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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director  
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. OR - NNWSI  
DATE: June 19, 1986  
SUBJECT: Newspaper Articles

Please find attached the most recent articles that have appeared in our local newspapers. Again, I believe you will find them of interest.

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Attachments

WM Record File

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Docket No.

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# LAS VEGAS SUN

Tuesday

Home June 17, 1986

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Nevada's Largest Morning Newspaper



Gov. Richard Bryan

## Bryan: DOE shafts Nevada

### Governor testifies before Senate subcommittee

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Gov. Richard Bryan accused the Energy Department Monday of "illegal and reckless actions" in its quest to find a high-level nuclear dump.

"The DOE has been allowed to let political influence and tampering drive the entire nuclear waste program to date," Bryan said in prepared remarks to the Senate subcommittee on Energy Research and Development in Washington, D.C.

Bryan has led Nevada's effort to stop Yucca Mountain,

burial ground for the nation. DOE named Yucca Mountain and sites in Texas and Washington as finalists for the nation's first radioactive dump.

Bryan suggested the site selection process for both proposed dumps be scrapped in favor of a new study. He complained that the Energy Department has developed a "master and servant relationship" with his state.

"Nevadans feel they've gotten the shaft," Bryan told a Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee.

DOE irked Bryan when it cancelled plans for a second site in the Midwest and East as required in the Nuclear

Waste Policy Act, the governor said. That law was enacted to assure one site did not get all the nuclear waste and other parts of the country shared the program, he added. DOE announced it quit looking for a second dumpsite the same day it named the three finalists.

Bryan said this action allows DOE to pick a single site with the least political resistance.

"If the energy users in the rest of this nation want to continue to rely on nuclear power, Nevadans have no objections," Bryan said. "But for them to continue to (See BRYAN Page 3A)"

# Bryan: DOE reckless in choosing nuclear dumpsite

Tuesday, June 17, 1986

LAS VEGAS SUN - 3A

(Continued from Page 1A)

generate nuclear waste and then to foist it exclusively upon Nevadans is totally unfair."

The governor also accused DOE of misrepresenting to Congress the results of an appeals court battle with Nevada. The Energy Department said in its annual report that it won the case in which Nevada asked for \$1 million to do independent research, when, in fact, the state won, Bryan said. DOE "continued to frustrate state attempts" to get the money, the governor said.

Other governors from Washington and Texas chosen as leading spots for a national nuclear waste dump joined Bryan in telling Congress they "got the shaft" when the administration halted the search for a second site in the East.

Nevada Republican Sens. Paul Laxalt and Chic Hecht introduced legislation to halt funds for

further nuclear waste burial studies until new, "unambiguous, guidelines for selecting the repository" are issued. Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R-Nev., introduced a companion measure in the House last week.

"We simply cannot allow a bad process to continue unchallenged," Laxalt and Hecht said in a joint statement. "We need a law that is fair, safe and unambiguous."

The Nevada senators also appeared at the hearing, telling the subcommittee that flaws in the current law has made it impossible to store nuclear waste in bulk within the United States.

"In my opinion, it is now simply politically impossible for high-level nuclear waste ever to be stored in bulk in the continental United States," Laxalt said. "Therefore, it is time to reopen the debate. We can no longer accept as a premise the

solution devised by Congress in 1982. We in government have a duty to be absolutely certain that we are utilizing the best, safest means of disposal."

Washington Gov. Booth Gardner also recommended a new site selection process, accusing the administration of violating the Nuclear Waste Policy Act when it halted efforts to find a location for a second facility.

He also suggested an independent study to determine the need for a second dump.

"If DOE fails to follow a process that selects only the safest site and then it tries to locate the repository at Hanford, it can expect one hell of a fight — a fight the people of Washington (state) do not intend to lose," Gardner said.

Energy Secretary John Herrington defended the administration, saying the postponement of site studies for a second dump does not violate the law

since the law does not specifically authorize construction of the second facility.

The postponement was ordered, he said, because the department had made progress in choosing a site for the first dump and because of uncertainty over how soon a second facility might be needed.

But Steve Frishman, director of the Texas Nuclear Waste Programs Office, challenged Herrington's conclusions.

"With the deferral of the substance of a second repository effort, the last potential 'insurance' for meeting the nation's high-level waste disposal goal is being essentially rejected by the DOE," Frishman said.

"What I have seen," added Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, "does not give me comfort that the Department of Energy is using the best possible course of action to select sites."

# LAS VEGAS SUN

Friday

Home June 13, 1986

## Where I Stand

By Hank Greenspun

Only In America.

Early yesterday morning, I received a call from my daughter, Susan, who was driving two of her children to school along highway I-15. Traffic was heavy, probably because other people were driving their kids to school or were just going to work. It's also possible many tourists were on the road — either going home or coming to Las Vegas.

All my kids serve as reporters to keep Dad informed on what's going on in the outside world.

Susan was perturbed because motorists in a hurry sometimes take chances in passing which could create accidents. One driver almost cut her off and then slid in front of a large multi-wheeler truck.

The reckless passer did not upset her half as much as the truck which was posted with large letters "radioactive." It was loaded with large crates, evidently carrying radioactive waste to Beatty for burial.

Susan thought that nuke waste trucks were not permitted on Las Vegas highways and wondered how could she have prevented extreme peril to her children if an accident had occurred.

I told Susan that if Dad had similar worries, and it was as recently as Tuesday of this week that I expressed this concern to the President of the United States in a luncheon at the White House.

It can only happen in the United States that a father could have lunch with the President and tell him of the concerns that the people of Nevada have at the prospect of their state becoming the nuke dumpsite for all the high level waste that is generated in the country.

The purpose of breaking bread with Ronald Reagan, his Chief of Staff Don Regan and his Communications Director Pat Buchanan was to explain methods for building nationwide support for Reagan's policies and programs with special emphasis on the budget, a crucial issue with the President.

There were about a dozen of us from industry, finance and other areas of the economic and social structure who felt that the proliferation of GOP presidential candidates scurrying around the country from New Hampshire to

(See WHERE I STAND, Page 2A)

# Where I Stand

Hank Greenspun

(Continued from Page 1A)

Iowa were diverting media attention away from the President and his programs which would make it difficult for Congress and the people to focus on Reagan's vision for America.

What was happening is that the Republican hopefuls were making a lame duck of the President who still had two years to go and would become ineffectual in sustaining his dream. The potential candidates were taking the play away from him.

We covered many issues and I could not let the opportunity pass without expressing the concerns of Nevadans over the horrific problem of transportation of nuke waste from the East Coast where most of it is generated to the West. I also explained the objections of most western states to be singled out as dumpsites when the Congress legislated three sites starting with the East Coast, the Midwest and the West.

From all indications, Nevada has been chosen for the site which has now become an issue before the courts with most governors of western states joining in, I told the President.

Don Regan singalled that he would answer and went into a discourse about Hanford, Wash., being the most likely "winner" because Hanford wanted it.

I suggested that if the state of Washington was keen on housing all the country's waste, it didn't make sense for its congressmen to introduce a bill which was supported by the representatives of many western states, deleting Hanford from the list of sites.

I told (Don) Regan that statements coming from the White House were immediately contradicted by the spokesman for DOE, Bernard Rusche, who not only changed stories many times in news conferences and testimony before congressional committees but actually lied on occasions.

The President immediately spoke up and said he could not tolerate any agency of government being less than forthright with the American people. This has to be corrected to which everyone present agreed.

I did offer to wager Don Regan that Nevada will be the eventual designee which he accepted but deferred it to 1992 when the final selection will be made.

Regan also said he would keep in touch to gather any other information I could submit.

I did volunteer that the best solution would be the giant salt caverns in Louisiana which was one of the early sites discussed. Germany uses similar salt caverns to dispose of its nuke waste.

President Ronald Reagan has sufficient problems facing up to the Russians and even our allies on matters dealing with the survival of our planet. We may quarrel with his methods but sitting across a luncheon table for two hours, one has to be impressed with his sincerity and vision.

What is most impressive is that a citizen can express his local and national concerns directly to not only our leader but the world's leader.

And he listens.

I can rest a little easier for the concerns of Susan and the worries of all the fathers and mothers of Southern Nevada.

# Metro

Friday, June 13, 1986 LAS VEGAS SUN

## Reid seeks help from Vucanovich to oust Rusche

By MARY MANNING  
SUN Staff Writer

Rep. Harry Reid, D-Nev., asked Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R-Nev., to join him in urging President Reagan to force nuclear waste repository administrator Ben Rusche to resign Thursday.

Reid sent Vucanovich a letter asking her to join him in the effort to oust Rusche, director of the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

"I certainly agree with you that an issue of such importance to our state should not be a partisan one, and I thank you for your solicitation for me to join in H.R. 4959," Reid said.

"I am concerned, however, that this legislation will have no chance of passage in the House," he added.

"Other states don't oppose highly radioactive waste coming to Nevada," Reid noted.

Reid urged Vucanovich to oppose the dump itself. "So far, our delegation is the only one among the proposed sites that has not come out in complete bipartisan opposition to the dump under any circumstances," Reid said.

Vucanovich introduced legislation in the House Thursday to repeal sections of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, which established criteria for siting, selecting and characterizing candidates for the nation's first high-level nuclear repository.

However, Vucanovich, with Sens. Paul Laxalt and Chie Hecht, has refused to oppose Nevada as a possible site for the nuclear dump.

Reid said he would be pleased to join with Vucanovich in her legislative efforts to stop the repository process, but urged her to join him in his request to the president to remove Rusche.

Reagan and the Department of Energy announced May 28 that Nevada's Yucca Mountain, 80 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Hanford, Wash., and Deaf Smith County, Texas, were the three final sites for a nuclear dump scheduled to open in 1998.

Nevada's Gov. Richard Bryan immediately filed five lawsuits to remove the state from the list and stop the selection process. The Republicans joined in the suit to stop the progress on the selection.

Vucanovich explained that her bill would require Congress to hold hearings and establish new guidelines based on the idea that all geologic media should be studied, rather than restricting it to sites that have already been studied.

"I don't think that this process should be undertaken hastily," Vucanovich said. "It is worth an extra five or 10 years when we are talking about the public health and safety of American citizens for the next 50,000 years."

Vucanovich's bill also calls for an immediate halt to further funds or activities by DOE in current site selection.



# Local/State

Friday, June 13, 1986

Las Vegas Review-Journal

## Bryan backs Vucanovich's nuke dump bill

Review-Journal Capital Bureau

CARSON CITY — Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R-Nev., received support from Nevada's top elected Democrats on Thursday for her bill to block further study of Yucca Mountain as a site for the nation's first high-level nuclear waste repository.

But Gov. Richard Bryan and Rep. Harry Reid, D-Nev., both asked Vucanovich to go one step further and join them in absolute opposition to the Department of Energy's consid-

eration of the site.

Reid, the lone Democrat in Nevada's four-member congressional delegation, also asked Vucanovich to persuade Sens. Paul Laxalt and Chic Hecht to petition President Reagan, as a member of their party, to rule Nevada out as a potential dump site.

Reid also asked Vucanovich to join him in seeking the resignation of Ben Rusche, the Energy Department official overseeing the selection of

one of three states for the repository.

Reid has questioned Rusche's political objectivity and truthfulness in selecting Nevada as a potential site.

Vucanovich's main concern is to ensure the DOE conducts thorough studies on all sites considered. Her bill, introduced in the House this week, would block studies by cutting off funding.

But Reid said Nevada's selection would be unacceptable regardless of safeguards.

"As a congressional delegation, we can no longer take the position that we can accept the dump under certain conditions," Reid said. "So far, our delegation is the only one among the proposed sites that has not come out in complete bipartisan opposition to the dump."

Bryan also said he remains "troubled by the disparity between (Vucanovich's) public positions on the issue and what I believe to be the best interest of our state."

"Even at this late date you have not indicated your opposition to locating a nuclear dump in the state, but rather have only questioned the procedural aspects of the siting process," he said.

In her letter to the governor, Vucanovich said her bill "is the first concrete legislative opportunity to halt the process before it is too late."

"I have never believed that the issue of responsibility for high-level

nuclear waste should generate into partisan politics, and I believe that it is fundamentally in the best interest of our state for you to give me your strongest support in these efforts," she said.

In his reply, Bryan said, "I offer you my support. I look forward to the time when you and your colleagues in the delegation join my call for a unified and unambiguous stand for Nevada by opposing the location of the nuclear dump in our state."