

17                   IKE EICHBAUM: My name is Ike Eichbaum and  
18 I'm a great grandfather of four great grandsons and  
19 two other great grandchildren on the way. I'm  
20 concerned about this country. I've served in World  
21 War II. I received my education from the GI Bill of  
22 Rights and went on to get my Ph.D. in chemical  
23 engineering.

24                   [ I've worked in this field in research and  
25 development and applied research and development

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1 where you're handling all these toxic materials day

2 in and day out. If precautions aren't taken, they're  
3 very dangerous, whether it be gases, fuel, organic or  
4 the heavy metals.

5                   And during this time I worked in very  
6 dangerous areas, like the Vernon arsenal in World War  
7 II, in these power companies where they could have  
8 blown up whole buildings there if you just got a  
9 spark in there.

10                   So I've been very concerned about safety and  
11 toxicity all my life. And most recently I worked for  
12 the Bureau of Mines for about 20 years. And I was  
13 one of the strongest advocates on anything dangerous,  
14 whether it be heavy metals, carbon monoxide that they  
15 use, hydrogen that will explode, lead that would come  
16 in, and if women had too much of it, they would have  
17 children that were not born properly.

18                   But during all this time I find so much of  
19 it is who's handling it. There are people that do

20 think things and don't report properly and will  
21 fudge. I'm not for that. I'm also aware, I talked  
22 to a man who's my son-in-law's stepbrother who works  
23 at Three Mile Island, and I said, How is that there?  
24 He said the one reactor is closed down and the other  
25 is fine. Are they up to date on it? He sees no  
1 problem. He's been there for about 30 years. I used  
2 to live right near Three Mile Island.

3 I have my wife's cousin was one of the top  
4 officers on the aircraft Enterprises with atomic  
5 energy, and he doesn't see any problem with it. I  
6 say all this because I've worked in the field. I've  
7 been an advocate of them. This is a political  
8 football here in the state of Nevada on who's going  
9 to be voted in or out because of the fear they've put  
10 into the average person's mind.

11 And I can see what these people are saying  
12 because they're not technically oriented and they  
13 hear this and that and everything else. And there is  
14 so many things that went on at the Bureau of Mines  
15 and there are people that died because they didn't  
16 take proper precautions with organics and others.  
17 They handled them very much in the wrong way.

18 And what I'm saying is I cannot see -- I can  
19 see why we're paying \$3 and a half for a gallon of  
20 gasoline because they've not allowed in and there's a  
21 big reserve up off the coast of Alaska about a  
22 thousand miles further that has more oil than in the  
23 whole Mid East. So we're being politicized by too

24 many people and too many advocates of this or that,  
25 including the oil industry. They've been allowed to  
monopolize. We're down to three refinery

2 organizations.

3           So all of this goes on and the fear goes on.  
4 But when I hear directly from people that are working  
5 in it, and I've worked with a lot of toxic materials,  
6 whether it be cadmium, they said you shouldn't use  
7 cadmium, I've survived that. I worked with carbon  
8 monoxide and toxic gases. I went out to clean up  
9 wastewater sites that were all polluted over the  
10 years, especially in Colorado.

11           So I'm extremely environmental oriented. I  
12 also was very safety oriented with the Bureau of  
13 Mines. I was one of the first ones to complain on  
14 anything. I would give the ladies information about  
15 lead toxicity, if they were handling it, that would  
16 affect them in having children. And any of them that  
17 were there, that different ones then got out of  
18 handling lead. The management was forcing them into  
19 doing this.

20           And what I'm saying here is I think we, as a  
21 nation, have to go forward. France has gone forward  
22 and other countries have gone forward with atomic  
23 energy. It's not as polluting as oil and gas and  
24 coal. And it has been controlled. I spoke to a  
25 fellow named Joe who I talked to this summer, and he  
1 says everything is much better than it was.

2                   Now, as to handling it, my biggest concern  
3 here was of avoiding it, getting around towns and not  
4 coming through Reno and other places where this could  
5 take place and toxicity or damage. But again I've  
6 seen these ways they've contained it and controlled  
7 it now, and from all my dealings for 50 years in  
8 research and development in handling toxic materials,  
9 I think they've got it down to the point that if the  
10 people do what they're supposed to, we will be safe.

11                   And hopefully my great grandchildren that  
12 are coming along now will live in a safe America and  
13 have energy at a lower price than this. When I was a  
14 boy, we had a gas station. Gasoline was 13.9 cents a  
15 gallon at that time.

16                   But I'm concerned for our country. I'm an  
17 ex-serviceman. And, again, they gave me the benefit  
18 of getting educated, and I've worked in this general  
19 field. And I've worked with people who are radiation  
20 chemists, and when they handled it right, there was  
21 no problem.

22                   All I'm saying is I understand where people  
23 are coming from on the negative end because they do  
24 not understand the technical aspects of it, and it  
25 could be dangerous if the technical people don't  
1 control it, I would agree. But I'm all for having  
2 this, a recipient or storage and them doing it  
3 properly. ] Thank you.