that hasn't been spoken

11 of too much, there have been very many good reasons to

12 not put it here already spoken. The only reason the

13 people that I've heard who have spoken in favor of
14 letting it be here have been people who have cited
15 monetary issues and the fact that they personally
16 haven't suffered or that their family members or their
17 businesses would benefit from it. Those are the only
18 reasons that I have heard in favor of having it here.

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19 But I don't think a price can be put on the
20 lives. I don't think there is any way of counting the
21 cost. It's like for an alcoholic to take one drink.
22 The price of the bottle is only the down payment.
23 There's no way of counting the cost.

24 There's no science good enough to assure us
25 that this can safely be done. The people who unleashed
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1 the weapons in the first place, many of them realize
2 that after the fact. They have tried to stop it.

3 Very little has been spoken this evening
4 about the alternatives to this entire thing. They've
5 said how wonderful it is that 20 percent of our energy
6 comes from nuclear power, and I would imagine if this
7 gets going, the industry would prefer to have it be a
8 higher percentage because they can say, look, now we
9 have a safe place to put it. That's not true. And

10 there are alternatives.

11 The money, the Department of Energy should be
12 spending money developing wind power, solar power,
13 geothermal power. We should be encouraging people to
14 conserve energy, to use less, instead of building
15 larger houses and consuming more. Thinking that
16 somehow is an improvement in life. It's not. I have
17 had a substantial amount of money at times, and I have
18 been poor at times. But I'm considerably more wealthy
19 now than at an earlier time in my life when I had more
20 money, because I believe I now understand that wealth
21 is not money.

22 The few people of whom I hope, I want -- that
23 are simply coming to these things because they care
24 about their brothers and their future and they care
25 about their children and their children's children, are

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1 the ones that hopefully will swing the balance. The
2 ones who may, when the time comes, find it necessary to
3 lay their life down for their brother in front of a
4 train. You know, what more noble thing could be done?
5 And it's just amazing to me that we're here, in spite
6 of the fact that the only reason that this is happening

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7 is because of the legal requirement that only the

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8 minimum portions of it are being kept.

9 They don't really want to hear us. But I do

10 know that when I'm face to face with someone, it's

11 impossible for them not to hear. So I do hope and pray

12 that some sort of change will occur in the hearts of

13 those people who have the power to make these choices.

14 I know I'm not that person.

15 It's not really much of a democracy. I hope

16 that some kind of a change will happen, even if you

17 have to quit your job and they'll immediately put

18 somebody else in your place who will do what you're

19 supposed to do. That will still be a tremendous

20 victory if you're able to do that, if you're able to

21 tell the truth.

22 I commend the gentleman, the doctor here who

23 apparently told the truth to our mayor when he looked

24 him face to face and said can you assure me that this

25 is absolutely safe? And he said, no. I can't do it.

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1 No one can do that.

2 It's ridiculous to even think that an

3 accident won't happen. Many examples have already been

4 given of how every site that you have has been
5 contaminated. There have been accidents in other
6 countries and in parts of our own country that are
7 publicized. There may be others we don't know about.

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8 It's an extremely dangerous source of power.
9 The whole idea of nuclear energy is the problem. It's
10 not about what to do with the waste. That's the thing
11 that we in this country, we do all the time. We like
12 just use it now. Who cares about the rest?

13 MODERATOR BROWN: You're at the 5-minute
14 mark.

15 MR. CHASE: Already said more than I thought
16 I would, but I want to make it abundantly clear you do
17 not have my permission to do that. I'm an American
18 citizen, and I can trace myself back to the signing of
19 the Declaration of Independence, which is not as good
20 as the Indian people before, but it's an embarrassment
21 to me to be an American when we're doing the things
22 we're doing to the world and showing arrogance that we
23 have. Of thinking that what we do is, who cares? I
24 mean it's not just the Nevadans that are being stepped
25 on here. It's all of us, stepping on the whole world.

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1 We're all Indians here tonight.

2 I don't know anyone in the room -- if there

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3 is anyone -- who are actually in favor of it being

4 here, who aren't thinking of some kind of monetary

5 position. No one's spoken that way that I know of.

6 And the most of us are here, and we have no monetary

7 gain at all, and we're all opposed to it, so please

8 take that message back, sir.

9 I know the policemen that are here tonight, I

10 hope they get to hear some of this, because they're

11 also just regular citizens. I'm just a regular citizen

12 from the street, and if you polled us here in Nevada,

13 you would have what, many, very high percentage would

14 be opposed to it. Probably nationwide, a high

15 percentage would be opposed to it. We're not that

16 unthinking. But you don't want to do that, do you?

17 You want to cram it down our throats anyway. I hope

18 you don't. Because ultimately we all have to answer

19 for our actions, and there is an authority much higher

20 than our government to whom we have to answer. Thank

21 you for letting me share.