

Unless the nuclear power industry has some well kept secret plan to shut down and decommission every reactor at each of these 109 reactor sites, by my count creation of a new, central site for waste storage makes 110 sites, not 1.

How the nuclear power industry gets down to one site, when its reactors are still running, and waste is still stored in pools on site, is beyond me.

The advertisement also ignores one of the key problems with a central high-level waste facility—the transportation of the toxic waste from the 109 reactor sites to the central facility.

The nuclear power industry, in its obsession to dispose of its waste as quickly as possible, is proposing to create thousands of rolling interim storage facilities, on trucks, and rail cars, in 43 States across the Nation.

The nuclear power industry's map shows the location of the 109 reactor sites, but not the proposed location for the central storage facility.

There is a good reason for this oversight—the industry's target for a central storage facility is not central at all.

Not even close.

Looking at the map, it could not be clearer—only 15 of the 109 sites identified are west of the Missouri River.

This second chart shows the map that the nuclear power industry, if it was being honest, should have run in their advertisement.

This map shows the location of the current reactor sites, the proposed location for their central storage facility, and the likely routes through 43 States for the thousands of shipments necessary to move the high-level waste from around the Nation to Nevada.

It is obvious to even the casual observer that the nuclear power industry's interim storage proposal could result in an unprecedented level of shipments of extremely toxic, highly dangerous radioactive materials.

Every Member of the Senate should take a careful look at this map.

Nothing could make clearer the true scope of what the nuclear power industry is proposing.

Over the years, as I have fought the industry and the DOE in their efforts to open a repository in Nevada, I have often found my colleagues, both here in the Senate and among the Nation's Governors in my previous position, sympathetic to Nevada's cause.

Many in the Senate sympathize with the outrageous abrogation of State's rights.

Others understand the potential environmental risks associated with opening a high-level nuclear waste dump 90 miles from the fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States—a metropolitan area with nearly 1 million residents.

Still others have understood the potentially grave economic damages that could result from the transport and storage of high-level nuclear waste so

close to the premier tourist destination in the United States.

Unfortunately, however, these expressions of sympathy have not often translated into action.

For too long, the commercial nuclear waste problem has been identified as a solely Nevada issue.

The general attitude has been we feel badly for Nevada—but if it is not Nevada, who would be the nuclear power industry's next target?

This map should make clear that the nuclear power industry's refusal to accept responsibility for the storage of its own waste will affect every citizen of every State along the routes the industry will use to move the waste.

Even those from the few States that are not targets of the nuclear power industry should be concerned. I do not know how many of anyone's constituents are anxious to share the road with a truck moving high-level nuclear waste.

Once the word is out to these affected communities, no one will be able to continue to dismiss the issue as simply a Nevada problem.

In the absence of a permanent solution to the nuclear waste problem, there is simply no reason to move nuclear waste away from the reactor sites.

The only crisis facing the nuclear power industry is a public relations crisis, not a scientific one.

The NRC has licensed technology to store waste in dry casks, on site, for the next several decades.

Some utilities, of necessity, have taken advantage of this technology.

Most refuse to do so.

Why are utilities so adverse to accepting the responsibility for their own waste? The answer could not be simpler.

Recognizing the political and public relations nightmare of seeking permission to increase storage for high-level waste on site, utilities are seeking an outside solution.

Nevada, a State with no reactors and about as far as you can get from a geographically central location, has been chosen as the target.

Let me return for a moment to the advertisement.

I have not even touched on the misinformation provided by the text.

The ad generally relies on the tried and true tactic of the nuclear power industry to create the impression of impending doom if its demands for relief are not met immediately.

Congress, then, is pressured to act quickly, irrespective of the wishes, or the health and safety, of Nevadans, or anyone else.

This was true in 1980, when the industry claimed that reactors across the Nation would soon shut down if they could not get what was then called away-from-reactor storage by 1983.

No away-from-reactor storage was ever built, and no reactor has ever shut down from lack of storage.

There simply was no crisis in 1980—and there is no crisis now.

It is all an expensive, dangerous ruse. I urge my colleagues to think carefully before falling for this, and other, deceptive misinformation campaigns by the nuclear power industry and its advocates.

Mr. BINGAMAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Shelby). The Senator from New Mexico.

The Chair informs the Senator from New Mexico that at 12:10 morning business is set to expire unless it is extended.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended for up to 15 minutes, until I conclude my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CUBA

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I first want to say a few words about our policy toward a neighboring country, Cuba.

The United States objectives in Cuba are not in dispute. Our primary objective is to move Cuba to a more democratic form of government and to a government with a greater respect for human rights. Also, of course, we want to see the lives of the Cuban people improve economically, and we want to see our historically close ties with this island neighbor restored.

First, let us review some of the facts that led us to the present circumstances we find ourselves in. Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba some 34 years ago, when I was still in high school and before several Members of this Congress were even born. He quickly established an authoritarian and anti-United States regime. He declared himself a Marxist-Leninist in December 1961. Early in 1961, the United States broke diplomatic relations with Cuba.

A year later, in February 1962, we imposed a comprehensive trade embargo. The reasons cited for that were three.

First, Castro's expropriation without compensation, much property owned by U.S. citizens, in excess of \$1 billion.

Second, the Castro regime's obvious efforts to export revolution to other parts of the world.

And, third, the increasingly close ties that existed then between Castro's Government and the Soviet Union.

That was 33 years ago. During the past 33 years, we have maintained the trade embargo in place. In April 1961, we tried unsuccessfully in the Bay of Pigs to have Castro overthrown militarily. We began in 1985 to use Radio Martí to undermine Cuban support for Fidel Castro, and in the Bush administration just a few years ago we added TV Martí to the mix, as well.

In 1992, we passed the Cuban Democracy Act in an effort to tighten our trade sanctions. This year, we are being urged by some in this body to pass a new and tough measure entitled

"The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act" in order to give Castro what the supporters of that legislation refer to as the "final push."

With all due respect to President Clinton and to many here in Congress, our policy toward Cuba today is still captive of the cold war mentality that created it in the first place. Simply put, the world has changed, and we continue to pretend otherwise.

Mr. President, this is 1995. Our 34-year-old policy of trying to remove or alter the behavior of Fidel Castro by isolating him diplomatically, politically, and economically has failed. History has passed that policy by. And the cold war, which provided much of the rationale for our policy, is now over.

We have normalized relations with China—Communist China, I point out. We have normalized relations with the countries of Eastern Europe and Russia, and with all the former States of the Soviet Union.

This morning, President Clinton goes to Moscow to meet with Boris Yeltsin, not to find ways to isolate Moscow or to impose sanctions on Moscow for their human rights abuses in Chechnya or elsewhere; our President travels to Moscow to strengthen our relations with that important country.

Mr. President, U.S. policy toward Cuba needs to adjust to this new reality, just as our policy toward those other nations has adjusted. For over three decades, we have tried to exclude Cuba from acceptance by other nations. But our policy of trying to isolate Cuba diplomatically has made the United States the odd man out in the world community rather than Cuba. Of the 35-member nations of the Organization of American States, all but 5 recognize the Cuban Government and have normal diplomatic relations with it.

The Senator from North Carolina, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, argues that the way out of this absurd situation is to turn up the pressure on Castro. As he says, "It is time to give Castro the final push."

Mr. President, the sanctions and the embargoes and the pressure that we put on Castro in the past 34 years have not undermined the support of the Cuban people for his Government as we have wished. In fact, a strong case can be made that the constant menacing by Uncle Sam has been used very effectively by Castro to divert the attention of the Cuban people from the shortcomings of his own Government and his own policies.

Mr. President, this administration has been slow to face the need to change in our policy toward Cuba. But last week, we hopefully saw the beginning of a more rational policy toward that nation. Last week, the administration announced that in the future, illegal immigrants from Cuba will be treated as other illegal immigrants into this country, and I for one hope that more steps will follow.

For example, as I stated here in the Senate several weeks ago, I believe the President should act to end the travel ban on Americans who wish to travel to Cuba. The President should also restore the right of Cuban-Americans to make small remittances to their families and to their relatives in Cuba. In my view, the time has also come when we should begin to normalize trade relations with that country.

Mr. President, I realize that it is politically difficult to change a long-established policy. It is especially difficult given the political posturing that is preceding our upcoming Presidential election. But the time has come to acknowledge that our current policy toward Cuba has failed miserably. NEWT GINGRICH referred yesterday to Cuba as "a relic of an age that is gone." I agree that Castro's Government is an anachronism. But it is no more so than our own misguided policy for dealing with that country.

Most agree that President Nixon's greatest achievement was his decision to change United States foreign policy and move toward normal relations with Communist China. That was many years ago, when the cold war was still very much with us. Now the cold war is over, and a new and a reasonable policy for our relations with Cuba is long overdue.

I for one believe that the responsible course for us to proceed with is to establish a new policy now.

V-E DAY

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to make a few statements about the occasion of May 8, 1995, V-E Day.

It is rather difficult to think of any event in the life of a nation more worthy of commemoration than the end of a world war. Remembrance and reflection are crucial if we are to maintain our sense of purpose as a nation, and our appreciation of what we value most.

The service and sacrifice of those who bore the battle at home and overseas in the Second World War can never be overstated. It was that willingness to give unstintingly not only of effort but also, in many cases, their lives, that makes the war years such an extraordinary period in our Nation's history.

Americans who fought the war came from every State in the country, and my home State of New Mexico certainly did its part. Our own friends and neighbors were heroic in their actions, in their service, and in their struggle. If not for their efforts, what would the world be like today?

Franklin Roosevelt, whose death 50 years ago we commemorated on the 12th of last month, left a monumental legacy for this country. Words from a speech that he wrote for delivery on April 13, 1945, had he lived to give that speech, still sound out a challenge, one rooted in the experience of the war and

pinned to his knowledge of his countrymen. He wrote for that speech:

The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.

We did that in the Second World War. So we must, every day, move forward now from the conflict that threatened to consume the world half a century ago. Without the service and the sacrifice that we honor today, we would have had no future as a nation. It is our obligation to those who secured that future for us to build on it as we approach the new century.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, are we still in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are still in morning business.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today marks the 50th anniversary of V-E Day, the day that saw the end of the Second World War in Europe.

From its European beginning on September 1, 1939, with Hitler's invasion of Poland, to the surrender of the German armies in Italy, on April 29, 1945, the war that was supposed to usher in the 1,000-Year Reich ended after 6 years of death, genocide, and destruction on a scale never seen before or since.

The outcome of the war changed our world profoundly, with effects that still resonate today. It left the United States the sole undamaged world power. With that status came responsibilities that most Americans had not imagined at the outset. In the 50 post-war years, those responsibilities have demanded more in American treasure and lives than from any other participant.

European and Japanese cities suffered the destruction of repeated artillery fire and massive carpet bombing. European civilians found themselves uprooted, fleeing desperately from their historic hometowns as massive armies moved back and forth across frontiers. But Americans paid a price, too.

By 1990, it is estimated that the total cost of the Second World War to the United States had reached \$4.6 trillion—including the postwar cost of veterans care and benefits. The cost of caring for our veterans is a cost of war, and should be recognized as such, lest we forget, decades later, the price of