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Meeting with Nuclear Regulatory Commission, The Atomic
Industrial Forum, and Nuclear Industry Management in Wash-
ington, D.C.

It is vital that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission help our
nation resolve its critical imported oil problem by doing two things:

First, the NRC must exercise its responsibility to expedite and
encourage, without compromising safety, the completion of all
nuclear power plants already on order by the nation's utilities.
Other nations order, construct, and operate nuclear plants identical
to our designs in half the time it takes in this country. That
represents billions of dollars which could be far better spent
elsewhere in our economy and society.

Second, the NRC should establish a sound basis for standardizing
new nuclear plant designs so that our nation's utilities can order
them with the confidence they deserve and without jeopardizing
safety or environmental concerns.

It is absolutely necessary that we reduce our dependence on
interruptible imported oil - for economic and national security as
well as social energy planning reasons. Our nation's foreign oil
bill last year approached \$90 billion. That's substantially more
than the combined annual net income of the nation's 500 largest
industrial companies. We should be using much of these resources
to help improve the nation's lagging productivity and reducing
unemployment. We are courting serious economic and social
disruption if we don't muster the courage to stand up and say,
that's enough.

Conservation alone won't solve the problem, and we should also
continue to pursue every viable energy supply option we can. BTU's,
however, are not equal. A unit of heat from domestic coal, or
uranium or natural gas is not the same as one from imported oil. In
any event, we must remind ourselves that the U.S. is not energy poor.

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