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JAN 11 2000

MR. VASCONI: This will be a hard act to follow, so I will sing -- well, you would not be appreciative of my singing. We had a meeting this morning. It was just about this many people in a smaller room and everybody cooperated. I appreciated all the comments.

Now does my time start? Fine. For those of you who aren't from Nevada, welcome to Nevada. It's the seventh largest state. What does that mean to you? Well, for example, let's go by the square mileage type thing. It's about the same size as Italy. With the last name of Vasconi, that's a good comparison, I guess. Another good comparison is if you took nine of the original thirteen states, colonies, nine of them would fit inside the State of Nevada. We only have two counties, Douglas and Storey, that are smaller than Rhode Island. It's just trivia, but I like trivia. It relaxes me and gets me in the mood to talk. Otherwise we can go to ten Belguims, three Portugals or seven Denmarks inside the boundaries of the State of Nevada. The only state that has more federal land than the State of Nevada is Alaska.

- 1... Yucca Mountain. [Many Nevadans, I among them, view the project as a viable solution to this nation's
2 nuclear waste issues and concerns.] Keep in mind Yucca Mountain's being built with today's technology, today's minerals, today's education. I am one of the people that firmly believe leave it monitored, temperature for water, et cetera. Leave it retrievable.

I believe our educational system will provide us in a few hundred to 300 years with another doable solution. It may be the fact that Yucca Mountain will be looked at as a stewardship, a stewardship, a renewable energy source.] To date, scientific evidence is insufficient to determine whether or not Yucca Mountain is as suitable as this nation's repository for high-level waste. Sound science, health and safety standards and regulations, environmental safeguards have been reviewed, modified, in some cases approved by such independent institutions as the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board and the National Academy of Sciences. Government agencies such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Transportation and the EPA, all feds, are still evaluating their evidence.

Nevada. Nevada became a state in 1864, as you all know. This portion of Nevada didn't become part of the state until 1867. The majority of the state came from Utah. This portion came from what was New Mexico, became Arizona. Anything below the 37th line, parallel line is recipient of a grant from the Congress standing of the boundaries of Nevada to include the Colorado River source. Trivia. Utah, where he came from, didn't become a state for thirty-two years. New Mexico and Arizona didn't become a state for forty-six more. That shows you how important the Comstock really was.

- 1... [Sacrifices. We've heard of sacrifices, Nevada sacrifices. The fact that we have the NTS, a place where we detonated 928 nuclear devices, a hundred of them were air deliverable. 828 were detonated underground. Twenty-four of them with Great Britain. You convince this old man that the technology at that Nevada Test Site didn't lead in some respects to the tearing down of the Berlin wall. In my lifetime, I never expected to see the Soviet Union break up into countries.

Nevada's founding. Eighty-eight years from 1776 to this date statehood, we talk about sacrifice. The population in 1864 was 21,000 people. Civil War. You ever heard of Manassas, Vicksburg, Bull Run, Gettysburg? This nation sacrificed, too. We lost more men at those battles than the entire population of the new state called Nevada. Nevada's dirt of Yucca Mountain does not equal the measure of men's sacrifice for this nation up to and including 1864.]

- 3 [Yes, we have a problem with DOE. We have a problem with EPA. We need educators. Our rural
4... communities need education.] We talk about terrorism. Somebody mentioned terrorism. Why would you want to attack a -- a cask full of spent fuel rods? Right out here at Nellis Air Force Base, we have 1,450

...4 nuclear devices. If you want to shoot a missile at something, that ought to light our fire. We don't see anybody saying, "How long are they going to last, 10,000 years?" They got there. They got there on B-52s, they got there with trucks.

5 DOE needs to address impact mitigation, environmental, socioeconomic, transportation. Transportation. We all know about transportation in all of our communities. Anybody that's looked at a Nevada map know all the mountain ranges run north and south. There aren't a hell of a lot of routes left. This is where we're at. I think the DOE, the people involved ought to provide more moneys to the rural counties for oversight and impact studies.

6 Alternate routes. I'll give you an alternate route: To Carlin, the railroad system. Out of the -- out of the county called Clark right through the geographical center of the State of Nevada. Once the waste is hauled, what do we have? We have a railroad system for the economic development and issues of geographical center for the State of Nevada.

MR. LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

7 MR. VASCONI: Thirty seconds? Okay. Hang on. [I believe this is a -- a national issue. We talk about spent fuel rods. We talk about the fact that there's X number of -- of commercial facilities. It's more than that. We have 115 submarines. We've got aircraft carriers. We've got reactors inside of universities. Hey, a lot of that's a national issue.]

...1 [The no action alternative, we have recognized issues and concerns. Perhaps we should find time for a little meaningful dialogue. Nevadans, some consider themselves not a part of this nation's nuclear issues and concerns, but we well may be the solution for many future generations of Americans.

In conclusion, let science decide the final resolve of the Yucca Mountain Project and this high-level nuclear waste repository, not politics. Nevadans need to maximize the benefits, the entitlements, the equity issues that can be realized by our communities, our state as a result of the scientific and technological expertise that has been developed at the Nevada Test Site over the last five decades. You know, we have the mountain, we have the management, we have the men. Let the evaluation of the studies continue. Thank you very much.