

23 ROBERT MCCRAKEN: Robert McCracken,  
24 M-C-C-R-A-K-E-N.

25 The first thing I'd like to mention is

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1 that when you're selecting a railroad, it should be  
2 selected not just in terms of the cost of the route,  
3 which is important, and not just for DOE's needs, but  
4 it should be selected with the idea of its economic  
5 impact on the other communities in the area.

6 Because -- and the railroad should be not  
7 dedicated exclusively to the transportation of spent  
8 nuclear fuel, but should take other -- should haul  
9 other freight and maybe even passengers. And  
10 actually passengers -- hauling passengers would be a  
11 good PR thing. "Hey, you know, this is -- this is  
12 safe. We're hauling passengers," kind of thing.

13 And because the railroad has the  
14 potential of bringing in substantial economic  
15 development in rural Nevada, which is -- which is  
16 badly needed. I mean, good jobs are few and far  
17 between out there. And I don't want to see rural  
18 Nevada become a rural south central Nevada, becomes  
19 another Las Vegas, but, you know, it would be nice if  
20 there were more jobs there.

21 The second thing is regarding the  
22 geologic disposal of spent nuclear fuel, I've  
23 followed it in -- you know, in the papers and in  
24 science journals and things like that about what is  
25 going to be the impact of long-term storage of

1 nuclear waste, and I don't know what the standard is  
2 now. It was 10,000 years, but I guess it has to be  
3 longer. They're talking about a million years, which  
4 is absurd. I mean, anybody that thinks there's going  
5 to be people around here in a million years is really  
6 optimistic or masochistic or something.

7           But they're -- I know that the repository  
8 has to be designed with the idea that it's going to  
9 be there a very long time. The waste will never stay  
10 in the ground. I have been -- I have been told by I  
11 think -- I'm not sure, but it may have been Tony  
12 Hickanova (phonetic spelling) at UNLV, that the  
13 75,000 or whatever tons of spent fuel at Yucca  
14 Mountain will contain more energy than all that  
15 exists in Saudi Arabia.

16           So that energy is not going to be set in  
17 the ground forever, though. It's going to be used by  
18 human beings in the future, if we have a future,  
19 which is somewhat in question, as far as I'm  
20 concerned. Particularly if we don't go to nuclear  
21 power, because of greenhouse gases.

22           So the thinking partly has to be in terms  
23 of -- of, Well, how are we going to retrieve this  
24 waste, reprocess it, reburn it, reprocess it again,  
25 reburn it, and actually dispose of most of it, rather

Untitled

1 than leaving it there in the ground for 10,000 or a  
2 million or whatever length of time you're thinking  
3 about.

4                   And fear mongers like Harry Reed, they  
5 like to pretend like it's going to be there a million  
6 years or something. As if we're really worried about  
7 people a million years from now, when he actually  
8 doesn't give a damn about people now. You know, it's  
9 just a political issue with him.

10                   And so we have to think about the use of  
11 spent fuel over the next 50 or 100 years, 200,  
12 whatever the time frame is, because it's an energy  
13 resource for future generations. That would be  
14 my -- my comment.

15                   And if the U.S. would smarten up, which  
16 is not a given, we could become the world center for  
17 nuclear waste -- of spent nuclear fuel. Waste is a  
18 misnomer. And people from around the world could  
19 send their fuel here, we process it, send it to  
20 India, Indonesia, you know, wherever they need it.  
21 They send it back, and we accumulate wealth here, as  
22 well as doing something for the health of the planet.

23                   That is my second comment. My address is  
24 \*\*\*\*\*  
25 Nevada 89119.