

4 MARY ALICA ESPARZA: (Speaking Spanish.) [Those 1
5 words were given to me by my grandmother. I'm 65 years
6 old, soon to be. When I was three years old, after a trip
7 she made from Raton, Mexico, to Arizona. The year was
8 July 16, 1945. They were coming back from Raton having
9 visited my great-grandmother and stopped in Gallup,
10 New Mexico, to have breakfast.

11 As they were entering and other people were
12 exiting, boom, the windows blew from the restaurant.
13 The windows blew from my grandpa's calito. (Speaking
14 Spanish.)

15 My grandmother said that was the first time
16 she saw the sunrise twice in one day. They had just put
17 gas in the car and, forgetting about eating, my
18 grandfather cleared out all the broken glass from the
19 vehicle and got grandmother and took off to Williams,
20 Arizona. That was their destination. That was their
21 home.

22 Little did my grandmother know during that
23 time what had happened. (Speaking Spanish.) Our
24 government told us lies. She said, "Do not ever allow
25 yourself to be deceived or lied to again." That's why
1 I'm here for the second time.

2 I have only two grandchildren. I want them to
3 see a future, and not necessarily a future of people
4 with their skin falling off their face, the bones
5 exposed. When you go to see your dying relatives, you
6 aren't even allowed into their room because it's so

7 contaminated. They give your relatives a whole floor in
8 the hospital without telling you the what's or why's.
9 And the recommendation is for them to be cremated. And
10 nobody is to be there.

11 Of course, we're a respectable people. We
12 respect authority. Why is it that some of the Hispanic
13 people and the native Americans haven't gotten the
14 benefits of the Downwinders? Because in those cultures,
15 sometimes there were birth certificates. There were no
16 baptismal certificates. How are you going to prove that
17 you are who you say you are, that you lived where you
18 say you lived, that you were educated where you say you
19 were educated?

20 They didn't hesitate to take our Native
21 American brothers into the wars. They didn't allow them
22 their language here, but they sure used and saved their
23 language overseas. They lied to my brother in Vietnam
24 and my cousins. Why did some of them come back with
25 domestic violence, anger management, mental problems?

1 I love the sound of the train. I love it.
2 Out of my bedroom window in Flagstaff, it passes. I
3 love the sound of the whistle in the distance. I love
4 it. I live in North Las Vegas. I love the sound of the
5 train. I love the whistle. But I've also seen the
6 train carry ammunition, carry tanks, carry things in the
7 '40s when I was three years old.

8 Our city doesn't even alert our citizens here
9 in Las Vegas when the train is wild on the tracks all
10 the way from Blue Diamond to Craig Road. When I'm out

11 there working in the garden, something could have
12 happened and I could have, boom, gone just like that.

13 Again, I love the sound of the train. It was
14 a train that brought my father home Sunday morning when
15 Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was coming home to baptize
16 his oldest child. Had he not have come at that time and
17 been given extended weeks, I probably wouldn't be
18 standing here talking to you because he would have been
19 obliterated.

20 Little did we know that on August 14, 1945, a
21 ship in San Francisco was being loaded with something
22 like what we've got down here and blew and annihilated
23 Hiroshima. I'm not proud of that. I had uncles over
24 there. They weren't told what was happening.

25 Our community is alerted in Flagstaff when
1 things would happen and certain shipments were passing
2 through. The church bells rang. The fire department
3 blew their whistle. Everybody stay in your houses, stay
4 away from the railroad tracks. Don't even dare to look
5 and see what's passing through.

6 And we obeyed. We turned around, turned our
7 heads. My grandmother, when she got back to Williams,
8 her mother called her from Raton and told her (speaking
9 Spanish.) "Daughter, the sheep, we went out and they're
10 dead. All our sheep are dead. Must be the water, maybe
11 something we fed them." But they still got them and
12 barbecued them.

13 I have been in the last 12 years back and

14 forth through New Mexico, the Four Corners, Colorado,
15 New Mexico, and Arizona burying my relatives with
16 cancer. Out of all of them, five we could not approach
17 or see, but we know they died.

18 I love the sound of the train whistle. And I
19 say to the DOE, don't operate on my mother earth while
20 I'm here in Nevada, because I will lay on the tracks and
21 let it run over me first.]