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TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative
DATE: October 30, 1986
SUBJECT: Newspaper Articles

Please find enclosed more information that appeared in our local newspaper that is of interest.

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Vucanovich backs nuke dump site in state, Sferrazza says

By Ed Vogel
Review-Journal Capital Bureau

CARSON CITY — Democratic candidate Pete Sferrazza claimed Wednesday that his 2nd Congressional District opponent, Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R-Nev., still quietly supports the establishment of a nuclear repository at Yucca Mountain.

He said that on a recent Reno radio talk show Vucanovich agreed with callers who support the choice of the Nevada site as a nuclear repository.

"She is still playing both sides," said Sferrazza, who has made Vucanovich's stance on the repository one of the primary themes of his campaign. "In response to people, she says Yucca might be the best site."

Sferrazza questioned whether Vu-

canovich will change her mind on the repository after the upcoming election.

"It seems to me that she is opposing the dump site only because it is political suicide not to oppose it," he said. "It doesn't sound to me like she is overwhelmingly committed to opposing the dump."

Vucanovich was not available for comment. Staff members said she empathized with callers who said that Yucca Mountain may be the best site. But they added that she also said the Energy Department conducted a bogus selection process and has failed to prove yet that Yucca Mountain is the best site.

Sferrazza, the mayor of Reno, frequently has accused Vucanovich of supporting the dump site until the



day she filed for re-election.

Vucanovich has countered by claiming she only favored additional studies to determine if Yucca Mountain is the best choice for the dump site. She spoke out in opposition after the Energy Department allegedly violated its own policies by discontinuing work toward finding a second repository.

She also supported legislation to withdraw funds necessary for the

Energy Department to conduct additional studies at Yucca Mountain.

"She didn't do anything until after President Reagan selected Nevada as one of the finalists," Sferrazza said. "She says she is a soldier working for the president. Why didn't she use her influence if she has any?"

In addition, Sferrazza said Vucanovich cost him \$5,000 by canceling a debate scheduled for Wednesday.

The debate has been rescheduled for Monday on a Reno television station. Sferrazza said he had thousands of brochures printed that showed the original date for the televised debate.

Vucanovich's aides said the representative canceled the Oct. 29 debate

weeks ago when it was apparent that Congress would not adjourn until mid October.

"We had to take four weeks of her schedule and schedule it in two weeks," said Mike Peiper, a Vucanovich aide.

Jim Ogle, KTVN news director in Reno, said he called Sferrazza's staff weeks ago to ask him to agree to a new debate.

"I left a message with the person designated by him as his representative," Ogle said. "No one told him. His response strikes me as a desperate scream from a candidate in trouble."

Sferrazza said he has agreed to the Monday debate but he wants to make his views about the change known.

He contends the Monday debate and one scheduled for Sunday on another Reno television station are crucial to his campaign.

"Clearly I am the underdog," Sferrazza said. "If I win it will be a surprise."

Recent polls conducted by Sferrazza's staff show the race is nearly deadlocked. Lt. Gov. Bob Cashell, the state Republican chairman, contends Sferrazza's polls are "drastically misleading." He claims Vucanovich has at least 60 percent of the votes.

"Why doesn't she speak for herself?" asked Sferrazza about Cashell's comments.

Sferrazza has raised only \$54,095 for his campaign in comparison with \$291,120 by Vucanovich.