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15 MR. WEISSER: Probably be taking a little
16 different track on some of this. Some of my own ideas.
17 And what you're telling us is this stuff is going to be
18 safe. When I'm talking to you, not anybody
19 specifically, but I'm talking about the government, so
20 in other words, what you're going to be doing, by the
21 time this site is ready, you're going to be betting
22 2 million lives, livelihoods and the economy, of
23 Southern Nevada, that this stuff is going to be safe,
24 and there's going to be no oops.

25 In the "Review-Journal" on the 11th, I'd like

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1 to quote Abe Van Luik, who is the technical adviser to
2 the project manager, and he said, "It is not risk-free,
3 but it meets the ethical standards." I'm the Document
4 Control Officer for the Task Public Land Board, and I
5 have authority to make request for information
6 purposes, and that statement kind of threw me, and I'd
7 like to know what type of ethics we're talking about,
8 so if there's some documentation or definition of that,
9 I'd like to see it.

10 But in 1959, Russia launched the Sputnik.

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11 And this country got behind the space project with tens
12 of thousands of the best minds this country could
13 produce, from MIT and all the other prestigious
14 schools, got behind the space project. And they had
15 many spectacular results.

16 But 27 years later, many of us watched on
17 national TV an O-ring failure on Challenger as it
18 turned into a Roman candle with seven people sitting on
19 top of it. I guess no one expected this oops, but at
20 least those seven MIT people, they knew the dangers they
21 were facing, and they trained for many years for it,
22 they accepted it.

23 Most people in Nevada think iodine is an
24 antiseptic, and they've never heard of tritium or
25 cobalt 90. These things have half lives of 10,000-plus
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1 years. So in other words, what that means is you have
2 a bottle of it the size of that, if it will kill you in
3 a day, 10 thousand years from now, it will kill you in
4 two days. You get to live a little longer. But you
5 know, one oops in Southern Nevada can be effectively
6 gone.

7 You know, the terrorist strike in New York

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8 crippled our economy. And what would a radioactive
9 spill or leak do? Would the people still keep coming
10 with that?

11 I like the Death Valley idea, but my thought
12 was Amchitka in the Aleutian Islands, because in the
13 '60s they hollowed it out and they had an underground
14 city there. That would be a good place to store it.
15 At least if it did leak, it's close to Russia and
16 China. We'd take them with us.

17 But I was talking to Dan over here about some
18 of the containment procedures for existing storage.
19 And there's not much information on it. I can't find
20 this stuff anywhere, but during the '50s, they had
21 Project Rover they were doing at the test site, and
22 they were making a nuclear engine for either a
23 spaceship or an aircraft that would go up and then come
24 down and continue flying, much as the ships do now out
25 in the sea. But it was too dirty, so they scrapped the
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1 idea.

2 Now, maybe this is the ethical standards, I
3 don't know, but I'm a little confused. At the same
4 time we were telling downwinders there was no problem

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5 with this, we're scrapping this reactor because it's
6 too dirty. It -- I just don't understand some of these
7 things. The reactor was eventually disassembled, it
8 was buried in Wahmahone, it's a town of 200, by Cane
9 Springs, the northeast end of Jackass Flats. They used
10 the Horn Silver Mine, which was 1100 feet deep, and it
11 has lateral tunnels in it. And they took this reactor,
12 they dumped it down there with a bunch of other stuff.

13 Most of this comes from Air Force documents,
14 which was the only thing I could ever find on it.
15 Apparently this is not monitored, and it's not taken
16 care of. The -- I'd like to know just how dirty it is
17 and how much is in there, because this area is quite
18 close to Highway 95, and it's a lot below where they
19 were setting off the nuclear explosions up there, so
20 it's a lot closer to our water table.

21 Brings up something else. In 1934, I have
22 documents showing that the shaft was full of water.
23 It's apparently into the water table. So this nuclear
24 reactor is sitting down there. I'd like to know what
25 that's doing. The point I'm trying to make with this
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1 is, since I can find no documents on it, in less than

2 50 years, these documents are lost, destroyed, covered
3 up, whatever, I have no idea. But the track record of
4 keeping track of this stuff has not been very good so
5 far, and they want to keep this stuff 10,000 years, and
6 they can't even do it for 50.

7 The main point I really wanted to make though
8 is on the terrorism problem, and just as we fill the
9 planes with gasoline that those terrorists use in those
10 buildings, you're going to transport this stuff right
11 to the point that they want it. Terrorists are not
12 going to go out and steal this. My idea has always
13 been the lakes, rivers, waterways, wetlands. You can't
14 get here without going across a bunch of bridges, and
15 as we can't put sky marshals on every aircraft, you
16 can't protect everyone.

17 I know they're looking at Hoover Dam a lot
18 better now with security, but my idea was you take and
19 stop the vehicle in front of the truck that's going
20 through, somebody runs out, puts a shape charge on the
21 side of it. All you want to do is throw this thing 10
22 foot over the railing in 900 foot of water and split it
23 open. Takes two minutes. They could do it so quick.
24 And how do you clean up Lake Mead? How do you clean up

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25 -- how do you stop any river from flowing so you can
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1 clean it up with this stuff? You can't let the water

2 out, but the dam's eventually going to fill up.

3 There's a lot of problems.

4 Now, I talked with Dan over here again, and

5 trying to find out some procedures on cleanups around

6 major cities and in waterways, and apparently those

7 studies haven't even been done yet. That's a concern

8 to me.

9 MODERATOR BROWN: One more minute.

10 MR. WEISSER: Okay. I'm finishing up here.

11 I lived in Southern Nevada for over 40 years, and I'd

12 like my future generations also to be able to enjoy

13 what I've enjoyed. But in 1873, Congress passed the

14 Mint Act, which in effect demonized silver and the

15 value of silver dropped below what it cost to produce

16 it. The population of the state dropped dramatically,

17 and there were calls to revoke statehood. I'd hate to

18 see this happen again, because Congress approves this

19 Yucca Mountain thing and we have an oops.

20 History tends to repeat itself. And as the

21 technical adviser, this is not risk-free. I've been in

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22 gaming for over 20 years. That was until three weeks
23 ago when this terrorist thing happened, and I know
24 firsthand what this can do to the economy. I used to
25 tell people, you know, don't gamble what you can't
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1 afford to lose. And I'm asking you, don't gamble with
2 the livelihood of the people in Nevada.