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1 FRANK PERNA: My name is Frank Perna, P-e-r-n-a. I'd like to address whether we should have blind faith in our government. I don't think so. This is a congressional service report given to the politicians, May 27th, 1999. And here's the statement: The question of safety must be examined in the context of related risks and consequences. In addition, it should be tempered with the realization that there will always be some residual uncertainties in predicting such things as the long-term behavior of a repository. As a report of the National Resource Council points out, science simply cannot prove in an absolute sense that a repository will be safe as defined by EPA standards and NRC regulations.

This is May 27th, '99. They should have stopped then. All we're doing is guessing. That's what they're doing for us. And as far as having blind faith in your government, what about the statements coming out of our present administration? We have a lot of hypocrisy and untruths.

2 We have Senator Murkowski, who was elected in 1980, and Senator Domenici, who was elected in 1972, who were the proponents of the 1987 nuclear bill -- of the repository bill. All it was was an ending bill to them. They just didn't want this stuff in their states.

We have Vice President Cheney and Bruce Babbett, who either was a hypocrite when he was in the Clinton administration or he's a hypocrite today, I'm not sure which one he is, saying that nuclear energy is clean, safe and economic. Boy, would I love to debate that.

Clean? Sure it's clean if all you look at is a smoke stack. What about this toxic nuclear waste that they want to transport through 41 states over 28 years, six convoys a day? I mean, that's nuts. That ain't clean.

Safe? Well, I guess we have to forget about Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, then it's safe.

Economical? This industry in 1954 when we decided to use nuclear power to produce electricity our government gave you, all of us, the liability for the waste. What other industry do we go out and collect their garbage? Do we collect garbage off the auto manufacturers? That belongs -- that responsibility was theirs. It should never have been ours, so we were sold out in '54. They got a lot of power today, but we were sold out in '54.

And in the meantime they passed the Price-Anderson Bill which limited their liability, their liability in the event of an accident. And all the while they began subsidies and tax breaks, research and development moneys.

Economical? They made a statement when they first started producing nuclear power it's going to be too cheap to meter. You know what, now it's too expensive to use.

So you can't trust your government. Please don't have blind faith in them. As far as I'll give you another reason why you shouldn't have blind faith or you're a veteran -- Agent Orange, posttraumatic syndrome, Gulf War Syndrome.

Nuclear veterans -- they stood, they made them stay in the pits. They said when the concussion comes back, we're going to give you these nice glasses. You can get up and look at this nice show. It's very pretty. And they have the God damn nerve to put those troops there, and when they got sick they didn't pay them.

They didn't pay them of course with Agent Orange. For 20 years after the war they didn't even recognize them. Posttraumatic syndrome, today they don't recognize it. They say they're phonies. Gulf War Syndrome, they jerked those poor guys around with talking about one syndrome when it was 12 different things and they knew it was 12 different things.

So don't just have blind faith in your government, because they do lie to you. What about the miners at the Test Site? Now, we talk about people with protected jobs. These guys all the while they said oh, it's safe. I got a nice job. I'm making 60,000 a year. All of a sudden they got sick now. They want compensation and they're getting compensation.

You know, they didn't give the veterans compensation at the same time. They gave them compensation. So don't trust your government. Don't have blind faith in anything that's done in government.

Thank you.