

SEP 05 2001

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BONNIE PARNELL: Good evening, everyone. For

18 | 6 the record, I'm Assembly Woman Bonnie Parnell. And I

19 | 7 represent Carson City, District 40. I stand tonight

20 | 8 also as a voice for all of the people in the north who

21 | 9 do not have their elected officials here to represent

22 | 10 them.

23 | 11 Many, and I think last count I saw was about 80

24 | 12 percent of the people in this state oppose the placement

25 | 13 of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain. I'm proud and

26 | 14 honored to stand tonight with Governor Guinn and our

27 | 15 congressional delegation in our office of this

28 | 16 placement.

29 | 17 Actually, my involvement with nuclear waste

30 | 18 started in the early 1980s. I was involved at that time

31 | 19 with the Nevada Parent Teacher Association. We started

32 | 20 hearing about this and thought, perhaps, it was an

33 | 21 issue, political issue, that we needed to take a look

34 | 22 at. It was at that time, probably 1984, that the

35 | 23 delegation of the PTA here in Nevada decided this was

36 | 24 not something they wanted to have in the state.

37 | 25 That opposition continues today. And that

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39 | 1 opposition came a number of years ago, and continues

40 | 2 because of the concern of the impact this could have on

41 | 3 future generations and the children of this state.

42 | 4 As an elected official, I've continued to study

43 | 5 this issue. And I have the following concerns. The Cal

44 | 6 Tech report, which I studied a number of years ago,

45 | 7 which question the stability of the site based on the

46 | 8 earthquake potential, has somehow been disregarded. I

47 | 9 have not seen any reference to that report. And for

48 | 10 those of you who are also from Southern California, Cal

49 | 11 Tech, when Cal Tech speaks, most people listen.

50 | 12 The transportation, which has been mentioned by

51 | 13 a number of people, the transportation of nuclear waste

52 | 14 into our state and the implications therein. And

53 | 15 another that has not been mentioned, the concern for the

54 | 16 other states which this would have to also travel

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37 |17 through. The possibility that generations to come may
38 |18 be subject to the effects related to potential
39 |19 groundwater contamination.

40 |20 The economic impact, a gentleman earlier this
41 |21 evening actually suggested that Las Vegas would be
42 |22 impacted by the loss of energy, or if we could not
43 |23 supply that additional energy. I pose to you that we
44 |24 will not have visitors to the Las Vegas strip if 90
45 |25 miles north we have high-level nuclear waste.

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42 | 1 And I also want to mention, as a northerner, as
43 | 2 somebody that's not as close to it as those of you in
44 | 3 Las Vegas, but we've had a particular situation here in
45 | 4 the north that we've been dealing with, and that is the
46 | 5 leukemia cancer cluster. And I think back on the atomic
47 | 6 testing, the numbers of cases of radiation where this
48 | 7 state has been more than willing to help this country in
49 | 8 times of need. This morning I woke up and heard that we
50 | 9 now have area 12, which has been working on the Anthrax
51 |10 vaccine in our state.

52 |11 I say to you in conclusion, I consider myself
53 |12 someone who is always respectful to the other side. And
54 |13 I have been respectful in this room this evening. I
55 |14 simply ask that those at DOE give Nevadans the respect
56 |15 and consideration in this issue that they deserve.

49 |16 Thank you.

|17 ANNE MARSHALL: Thank you.

50 |18 That's our last comment for this section.
51 |19 Would Marta Adams hang on, and we'll get to you soon.

51 |20 (Listening to broadcast.)

52 |21 ANNE MARSHALL: We will also take a similar
53 |22 break here and for those who wish to stay and continue
54 |23 to watch this, we will keep a crew here to do so, if you
55 |24 just let us know so we'll know whether to stay or --
56 |25 we'd be happy to keep it open.

54 00016

| 1 (Time noted: 9:35 p.m.)