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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH

PUBLIC MEETING

FEBRUARY 3, 2000

6:30 P.M.

FEDERAL BUILDING

RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

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1 MR. HALL: Good evening everyone.
2 Could everyone hear me, not only hear, but I know
3 there are some people out in the atrium who can watch
4 on a video monitor, so hopefully they can hear me as
5 well.

6 We are going to go ahead and get started
7 this evening, and thank you for coming this evening.

8 My name is Jim Hall, and I have been asked
9 to facilitate tonight's meeting.

10 I am here tonight as an interested resident
11 of the Tri-Cities, as many of you are. I have lived
12 in this area most of my life, spent a number of years
13 working in the media covering Hanford, and now work at
14 Kadlec Medical Center here in the Tri-Cities, where we
15 have a keen interest certainly in the health of the
16 community and the people who live here.

17 The purpose of our meeting tonight is for
18 the Department of Energy to hear your personal stories
19 and to listen to your concerns. It is the fourth in a
20 series of meetings around the country that are
21 examining work-related illnesses across the DOE sites.

22 As you can see, there is great interest in
23 tonight's meeting and while we want you to be able to
24 tell your story completely, we do ask you to try to be
25 as brief as you can in your remarks.

1 We are asking you to keep your remarks, if
2 you can, from three to five minutes. I will have a
3 timer handy. I don't want to try to be too much of
4 an enforcer. But again, as you can see, many people
5 have stories to tell, important stories to tell, and
6 we want to get as many of them as we can before you
7 tonight, or before the folks that are sitting up with
8 us here this evening.

9 So with that, before we begin, I'd like to
10 introduce Mr. Keith Klein. He is the Richland
11 Department of Energy Operations Manager.

12 Keith?

13 MR. KLEIN: Thank you. I have been on
14 the job just a little over six months now, and there's
15 a lot to learn here. And I've learned a lot and I
16 still am learning a lot, and I know I will learn some
17 more tonight.

18 It's my pleasure to introduce Dr. David
19 Michaels. As Jim said, he's been around the country
20 hearing from people like you. He's on a mission, a
21 mission from the Secretary, to understand, to help the
22 Secretary figure out what needs to be done, help the
23 administration, what needs to be done here. And as
24 you have heard, he is here to listen. We're all hear
25 to listen.

1 Dr. Michaels is an epidemiologist with over
2 20 years of experience. He has degrees from Columbia
3 University, including a Master's and a Doctoral
4 Degree. And Secretary Richards, in describing Dr.
5 Michaels, said Dr. Michaels is the right person for
6 this job at the right time. With a strong background
7 in occupational and public health, his experience and
8 leadership will be critical as we craft a
9 comprehensive health agenda and address concerns of
10 workers in communities near our major sites.

11 I know he shares my commitment, the
12 Secretary's commitment, to excellence in worker
13 safety, environmental protection, full and complete
14 understanding of potential health effects from DOE
15 operations.

16 I know he's been moved by what he's heard
17 at other sites, and I know that the Secretary is
18 listening very carefully to what he goes back and
19 reports from these meetings. He's been on the road a
20 lot, it's already late his time, and he's going to
21 stay here as long as it takes.

22 So I just want you to help me show our
23 appreciation for him coming out here, taking this time
24 and doing as good a job as he is in listening.

25 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, Keith, and

1 most of all, thank all of you who are in the room and
2 the overflow rooms. I know you all are busy people,
3 and to take an evening out to sit with us and tell
4 your stories, it is something that I'm very grateful
5 and Secretary Richardson is very grateful for.

6 I took my position as Assistant Secretary
7 of Energy a little over a year ago. The first day I
8 was on the job Secretary Richardson said to me, "There
9 are sick workers in the DOE complex, go out and listen
10 to them and tell them I want to help them." That's
11 what I have been doing.

12 This is actually my sixth public meeting at
13 different sites. I've done exactly this, sat here in
14 front of a large room. And you should not expect me
15 to be responding to what you say. What we're trying
16 to do is take this information back, we will take it
17 back to the Secretary of Energy, to the White House.

18 We're trying to put together a solution to
19 the problems that we see here at Hanford and
20 throughout the rest of the complex.

21 I can't respond to you immediately but we
22 hope you will see the response soon through
23 administration action, and through Congressional
24 action.

25 In the summer of 1999 President Clinton

1 announced that the administration would be putting
2 forward legislation asking for compensation for
3 workers throughout the Department of Energy nuclear
4 weapons complex who were exposed to beryllium and
5 developed beryllium disease, and I have talked about
6 that with many of you who worked with beryllium, and
7 we are very optimistic that this legislation will
8 pass.

9 At the same time as President Clinton
10 announced the beryllium legislation, he wrote in the
11 memo, a formal memo to the entire administration,
12 calling for a study of occupational illness across the
13 Department of Energy complex. He said he wanted to
14 know, are we making people sick in our nuclear weapons
15 complex because they have been exposed to radiation
16 and to toxic chemicals, and if we are making people
17 sick, are they being adequately compensated through
18 state Worker Compensation programs.

19 And that memo he wrote, if workers are
20 being made sick and not being adequately compensated,
21 it challenged us to come up with a solution, and we
22 have until March 31st to do that.

23 This meeting is part of answering those
24 questions.

25 What we'd like to hear from you is are we

1 making people sick, do you believe that people on the
2 Hanford Reservation who have worked at the complex
3 have been made sick, and if that's the case, what's
4 been your experience with Workers' Compensation?

5 Your stories are very important.

6 We know the complexities of occupational
7 illness, illnesses caused by exposure to chemicals or
8 to radiation. In individual cases it's often not
9 clear and not easy to tell what exactly what the one
10 cause was. And in many cases there are multiple
11 causes.

12 But your stories still have great weight
13 and great power.

14 You know, I teach epidemiology and
15 statistics in a medical school. And I am on leave
16 from there right now.

17 I tell the students the first day of class,
18 the statistics, all the statistics we talk about, are
19 people with the tears washed off. In some ways if we
20 only look at the statistics, we miss part of the
21 story.

22 And you are really the most important part
23 of the story, and you are part of our family. So I am
24 here to listen to you.

25 The way I would like to do this, I think

1 there are a couple of people at the beginning who will
2 make some announcements, make some statements, and
3 then Mr. Hall will be calling on you and asking you to
4 come up.

5 And, again, please be brief. I will stay
6 here as long as you are here and want to speak. So
7 for me and for the rest of you, let's try not to go
8 too long for each one of you.

9 Thank you again for coming. Keith, thank
10 you for hosting us. Keith Klein and his staff have
11 been very generous and helpful. My staff has been out
12 here for a couple days. We have met with many workers
13 and workers' representatives. We toured the site. We
14 have had a very good visit and I am very grateful. So
15 thank you all.

16 MR. HALL: Thank you, Dr. Michaels.

17 Before we begin our testimony I'd like to
18 call up some representatives from our -- the staffs of
19 our Congressional delegation. Senator Gorton,
20 representing Senator Gorton, we have Suzanne Heaston.
21 Representing Senator Patty Murray we have Corky
22 Mattingly. And representing Congressman Doc Hastings,
23 Joyce DeFelice.

24 So if you guys could come on up here for
25 just a moment, wind your way through the cords and

1 tripods.

2 Have you determined who's going first? Why
3 don't you go ahead, Joyce. Actually, if you could
4 just pass the mike, go one at a time right there, if
5 that would work, that would be great.

6 MS. DeFELICE: Good evening everyone.
7 I am here this evening on behalf of Congressman Doc
8 Hastings. My name is Joyce DeFelice, and I am his
9 district director, and I would like to read a
10 statement on his behalf.

11 "I appreciate the opportunity to share my
12 comments tonight. Unfortunately I am back in
13 Washington, D.C., for the legislative session, and am
14 unable to personally participate in this important
15 meeting. I look forward to hearing feedback from
16 Joyce.

17 "I am pleased to have the representatives
18 of the Department of Energy and especially Assistant
19 Secretary David Michaels here in the Tri-Cities to
20 host this meeting. With the forthcoming release of the
21 National Economic Council's occupational illness
22 report this hearing provides a much needed forum for
23 the employees of Hanford and their families to share
24 their concerns.

25 "Without the hard work of the men and women

1 at our nation's nuclear facilities, our success in
2 winning World War II and the Cold War would not have
3 been possible. Nuclear production at Hanford won
4 World War II and provided the deterrence and resolve
5 for our nation's leaders to defeat the Communism and
6 Soviet Union during the Cold War. Our debt of
7 gratitude to those workers and their communities
8 cannot be repaid. Like combat veterans, these
9 veterans of the Cold War deserve to have their
10 concerns heard and answered. For this reason we must
11 be certain what effect exposure to radiation during
12 the weapons production process may have had on
13 employees here at Hanford. The memorandum issued by
14 President Clinton on July 15th, 1999 regarding DOE
15 personnel exposure indicates that the administration
16 intends to begin to show the necessary gratitude for
17 that service.

18 "After I review the report and the comments
19 made tonight, I will seek a commitment from the
20 administration to support our Hanford workers by
21 providing compensation to them and their families if
22 appropriate. So, I hope that you will all share your
23 concerns and thoughts freely. I am certain the
24 Department of Energy representatives here will listen
25 carefully to your comments.

1 "Thank you for taking time out of your
2 schedules to be here."

3 MS. HEASTON: Hello. I am Suzanne
4 Heaston, the regional representative for Senator Slade
5 Gorton, and I have a statement from him as well.

6 "I am sorry that I am unable to be with you
7 tonight but I will receive the transcripts of the
8 proceeding and I look forward to reviewing your
9 testimony.

10 "It is of great concern to me and many
11 former -- that many former Hanford employees may stand
12 a greater chance of getting cancer or other illnesses
13 because of the work they performed for the United
14 States Government. Many of you are here this evening.
15 I again thank you for your critical work and services
16 during a pivotal time in United States history.

17 "I thank the Department of Energy for
18 coming to the Tri-Cities to listen to the concerns of
19 my constituents. I trust that the Department of
20 Energy will be promptly forthcoming with any
21 additional information relating to the Hanford
22 Reservation and its current and former employees.

23 "Dedicated Hanford employees played a
24 significant national security role not only during
25 World War II but throughout the Cold War. We are

1 grateful for what was accomplished here, thereby
2 winning the Cold War. Tonight's meeting provides the
3 opportunity for employees, family members, and others
4 to explain health concerns relating to that work. If
5 employees were harmed while helping to ensure our
6 security, we must now do the right thing. And the
7 Department of Energy has stated it is committed to
8 doing the right thing for those adversely affected
9 while performing their jobs.

10 "So, thank you for coming out tonight. I
11 look forward to learning of your concerns."

12 MS. MATTINGLY: I am Corky Mattingly
13 and I cover Central Washington for U.S. Senator Patty
14 Murray, and I would like to read this on behalf of
15 Senator Murray.

16 "I want to thank all the Tri-City residents
17 for coming out tonight to discuss work-related
18 illnesses at Department of Energy facilities. I also
19 want to thank Dr. Richard -- Dr. Michaels for his
20 presence there tonight and his leadership. Dr.
21 Michaels has advocated within the Department of Energy
22 and the Clinton administration for the federal
23 government to examine its responsibility for worker
24 health. I applaud his efforts and look forward to
25 working with him on these matters.

1 "I know how proud the people in the
2 Tri-Cities area are of the role Hanford played
3 defending our country and the free world. We owe a
4 great deal to the people who have worked at Hanford
5 and the entire Tri-City community. Part of our
6 country's debt to the workers at Hanford and other
7 facilities is proper care and compensation for any
8 illnesses caused by exposure to radiation and harmful
9 chemicals.

10 "I am pleased by the administration's
11 proposal on beryllium-related diseases and its effort
12 to evaluate whether other diseases should be similarly
13 covered, and an important part of this effort is
14 coming to Hanford to hear first hand from current and
15 former employees and their families about their
16 experiences and their ideas related to this issue.
17 The Senate session has kept me from being with you,
18 but I will be reviewing the comments made there
19 tonight. Again, thank you all for coming tonight. "

20 MR. MICHAELS: I would like to thank
21 the representatives of the Congressional delegation
22 for coming.

23 All the testimony given tonight is being
24 recorded by a court reporter who will no doubt be the
25 hardest working person this evening. So I would like

1 to ask you to speak slowly and clearly, which is
2 something I sometimes don't do. But the transcript
3 will be available on the web site of my office. I
4 won't give you the address. It's on the materials
5 right outside the door so you can take it down, you
6 don't have to write it down.

7 In addition, for those of you who don't
8 feel you can speak publicly about some of the things
9 that are of concern to you, my office has an 800
10 number. You can call us confidentially and we will
11 speak with you. That number also is on the same sheet
12 outside the door.

13 If you pick it up and call us, we would be
14 very happy to talk to you and to record your story as
15 well.

16 The transcripts from the previous public
17 meetings are, most of them are available, within the
18 next month all of them will be available, if you would
19 like to read them as well.

20 I think with that, we should turn it over
21 to Mr. Hall and he is going to tell us the rules of
22 the meeting.

23 MR. HALL: You are going to have to
24 bear with me tonight as I read these cards that you
25 signed up, because some of you can write clearer than

1 others. So if I don't correctly pronounce your name,
2 please forgive me in advance.

3 What we'd like to do is I'm going to call a
4 couple of names, so we can try to keep this moving as
5 quickly as possible and get as many people up here as
6 possible to tell their important stories. I will call
7 two names. The first name is, the first person is
8 free to come up and make those comments, and we would
9 like the second person, if able, to stand just down
10 below and be ready to go. When that person's done, we
11 will just keep the process moving.

12 If for some reason you are not able to come
13 up to the podium up here on stage to make comments, I
14 believe we have a wireless mike, that we can take the
15 microphone to you, so just raise your hand if that's
16 the case and we will come and bring the microphone to
17 you.

18 So I would like to begin with Mr. Melvin
19 Rowe, I believe, I hope that's correct, from Richland.
20 And next, a representative from the Deen family will
21 be second. And I believe that's D-e-e-n.

22 MR. ROWE: Good evening, ladies and
23 gentlemen, Dr. Michaels, and all. I am here to tell
24 you that I started working at the Hanford Site in
25 1948.

1 And I contacted cancer of the lung in 1987,
2 at which time I hired a law firm to pursue a suit to
3 pay my bills.

4 I will note that the state of Washington
5 has a way of doing that, and there is a law in I think
6 most states that have a third party system.

7 In my case the attorneys took 33 percent of
8 whatever they collected, which wasn't much anymore on
9 asbestos.

10 They removed the upper lobe of my right
11 lung, by the way, and I had an adrenal carcinoma that
12 my doctor tells me, I'm the only living large cell
13 adrenal carcinoma patient that he ever had.

14 My complaint with the state is that they
15 took 25 percent of the money that the attorneys
16 collected from the individual suppliers of materials.

17 In doing that, they then, after a year,
18 returned to me \$15,000 to pay my bills with, and told
19 me that I wouldn't get a cent more until that was
20 returned.

21 But they also told me that they only pay 33
22 percent of what I was charged.

23 Consequently, my insurance paid all the
24 bills because they were paid long before they returned
25 me any money from their coffers.

1 But to make a long story short, they never
2 paid a nickel that I didn't hire attorneys to do in
3 the first place to get me the money.

4 So their methods are just not honest and
5 right.

6 My hospital bill alone, not counting the
7 surgeon, was \$11,000. And right or wrong, my
8 insurance company wasn't aware that it was an
9 industrial case, nor was my wife who paid the bills at
10 the time. Because it took -- you had to prove to the
11 state that I was truly an asbestos patient. They had
12 to send my tissue to Dr. Hammer in Seattle and have it
13 burned and so on and so forth.

14 To keep within the time I'm simply saying
15 the State Industrial in the state of Washington has
16 not treated me fairly, and if other people are treated
17 this way, it's no use.

18 I paid my insurance from the time I went to
19 work out of high school until I retired in 1994. My
20 health insurance and my State Industrial Insurance.
21 And the state won't even pay my health insurance now,
22 is \$500 a month.

23 So how about it, guys. Is that the way to
24 be treated? Thank you.

25 MR. HALL: Thank you very much.

1 After the representative from the Deen family, Mr.
2 Russell Trainor will be next.

3 MS. DEEN-FISARRI: Thank you for the
4 opportunity to speak with you this evening. My name
5 is Carolyn Deen-Fisarri and I am here to speak on
6 behalf of my father, Tom Deen, who can no longer speak
7 for himself.

8 Tom Deen came to the Hanford atomic works
9 in 1951 as a 22 year old man, fresh from serving his
10 country honorably as a marine in the Korean War. He
11 brought with him his young bride, who was pregnant
12 with their first child.

13 My father was no stranger to hard work.
14 Had only a high school diploma and was happy for the
15 chance at steady employment so he could provide for
16 his young family.

17 He took a position as a metal worker in the
18 fuels production department in the 300 Area. For some
19 27 years, from 1951 to 1978, he held various
20 positions.

21 In the early days he worked the canning
22 line, which included the frequent handling of unclad
23 uranium fuel elements. Then he worked in the 313
24 Building, running a lathe.

25 Old timers there tell me that in the 313

1 Building the workers could not avoid exposure to the
2 uranium particles and dust in the air.

3 Next my father transferred to the material
4 handling area where he drove a high lift to load and
5 unload fuels and uranium elements. This position
6 required him to handle any and all elements, at times
7 using his bare hands.

8 Also during this time Tom was responsible
9 for the decontamination of extremely cramped up, as
10 they called it, radioactive railroad cars. This
11 included chopping out the wooden floors of these cars,
12 bundling up this radioactive material for disposal,
13 wearing very little, if any, protective clothing.

14 The most risky part of my father's job
15 appears to be when he was sent to the outer areas
16 during outages to literally run into a highly
17 contaminated hot spot area to perform maintenance, and
18 then run back out.

19 They sent men such as my father in to do
20 this work when the normal maintenance workers were
21 near their maximum radiation dosage level.

22 My father was not familiar with where the
23 real hot spots were, causing him even more dangerous
24 exposure.

25 I understand that my father did this more

1 than other men who worked there at the time. He was
2 an excellent employee and if there was a job to be
3 done, my dad would do it. He rarely, if ever, had a
4 sick day in his entire adult working life.

5 Tom Deen was always concerned about the
6 fair treatment of workers. He was an active member of
7 the local unions and served as Union President of the
8 Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council from 1972 to 1978.

9 At that time he made a dramatic career
10 change to manager of labor relations for UNC Nuclear
11 Industries until he was forced to take an early
12 retirement in 1988 because of ill health.

13 In mid 1987 my very healthy and hearty
14 seeming father began to have symptoms he did not
15 discuss with anyone. Later he described it as being
16 dizzy and very tired. He eventually could not ignore
17 his symptoms and saw a local doctor who diagnosed him
18 as having severe anemia.

19 When he did not respond to traditional
20 treatment, he was referred to the University of
21 Washington for a second opinion.

22 In early 1988 he was diagnosed with
23 myelodysplastic syndrome. In simple terms, his bone
24 marrow was failing to produce red cells, white cells,
25 and platelets, which normally are necessary to

1 maintain life. Chromosome studies on his bone marrow
2 revealed an abnormal chromosome pattern, not typical
3 of the classic abnormalities associated with
4 myelodysplastic syndrome.

5 His prognosis was quite poor. The last 11
6 months of my father's life were very difficult. This
7 once strong and vibrant man was now at times too weak
8 to walk from the car to the house. He required
9 frequent transfusions of red blood cells and platelets
10 just to maintain him for a few days.

11 He began an experimental treatment with the
12 bone marrow stimulator GMCFS, necessitating him to
13 have painful shots with uncomfortable side effects.

14 Four months prior to his death he was
15 forced to take an early retirement.

16 For a man who had rarely taken a day off,
17 this was a tremendously difficult decision. He
18 believed, as did we, that he would beat this terrible
19 disease.

20 Unfortunately on November 1st, 1988, Tom
21 Deen died at the age of 59 years.

22 I felt it was important to speak tonight.
23 Tom Deen was a very loyal company man who was
24 reluctant to speak negatively about the nuclear
25 industry.

1 Near the end of his days with us he
2 confided to me that maybe he had trusted the wrong
3 people.

4 I'm so pleased the Department of Energy has
5 admitted that nuclear workers at the Hanford Site may
6 have illnesses caused by their exposure to uranium.
7 But I wonder if maybe my father did trust the wrong
8 people, and if he had only known that the job he
9 worked so diligently at for so many years really did
10 have risks and hazards that might have affected his
11 future health, if he would have found other work and
12 he might still be with us.

13 I don't believe he was afforded that
14 choice.

15 We may never really know what caused Tom
16 Dean's myelodysplastic syndrome, but I believe that he
17 would still be alive today if not for his radiation
18 exposure.

19 He came from hearty stock. His father
20 lived well into his 70s and his mother is still living
21 today.

22 It is only fair that there be some
23 compensation for the sacrifice my father gave for
24 helping to keep his country safe.

25 Thank you.

1 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you very much.

2 MR. HALL: I would now like to call
3 up Russell Trainor. And he will be followed by Thad
4 Coleman.

5 MR. TRAINOR: Well, I want to know if
6 you were aware that some employees were asked to sign
7 a form to accept more radiation than the lifetime
8 dose.

9 We were told that we were unable to perform
10 the duties for which we were trained unless we signed
11 this form.

12 Now, I've tested positive for asbestos,
13 beryllium, I've got a tumor taken off my left hand, a
14 growth on my left lung, I have had my adrenal gland
15 removed because of a tumor, and I have had pneumonia
16 the last -- twice in the hospital in the last six
17 months.

18 I just wish that you would be aware of
19 this. I have the form here.

20 DR. MICHAELS: I would be eager if you
21 could share a copy with me.

22 MR. TRAINOR: Yes, I do.

23 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, sir.

24 MR. HALL: Come on up, Mr. Coleman.
25 After Mr. Coleman, we will have a representative of

1 the Williamson family.

2 MR. COLEMAN: I am Thad Coleman. My
3 first trip to the Hanford works was January of 1949.
4 I came over from the South Pacific in January, came to
5 Richland to visit my sister, went to work. We built
6 100 H here. I worked in every area out there.

7 I have been diagnosed with cancer of the
8 pancreas, with six weeks to live.

9 But God saved me.

10 Now I have had surgery on my throat, I have
11 been through the Virginia Mason sleep clinic, apnea,
12 whatever they call it. The Yakima Apnea Clinic. I
13 get so much wind I can't breathe it all sometimes.
14 Sometimes I don't get any. But I do have, they tell
15 me I have asbestosis, and beryllium was in 33 of the
16 buildings out there, I have worked in every one of
17 them. There's only one out there that I missed and
18 that was the 2345 and 2 West Area.

19 I go to a doctor, they want to know my
20 Medicare number for medical. I give it to them.

21 Oh, you are not covered with that. You
22 have got to go to State Industrial.

23 So then I give them State Industrial.

24 Oh, you have been working for maintenance,
25 you have got to go on something else.

1 So they bounce the ball back and forth.

2 And I've got one judgment against me for a
3 medical bill.

4 I would like to know who a doctor is that
5 you can go to that won't overcharge you and will
6 accept what is available for him and give you an
7 answer for what is wrong, what's the problem. Right
8 now I'm up in the air. Because I go to a doctor, he
9 says, we've got to have an x-ray. You go to get an
10 x-ray, you have to send it to somebody else to read
11 it. Then he overcharges you, Medicare will only pay
12 so much, unless the bill is worth \$80, the doctor
13 wants \$80, Medicare will pay \$40 of it, then my
14 secondary insurance will pay 80 percent of what
15 Medicare allowed.

16 Hell, you're still sitting there with a
17 bill. What are you going to do with it?

18 Then you go pay it, they'll take you to the
19 collection agency, take you to court and collect it.
20 They've got me right now in a bind for 1500 bucks.

21 What the hell are we going to do about it?
22 Where we going with it?

23 No. I don't want to be the richest man in
24 the graveyard, I will say that. I'm not out to sue.

25 But I will say this, Tomlinson was the

1 person that contacted me in Texas, was going to
2 represent me in a lawsuit, with some others. And I
3 signed up with him. It went along until our Governor
4 George Bush, who wants us to vote for him for
5 President now, says Tomlinson cannot represent anybody
6 that isn't from the state of Texas.

7 So then you had to go find somebody else.

8 I don't know. I'd like to find where we
9 can find a doctor that won't overcharge and will tell
10 you what the problem is.

11 They say the only thing we can do now with
12 me is a lung transplant. Has any of you guys out
13 there got a lung you want to get rid of?

14 Well, I need one. God can save us, I know
15 that. He's done it twice with me and my wife. And I
16 thank God he's there available.

17 But we do need help. We've got to get an
18 answer to this. We have the most wonderful country
19 in the world.

20 But I had a flood a few years back, I went
21 over, Red Cross called me, said we have got assistance
22 for you. I went over there. There is a big room full
23 of Mexicans, colored people, everything. I was the
24 only white guy in there.

25 But they said, "Well, you sit over in the

1 corner. Sit over in the corner." I stayed there
2 until it was all empty.

3 They said, "What's your problem?"

4 I told them, my house. I couldn't get to
5 it.

6 Oh. Well, we don't do anything for you on
7 that.

8 I'm still alive. God's helped me, led me
9 down the road.

10 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, sir.

11 MR. COLEMAN: Just remember George
12 Bush when he comes to represent anybody from Texas.

13 DR. MICHAELS: Mr. Coleman, I can't
14 help you to find a physician here who will take a
15 Medicare assignment. What we can do, though, for
16 former workers at the Hanford Reservation, the
17 Department of Energy funds two programs that offer
18 free medical surveillance to former workers for their
19 occupational illness.

20 We have one program for members of the
21 building trades, which is run by the University of
22 Washington, and another program for the production
23 workers and that's run -- I'm sorry, the building
24 trades are run by the Center to Protect Workers
25 Rights, George Washington University, and the program

1 for production workers is run by the University of
2 Washington.

3 Both have excellent physicians who come to
4 the Tri-City area and offer free medical care. Not
5 medical care. Medical examinations for occupational
6 illness. I don't know if any of the coordinators are
7 here. But it is certainly a program, if you could get
8 back to us, or we could get back to you on some
9 information on that.

10 MR. COLEMAN: Could I add a little
11 bit to that, sir.

12 I worked for maintenance out there for ten
13 years. I covered every building. But if I tell them
14 I work for GE, you're in the wrong department, you've
15 got to go over to building trades.

16 Well, I worked in the building trades the
17 rest of the time. But I'm a baseball, back and forth,
18 back and forth. Let's get it all together.

19 DR. MICHAELS: Okay. Thank you, sir.

20 MR. HALL: Is there someone from the
21 Williamson family here? Come on up. You are up next.
22 Following next will be Mr. Silianas, Euslolio
23 Silianas.

24 MS. WILLIAMSON: I just got here so I
25 don't know the rules.

1 MR. HALL: Just talk into that
2 microphone.

3 DR. MICHAELS: Five minutes.

4 MR. WILLIAMSON: I teach middle
5 school, and I practiced today in each of my classes.
6 I had trouble getting through it. I got a little more
7 emotional than I planned. I'm going to do my best to
8 get through this.

9 One of the girls in my class, seventh
10 grader, said picture all of you in your underwear.
11 Maybe that will. It is scary thinking of my sister
12 dying in her underwear, but I will do my best.

13 My name is Jim Williamson and I am here
14 tonight with several of my family members. My dad
15 Jack Williamson began working at the Hanford Site in
16 1967.

17 As a child what I knew was that my dad
18 worked out in the Area. He did not talk much about
19 his job or about exactly what he did.

20 What I do remember was that he rarely
21 missed a day of work, and if he was needed for an
22 extra shift to cover for someone else, he was there.

23 I felt, growing up, that he trusted and
24 respected his employer and that he felt that he was
25 trusted and respected as an employee.

1 What my dad actually did was work as a
2 nuclear process operator. He worked in the Tank
3 Farms, including the evaporators, pretty much his
4 entire work career. As a shift worker he was often by
5 himself at all hours of the night, keeping company
6 with tanks filled with the most lethal radioactive
7 waste on earth.

8 He did this work until he retired in 1993.
9 Unfortunately he did not have much opportunity to
10 enjoy his retirement.

11 First he was diagnosed with prostate
12 cancer. The changes in his lungs revealed asbestosis
13 and he lost much of his hearing. During the past
14 couple of years my dad's breathing became more and
15 more difficult, and he was winded and tired from the
16 least bit of activity.

17 Not being a complainer, he tried to believe
18 that he would improve on his own, and we all wanted to
19 believe that, too.

20 But finally in August of 1999 he was
21 diagnosed with a bone marrow cancer, and the grim
22 prognosis was that he would have about a year to live.
23 This disease was myelofibrosis and later diagnosed as
24 myelodysplasia, a disease of the bone marrow that was
25 also found in the survivors of Hiroshima. Dad's bone

1 marrow had become fibrous and had lost its capacity to
2 produce mature blood cells.

3 The next few months consisted of being
4 admitted in and out of hospitals. He had to receive
5 multiple blood transfusions to the point of one every
6 four to five days, until finally even the transfusions
7 were not helpful.

8 In October, just three months after being
9 diagnosed, my dad passed away.

10 Shortly before his death my dad filed a
11 Workers' Compensation claim and noted his exposure to
12 radiation, asbestos, and toxic chemicals.

13 You know, I don't think he ever wanted to
14 believe that his job was responsible for killing him,
15 but even he had to admit to the facts that were all
16 around him.

17 To be quite honest, I do not want to be
18 here right now, but I feel I owe it to my dad and to
19 my mom. I wanted to explain what a dedicated worker
20 he was, just like many others here in this room. I
21 truly believe that these terrible diseases took my
22 dad's life. It was not his time. He had many more
23 years to spend here with us.

24 As he became sick, we desperately
25 researched to find out about his disease. All the

1 information we read kept mentioning that its cause was
2 linked to exposure to radiation or toxic chemicals.

3 Dad was in the process of being tested for
4 beryllium shortly before he died. The testing source
5 said they needed another sample, but it was just too
6 late.

7 Now, meeting here tonight is very difficult
8 for us, because it was just four months ago that my
9 dad died. He died in October. And then November was
10 the first Thanksgiving without my dad. And then
11 December was Christmas without my dad. And January,
12 the next month, was my dad's birthday. And here we
13 are in February.

14 And I wanted to come here and tell this
15 story and hope that you listen and that you respond.

16 Thank you.

17 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

18 MR. HALL: Thank you very much. Mr.
19 Silianas is up next, and here is another one of those
20 times I am going to have trouble deciphering. I
21 believe the first name is Matthew, and I am stumped on
22 the last name, Kennewick, I don't want to give out the
23 address, but it is a Kennewick resident. Is it
24 Frangal? Fransell?

25 MR. FRANGAL: I will yield mine to

1 somebody else's story. Mine is very similar.

2 MR. HALL: Okay. Thank you very
3 much, sir. So up next, excuse me, Mr. Charles Lacy
4 will be following next.

5 Mr. Silianas, the mike is yours.

6 MR. SILIANAS: Euslolio Silianas is my
7 name. Junior everybody knows me by.

8 I started work out in the Hanford Site in
9 the late '80s. I was involved in the final PUREX
10 cleanout run. I did the UO3 run with a lot of other
11 dedicated people, uranium trioxide plant.

12 I currently now work in the Tank Farms,
13 West Area, with interim stabilization, trying to
14 stabilize the tanks out there that are filled with all
15 the chemicals that were taken out of all the different
16 plants.

17 At the age of 39 I was diagnosed with
18 chronic lymphocytic leukemia. I have been battling
19 this for five years. Last summer was probably the
20 worst of it so far, that I had to undergo a few rounds
21 of chemotherapy.

22 I hear now that the government is admitting
23 fault, or they want to help out the people.

24 A lot of the trouble lies with when I was
25 off on a short-term disability. I don't know how the

1 state compensation program works. But I was met with
2 a very rude awakening when our benefits, after two
3 months, ceased to pay me because they had to check out
4 the different paperwork and to see if I was really
5 sick.

6 I was sick. I would rather be healthy
7 every day of my life and continue working every day of
8 my life.

9 I don't know where this disease is taking
10 me. I may need a bone marrow transplant. Who knows?

11 You folks came to hear stories. You have
12 heard a lot of stories from a lot of great people
13 here, a lot of people that put out a lot of effort.
14 Some of them are no longer with us.

15 I did my work and I did it proudly.

16 I guess my question to you is, what will
17 you do for us? I know you can't answer a lot of these
18 things. There is a myriad of stories here. Just like
19 the cancer that invades a lot of our bodies. Cancer
20 is a myriad of illnesses.

21 I'd like to be around when I retire to be
22 with my boys and hopefully some grandchildren.

23 Something a lot of people didn't get a chance to do.

24 So I'm now in the Tank Farms working over
25 tanks, hopefully trying to clean up the site. I've

1 done my share. I've done my effort, like a lot of
2 other people.

3 I hope you guys are up to the task, too.
4 Thank you.

5 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you. Mr.
6 Silianas, on behalf of the Secretary, I would also
7 like to assure you that in addition to trying to find
8 a process and a program that can help people who we
9 have made sick, the Secretary and I are deeply
10 committed to ensuring that current exposures are
11 limited to such an extent that we don't make any
12 people sick in the future. We can't forget that
13 either.

14 I think the staff here are working very
15 hard on that. I am certainly working very hard to
16 make sure we don't make more people sick into the
17 future, as well.

18 MR. LACY: Good evening. Ladies and
19 gentlemen.

20 MR. HALL: Excuse me, sir, if I may.
21 Before you begin, I'm sorry, a little quick
22 housekeeping item.

23 I want to call Ronald, and again a name,
24 forgive me, Implor, Impson, from Selah, you will be up
25 next.

1 I'm sorry. Go ahead.

2 MR. LACY: That's quite all right.
3 Dr. Michaels, my name is Charles C. Tim Lacy. I'm a
4 member of Local 598 of the United Association of
5 Plumbers and Pipefitters.

6 I'm retired. I worked at Hanford from 1971
7 to 1997. I was out there a couple of short times
8 prior to that when I worked for the Army Corps of
9 Engineers on the Nike Zus missile sites.

10 As a pipefitter I worked in areas 100 N,
11 200, 300, 400, 1100, and also worked shutdowns at 100
12 N and at Hanford 2. I worked in heavy radiation
13 areas, and I've also worked in no radiation areas.

14 I've tested positive for beryllium on three
15 different tests. They were performed by the lab at
16 the National Jewish Hospital, I think that's in
17 Denver.

18 In February '99 I tested positive. And in
19 March of '99 I tested positive. And in July of '99 at
20 the specialty lab in California I tested positive.

21 I've also tested a thickening the plurals.
22 I never did know exactly what that was. I didn't even
23 know what a plural was. But I guess it's the lining
24 that your lungs set in. I've tested positive
25 certainly on the plurals some two different x-rays,

1 and in going through Dr. Smith at Our Lady of Lourdes
2 Occupational Health, he felt I was suffering from
3 beryllium disease, and the plural certainly is from my
4 exposure to asbestos.

5 As you all probably realize, for many years
6 we didn't even know asbestos was bad for us, or
7 somebody didn't anyway. They used to even give us
8 asbestos blankets to protect us from hot pipes, etc.
9 But we didn't think anything of it at the time.

10 My lungs through the x-rays show scars and
11 some granules. I don't know what the granules are.
12 And the scars, I don't know whether it's from the
13 beryllium or what.

14 I had never heard of beryllium before in my
15 life. Not until they told me I tested positive for
16 it. I didn't even know what beryllium was.

17 Come to find out, it's a metal I guess they
18 use in the nuclear industry.

19 I suffer from constant phlegm in the throat
20 and bronchial tubes, and hoarseness. And I have a
21 constant cough. From what, I don't know. I don't
22 know. It could be the beryllium, it could be
23 something else. I don't know. I have had it for
24 going on for three to four years now.

25 And I also have tested as having severe

1 hearing loss by Ear Tech Corporation in Kennewick.

2 Now, I did file L & I on all three of these
3 problems. The Labor and Industry people tell me that
4 my beryllium exposure and my asbestos exposure have to
5 be separated, because they are two different deals.
6 However, I still have the charge on them on beryllium,
7 and I have the charge on them on my ears.

8 Where it goes from there, gentlemen, I
9 don't know.

10 I thank you kindly for your time.

11 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, sir.

12 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Lacy.

13 The gentleman from Selah, come on up. I
14 will let you say your name before I make another stab.
15 Next will be Opal Harger, Opal Harger will follow
16 next.

17 MR. IMPSON: My name is Ron Impson.
18 It is probably my writing that you couldn't read
19 there.

20 I'm a former employee for Rockwell and for
21 Westinghouse.

22 The reason I'm here tonight, the reason I
23 am no longer working in the Area, 200 East, 2 West,
24 the K Basins, is because I suffered in 1992, I started
25 in 1981, and my work assignment was in 234 Dash 5. I

1 worked, my specialty was an instrument specialist and
2 worked with installing what they call the calciner
3 fluorinator on the RMC line.

4 About a year and a half ago I dealt with a
5 heart attack, so I don't want to have one up here
6 tonight. So I'm trying to take it easy.

7 But in 1992, like I said, I suffered the
8 prostate cancer, and I felt at that time that, well, I
9 was about 52 at the time, so I thought, well, that's
10 something that guys are going to deal with somewhere
11 in life.

12 Well, since then I have found out that
13 there's various people that worked in the plutonium,
14 around the weapons industry, they've also dealt with
15 prostate cancers at an early age.

16 I continued to work until 1996. At that
17 time I was diagnosed with thyroid lymphoma. And one
18 side of my thyroid was about the size of a baseball, I
19 was told, and the other side was about the size of a
20 tennis ball. And it was becoming very difficult to
21 swallow, and to eat, and to swallow tablets and that
22 sort of thing.

23 So, anyway, ironically, I had worked around
24 the radiation materials and I thought that, I began to
25 think at that point in time that that's what really

1 caused this, it finally got to me.

2 So I no longer could work at Hanford, but I
3 had 15 years there and I thought, well, they had the
4 early reduction of force programs, and I thought it
5 was really time to leave after dealing with two
6 cancers.

7 Today I have an active Labor and Industries
8 claim which they have rejected. They said that they
9 didn't have, that it wasn't work-related, and I got a
10 letter from an attorney today and found out that the
11 Department of Labor and Industries didn't even have my
12 dosimetry records to where they could see how much
13 radiation I really had.

14 I've got some safety concerns pertaining to
15 working around the radiation there. It's the thyroid
16 collars. I never heard of a thyroid collar until I
17 dealt with thyroid lymphoma, and after that I have
18 done a lot of research into it and found out that they
19 can protect the thyroid area from 75 to 90 something
20 percent of the radiation that you will be getting in
21 that area.

22 And like I said, I have worked there, like
23 a lot of you folks here, have worked within hands
24 reach of plutonium type materials, but I was right
25 there beside the head end of the RMC line where they

1 did the, turning the nitrate solutions back into the
2 plutonium.

3 I've got one other concern. I didn't know
4 I was going to be doing this tonight. I am definitely
5 not a speaker. But the concern is that when we used
6 to leave Dash 5 and some of the other plants and
7 reactors out there, we had the process out on hand and
8 shoe counters.

9 There is a lot of areas now that they have
10 removed the hand and shoe counters and people don't
11 have to do this check before they leave, before they
12 go home.

13 And you read in the newspaper where folks,
14 there's been, well, radioactive tumbleweeds rolling
15 around out there, there's been, they've blamed insects
16 for transferring contamination to different areas.
17 They have got different ideas of the week, every day
18 of the week when they leave there.

19 I just think you should be able to check
20 out, to be able to at least know if you're taking
21 something home with you or not, or prevent it from
22 going home.

23 I am really nervous. I don't know what
24 else. You get to the point where you really don't
25 know what you have said.

1 But I am really concerned about the safety
2 of the people that are still working at Hanford and
3 working around it, the introduction of a thyroid
4 collar type protection. I used to have to work in and
5 out of the fault areas, and for a number of years,
6 from the late, about the mid 1980s to the early 1990s
7 we used leaded type vests to make entries into the
8 lab -- into the vaults to do the work. And they
9 discontinued that for some reason.

10 And a lot of times that we were out there
11 our dosimetry was always supposed to be behind the
12 vest that we were wearing. They said that they wanted
13 to know what the whole body was really getting. They
14 were not too concerned about the extremities, that it
15 could take more radiation.

16 But when I was up there next, working
17 around it, like the calciner and fluorinator and
18 things, there is no protection between your thyroid,
19 the neck area and the head. You could lay blankets
20 across here, but from the armpits up, there was no
21 additional shielding that could be used.

22 I think I'm going to just stop at this
23 point while I'm still able to talk.

24 MR. HALL: Thank you very much, sir.

25 I would like to call up Opal Harger. And

1 as I do, I would like to remind everyone who comes up,
2 when you sit down, talk as close as you can to the
3 microphone for the benefit of everyone here so you can
4 been heard by everyone in the room as well as outside
5 the room.

6 So, Mrs. Harger, and followed by Virginia
7 Knirck, if that is correct. The mike's yours.

8 MS. HARGER: My name is Opal Mud
9 Harger, and in 1943 we came in to the area. My
10 husband came in 1943 and I followed him later on that
11 year.

12 He passed away in 1978 from bursted heart.
13 And he had been off of work for probably two years.
14 And he tried to get on, back on to work with the Fire
15 Department. And even though he had seniority, they
16 would not let him come back.

17 So he put in a lawsuit against the company,
18 and before the lawsuit could be finalized, he died in
19 December of '78.

20 I was working in the Areas myself, went to
21 work in 1948. Worked in the labs, chemical labs,
22 until, for about five years, and then I went in to
23 quality control standards where I had to make up
24 material that matched the material that was in the
25 tanks so that the labs could -- I had to standardize

1 them so that the labs could turn around and check
2 their methods to see how good they were, based on my
3 standard product.

4 And it was time consuming, it was very,
5 very meticulous, something that really you had to keep
6 track of your -- that you were doing the right thing
7 at the right time.

8 We had the proper things for radiation, but
9 my concern is that I had to have the right breast
10 removed after I retired, three years after I retired.
11 And it was a unique type thing, that we had radiation
12 material behind lead bricks. And my badge came up
13 with a big black spot, it said I had really be
14 radiated with something.

15 So they called me in, and then they started
16 checking in my lab. I was the only -- I had a large
17 lab, and I was the only one responsible at that time.
18 But somebody had come in, put the material, radiation
19 material behind the bricks. But sometime or another
20 someone had slipped a brick loose or something, and it
21 radiated into my office and caused that badge to be
22 over-radiated.

23 And so I had that breast removed, but the
24 cancer was not found by the fluid being -- needle
25 being put in there and the fluid coming out. They

1 couldn't do it, because it was surrounded with, now,
2 see, I'm nervous, too, it was with a callous. And the
3 callous, it was inside of the callous.

4 And so even going in, they didn't get
5 through the callous enough to get the fluid. But I
6 caught the growing of the cell myself. And we watched
7 it for quite some time. And when we saw it growing,
8 the doctor removed it in Moses Lake.

9 And I'm really, I really think down deep
10 that this was caused from that radiation incident. I
11 worked from 1948 to 1981, which is 32 years, and I
12 worked in -- I was there even when they pulled all the
13 asbestos out of the hoods out there. Because the
14 scare on asbestos was there at that time.

15 So that's my story. Thank you for
16 listening.

17 MR. HALL: Thank you. Next up is
18 Virginia Knirck. Following her is Grant McCalmant
19 from Kennewick. Hopefully I said that correct.

20 Go ahead, Ma'am.

21 MS. KNIRCK: Hi. I might be here at
22 the right time or the wrong place. But my father -- I
23 came to Richland in 1944. My father had radiation
24 exposure and he died at the age of 55. I have had
25 four unrelated cancers. I have had lymphoma with a

1 splenectomy, I have had colon cancer, and I have had
2 my right kidney removed. My son at ten had his
3 pheroted gland removed which was malignant and two
4 years later it came back, and now he has leukemia.

5 My sister who is in the audience now has
6 been diagnosed with lymphoma, which they say is not a
7 familial disease.

8 We all grew up in Richland. I mean, we
9 were all here in the '40s. Her husband has had two
10 cancers, colon cancer and some other cancer.

11 My interest is, is living in Richland, is
12 this causing my son and my sisters and my father and
13 myself and all of us to have this cancer?

14 There's never been any history of cancer in
15 my family, so it isn't that it runs in my family. And
16 it just seems, I need these questions answered,
17 especially with my son just going through radiation a
18 few weeks ago.

19 DR. MICHAELS: I think you raised some
20 very good questions.

21 The Department of Energy is trying to work
22 with the Centers for Disease Control and with various
23 State Health Departments to answer questions like
24 that.

25 We have programs where we actually don't do

1 the research, because it's been felt that if we did
2 the research, it wouldn't be credible, but we've asked
3 the Centers for Disease Control to investigate
4 questions like this. So I will look into this.

5 I don't know if there have been studies
6 done on Richland in particular, but we will look at
7 what's been done on this area and we will get back to
8 you.

9 MS. KNIRCK: I thank you.

10 MR. HALL: Is Mr. McCalmant, is that
11 correct?

12 MR. McCALMANT: Yes.

13 MR. HALL: And up next will be Jim
14 Knapp from Kennewick.

15 MR. McCALMANT: My name is Grant
16 McCalmant.

17 I have worked at the Hanford Site since
18 1979. I don't have any problems as of yet. But I
19 started as a pipefitter apprentice working out at the
20 N Reactor, as well as the other parts of the Hundred
21 Areas.

22 As a pipefitter out there we were
23 decommissioning the old reactors, F, D, DR. Any time
24 they didn't have any outages going, we were out
25 cutting pipe, removing pipelines to the river at the

1 time.

2 When I first started working at the 100 N
3 on the outage, we had to wear fresh air when we went
4 in, cutting, welding on pipes. We used to carry the
5 MSA mask, what they call the elephant trunk, about a
6 three foot hose, open into the area we worked into.
7 You crawled through these pipes, down into things,
8 like the pipe gallery there.

9 A lot of times the hose was laying there on
10 the ground blowing, we would attach our hose to that,
11 to the atmosphere.

12 If you weren't careful when you were going
13 in, you could suck up dirt, anything else in the
14 hose.

15 We'd undue the line there, exit right out
16 the hose, where we were just welding, cutting,
17 whatever. During refueling outages, I have been on
18 jobs where the stay time on the job was less than a
19 minute, and we took our 300 millirems exposure.

20 At that time I was pretty lucky, I was with
21 the pipefitters, they had a contractual agreement
22 where they could only take 300 millirems exposure a
23 week.

24 Some of the other craftsmen weren't as
25 lucky. Some of the crafts could take 500 on Friday,

1 and take another 500 on Monday. You know, it just was
2 not good.

3 I went to work in the labs in 1990. Me and
4 other co-workers were repackaging wastes in the lab.

5 A telephone subcontractor drilled through
6 the wall. We seen dust in the air. We asked what was
7 going on. Talked to the engineer and they said, "Oh,
8 don't worry, it's just a fiberglass wall they drilled
9 through, fiberglass insulation."

10 Two weeks later they did monitoring. It
11 was asbestos.

12 But they closed the room down, insulators
13 come in, mitigated it, cleaned it all up. But they
14 told us it was all below the exposable limits, don't
15 worry about it.

16 Our facility has six air changes an hour.
17 It was two weeks before they tested it. What was
18 there then?

19 And then we had another incident out at the
20 laboratories where I work right now as a lab tech. We
21 have two rooms people are working in, people got sick.
22 It was blew off. We were told, ah, the workers are
23 just complaining, don't worry about it.

24 The DOE rep got sick. All of a sudden the
25 room is on restricted access.

1 You know, the workers, it is no big deal.

2 But the DOE rep, we believe that now.

3 So we monitor. They have done all kinds of
4 tests, stuff like that. It's safe. They're going to
5 repaint the rooms, go inside the rooms in the duct
6 work, just inside the room, the fresh air duct work,
7 and clean them.

8 Not the whole duct system. Just what they
9 can reach from inside the rooms. And we're going to
10 restart them rooms.

11 My main information I want to let people
12 know, there was a lot of stuff that happened years
13 ago, but there's a lot of stuff still happening out
14 there that we need to watch.

15 I work as a safety representative for the
16 PACE International, paper workers, Allied Industrial
17 Chemical and Energy Workers. And I have talked to a
18 lot of workers at different sites, DOE sites. And I
19 had a gentleman who was retired make a comment. He
20 goes, "I was paid to take exposure."

21 You know, that type statement is a hero.
22 They took exposure to stop, you know, helped stop
23 World War II and prevent the Cold War from ever
24 escalating.

25 Now DOE needs to step up and take care of

1 the people work that did the heroics back then that
2 believed that they were safe and now they are
3 suffering from all the effects of the exposures to
4 chemicals, beryllium, asbestosis, and chemicals.

5 Thank you.

6 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

7 MR. HALL: Is Jim Knapp here? Okay.
8 Mr. Knapp will be followed by Robert Mitchell.

9 MR. KNAPP: I'm a little nervous,
10 too.

11 I worked out there at Hanford with a lot of
12 you guys out there. I started in 1960. Worked out
13 there and retired in '96. Went through the testing
14 that they did for Washington State University and
15 found out I have asbestosis. I went through the
16 doctors here at Kadlec, and they've also told me the
17 same thing.

18 And I just think that the government should
19 compensate for the workers, that they've done, for the
20 work they've done out there for what's happening to
21 them now.

22 I've also been in a lot of different type
23 of chemicals out there. A lot of the other guys were,
24 too.

25 And Jack Williamson was a very good friend

1 of mine, and I know he went through some pretty bad
2 stuff.

3 That's all I've got. Thank you.

4 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Knapp.

5 Mr. Mitchell. And up next will be Craig
6 Hall.

7 MR. MITCHELL: I worked at Hanford
8 from 1929 to 1983. (Inaudible). After I retired in
9 1983 my voice started going away, so I went to the
10 doctor. They said, oh, you have a problem, it is a
11 virus. So they removed my voice box, my vocal chords
12 and all my thyroid.

13 And I would just like to say that I can't
14 help but think that this was brought on by
15 (inaudible). Thank you very much.

16 MR. HALL: Mr. Hall is up. Randy
17 Knowles will be next. Randy Knowles.

18 Go ahead, Mr. Hall.

19 MR. HALL: My name is Craig Hall and
20 I am the first person diagnosed at Hanford with
21 berylliosis, and I also have the first L & I case with
22 the state of Washington with berylliosis.

23 I represent a group called the beryllium
24 awareness group, and we want to talk tonight
25 specifically with Congressional people, we talked with

1 Dr. Michaels yesterday, in fact he attended our
2 meeting out at HAMMER.

3 I want to talk about a few items. We had
4 some packets our group wanted to give the
5 Congressional people, specifically for Doc Hastings,
6 and also Senator Murray, and also Gorton.

7 Some of the things I want to talk about
8 specifically, the group wanted to talk about, is first
9 of all we applaud Bill Clinton and Bill Richardson to
10 come forward and be honest about what is taking place.
11 You are the first administration my ever taken
12 responsibility for what has happened, and I guarantee
13 you, that is a big move. Really big.

14 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

15 MR. HALL: What we see as a group
16 when we look at the thing, your administration, at
17 least Clinton's administration, will be gone by
18 January of 2001. We are a little worried that what
19 administration we may get may change what's taking
20 place.

21 So, for the Congressional people, we'd like
22 to have a bill that would benefit the workers prior to
23 the Clinton administration leaving. We as the
24 Beryllium Awareness Group would like to provide
25 information, any questions or answers they would like

1 to ask the Congressional group, we are going to leave
2 the packets with names and numbers and we would
3 appreciate it if the Congressional group would contact
4 us, especially if we are talking about a beryllium
5 issue.

6 We have a concentrated effort, we think we
7 are kind of a vehicle for information, at least at
8 Hanford, on the beryllium issue. We would like to get
9 more people tested, so this is a communication device
10 for our group at this point, and we would like the
11 people at Hanford to come forth.

12 You have three different testing
13 facilities. HEHF for the people working at Hanford
14 right now, or the people on disability. You've got
15 the 598 group that is tied to Kanute Ringen or Han
16 Cartley, which is the construction building trades
17 people. And you have my doctor, which is outside in
18 the other room by the name of Tim TaCaro, who is the
19 University of Washington/Harborview in Seattle.

20 All three of those testing facilities are
21 pretty good at what they do and they have got some
22 really great people there to help you.

23 We have some problems in respect to
24 monitoring. They talk about monitoring people for
25 funding and stuff, keeping track of people, after

1 they've been diagnosed, let's say, with double
2 positives.

3 Some of the information that we have found
4 through National Jewish Hospital and Dr. TaCaro is
5 that 10 percent a year and up to 50 percent within
6 five years who proved to be double positive or come up
7 to be double positives, as we call it, sensitizing,
8 with berylliosis.

9 For most people berylliosis is somewhat
10 simpler to asbestosis, but because it is so rare, it
11 is easy to take and treat, and if you find out about
12 it early enough, you have a better chance of making
13 it.

14 One of the things also we have found is
15 genetics has a lot to do with it. If you have good
16 genetics, which fortunately I have, you have a chance
17 of living long enough to find a cure.

18 So getting the DOE and United States
19 Government behind us, see if we can do something about
20 it. There is other places like Rocky Flats, Oak
21 Ridge, which I know Dr. Michaels knows about, they've
22 got people a lot more than just me and one other
23 individual at Hanford that have berylliosis and there
24 are a lot worse off. A lot of them are on tanks, that
25 kind of thing. They need help from the government

1 and also DOE and all of our Congressional people to
2 help get something done with this. Because these
3 people are in bad shape.

4 What was interesting yesterday, just for
5 you, Dr. Michaels, yesterday was my 19th year at
6 Hanford, and that's the day that you attended our
7 meeting. So that was pretty interesting.

8 DR. MICHAELS: I am sorry it took so
9 long.

10 MR. HALL: Thank you. We will hand
11 the packets out, and thank you for your time.

12 MR. HALL: Is Mr. Knowles -- yes, he
13 is. Up next is Rose Marie Allen will follow Mr.
14 Knowles.

15 MR. KNOWLES: Dr. Michaels, welcome.
16 My name is Randy Knowles. I am the President of PACE
17 Local 8369. We represent more than 700 workers at the
18 Hanford Site and we are part of the Hanford Atomic
19 Metal Trades Council.

20 In 1951 an eminent physician, Dr. Earnest
21 Goodpasture, then the Vice-Chairman of the advisory
22 committee on biology and medicine, wrote to the
23 chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. I would
24 like to read the last paragraph of his letter.

25 "Cancer is a specific industrial hazard of

1 the atomic energy business. This significant fact
2 justifies in the opinion of the committee the
3 continued exploitation of the commission special
4 facilities for radiation and cancer research,
5 diagnosis and therapy. The committee recommends the
6 cancer program be vigorously pursued as a humanitarian
7 duty for the nation."

8 Today, nearly 50 years later, the
9 administration's finally admitted a private
10 communication had warned at the onset of the Cold War.
11 Again the last sentence, "The committee recommends the
12 cancer program be vigorously pursued as a humanitarian
13 duty to the nation."

14 The administration and our Congressional
15 delegation needs to focus on addressing the
16 humanitarian needs. We need a comprehensive bill that
17 will compensate not only the Paducah workers but the
18 workers here at Hanford.

19 Washington State is reputed to have the
20 most worker friendly compensation system in the
21 country, yet I have heard of workers who have been
22 denied compensation for obvious occupational diseases
23 such as chronic beryllium disease. Workers'
24 Compensation bill proposed by the administration is
25 beginning just compensation for current and former

1 workers in the complex. However, it's far too narrow
2 in its scope in both the diseases and the sites. The
3 Department of Energy is spending over six billion
4 dollars to clean up the contaminated waste. A billion
5 of that is coming to the Hanford site. We are only
6 asking that the workers be treated just half as well
7 as the dirt.

8 Workers at the Hanford Site face serious
9 problems in the D and D work, they are harassed, they
10 are discouraged from voicing health and safety
11 concerns, they are required to participate in safety
12 and Senate programs, commonly known as safety lotto or
13 safety bingo.

14 And they all have a chilling effect on the
15 safety aspects of the site. Unsafe work practices are
16 rampant, such as asbestos cleanup, carbon
17 tetrachloride spills, radiological hazards. Workers
18 are genuinely fearful of speaking up while working
19 conditions out of fear of reprisal, especially when
20 the milestones have to be met.

21 There is currently two Price Anderson
22 investigations going on right now, one at H Reactor
23 and one at B Reactor.

24 We need even more resources for Price
25 Anderson, because we have no external remedies.

1 Former PACE workers suffer from a broad
2 spectrum of illnesses and diseases. I hear about them
3 on a regular basis. I know members have died.
4 Currently suffering from diseases such as Hodgkin's
5 disease, leukemia, skin cancers, chronic beryllium
6 disease and asbestosis.

7 On behalf of our Local I would like to
8 present you a copy of Working on the Bomb, an oral
9 history of World War II at Hanford. Enclosed is a
10 copy of the letter from the doctor.

11 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, Mr. Knowles.

12 MR. HALL: If I may before you
13 begin, Ma'am, Jim Watts will be next and then Ken, I
14 want to say it says Staley or Starley from Richland,
15 and after that we will take a brief ten minute break.

16 Go ahead, Ma'am.

17 MS. ALLEN: My name is Rose Marie
18 Allen, and I started working for General Electric in
19 1962. I was hired as an auto radiologist. At that
20 time I was a very strong, healthy woman. I was 31
21 years old.

22 The only reason that I even ever went to
23 the hospital before this thing happened to me is to
24 have -- is for childbirth.

25 When I left U.S. Testing in 1967 my lungs

1 looked like I had tuberculosis. In fact when they
2 sent me out to the Swedish Hospital and this other
3 clinic up there, the first thing they did after they
4 saw my x-rays, they took me over to the TB sanitorium,
5 and they found out that I didn't have TB.

6 They took me before a team of doctors, and
7 they couldn't come up with what my problem was, so
8 they just called it carcodosis.

9 And the reason I think that I believed in
10 my soul that I did get something out there, because
11 five years isn't very long for your lungs to look like
12 mine were looking.

13 I worked in the microscopy lab. I also
14 drove to homes to retrieve the green buckets, and I
15 worked up in the bioassay labs in the 747 Building and
16 I worked at U.S. Testing Labs.

17 I believe that I was exposed to probably
18 plutonium when I would decontaminate the hoods, and I
19 know that I inhaled a lot of 16 normal nitric acid.

20 My lungs are heavily scarred. I have had
21 to have most of my thyroid removed. My throat is
22 raspy. I have chronic dry cough. My entire
23 respiratory system is badly damaged.

24 The doctors at Virginia Mason thought that
25 I may have carcodosis so they labeled me as

1 carcodosis.

2 For the rest of my life I have to take
3 Prednisone and I have to take Synthroid.

4 When I went into the hospital in 1967, that
5 is the first time I went to the hospital, that's when
6 U.S. Testing changed their entire ventilation system.

7 So it's really been bothering me over the
8 last 31, 32 years, it's been bothering me, because I
9 don't know what's wrong with me, I've been so sick.
10 I've just gone to doctor after doctor after doctor,
11 and it's just been over and over and over, and they
12 really can't give me an answer of what this problem
13 is, and so they all think that I must have been
14 introduced to something out there that I didn't know
15 about.

16 And so I really hope that this company can
17 help me somehow get treated for what is wrong with me,
18 because they don't really seem to know what the
19 problem is.

20 I went there healthy. I left out very,
21 very sick.

22 Thank you.

23 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

24 MR. HALL: Thank you. I would like
25 to call up Jim Watts, and then Mr. Ken Staley.

1 MR. WATTS: I am Jim Watts and I've
2 served as the officer and President of PACE, my
3 formerly the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union,
4 for 40 years. Today I serve as its political liaison.

5 PACE represents most of the operations
6 personnel, the laboratory technicians and D & D
7 workers at the Hanford Site.

8 Dr. Michaels, I would like to thank you for
9 coming to Richland and holding this hearing. I would
10 also like you to take a message back to the Department
11 of Energy Headquarters and tell Secretary Richardson
12 that we appreciate the fact that he's taken notice of
13 the concerns of the atomic can workers at the nuclear
14 weapons sites.

15 From my perspective, he's demonstrated
16 through his actions that he wants to help working
17 people, and it's been a long time needed.

18 Nonetheless, he needs to know that we have
19 a long way to go as long as Hanford is excluded from
20 any compensation legislation.

21 I'd like to give you a couple of incidents
22 that kind of characterize what the problem is that we
23 have got.

24 On August 30, 1976, Harold McCloskey, a
25 nuclear process operator, working in a glove box in

1 the Plutonium Finishing Plant, when he noticed that
2 there was a pressure build-up in an ion exchange
3 process, and he called out a warning that it was going
4 to blow. He stepped down from the ladder, trying to
5 leave the area of the glove box, when an explosion
6 occurred.

7 That explosion found its way into the front
8 pages of all of the nation's newspapers. And
9 subsequently Mr. McCloskey became known as the atomic
10 man.

11 The explosion was completely preventable.
12 It was caused by a nonfunctional pressure relief
13 system. Harold was knocked to the floor, and he was
14 bleeding around the face, and he was unable to see.
15 Nitric acid and americium enveloped him, and he was
16 rescued from almost certain death by another nuclear
17 process operator, Marvin Clune.

18 Harold McCloskey received what was then
19 reported to be 100 times the allowable industrial body
20 burden. In rescuing Harold McCloskey, Marvin Clune
21 was heavily contaminated with americium. He measured
22 a three to five million counts on his hand.

23 In the days after the accident his urine
24 reached 100,000 DPMS.

25 When Marvin took early retirement here

1 recently, Battelle advised him that he still had
2 approximately 10 percent of a lifetime body burden of
3 americium. Harold McCloskey was very hot, he was
4 isolated for many months, and his career was ended.

5 Fortunately, because this incident received
6 nationwide media attention, Harold was able to obtain
7 Workers' Compensation.

8 Numerous other people who have suffered
9 exposures to radiation, toxic chemicals and metals,
10 and contracted illnesses and diseases, have sought
11 compensation and have faced a hostile legal booby trap
12 with nearly impossible burdens in order to enable them
13 to get some kind of justifiable compensation.

14 And it's these people whose cases didn't
15 find their way into the national news or in the case
16 of Paducah workers whose cause wasn't popularity --
17 popularized on the front pages of the Washington Post
18 that deserve and merit some kind of justice from the
19 system.

20 Harold McCloskey's case was dramatic, but
21 it wasn't unique in the nuclear industry. I recall
22 the Hanford workers who received intense doses of
23 radiations and saw the blue flash from a criticality
24 event in 1962. And those who ingested ruthenium and
25 other hot particles from the stacks of the REDOX

1 plant. Or those who have ingested Iodine 131.

2 Dr. Michaels, I'm providing you with a 32
3 page list of investigation reports that are in the
4 public reading room. It's an unscientific
5 cross-section of accidents, contaminations, events and
6 releases. Your office no doubt has access to a number
7 of other reports that chronicle the history here at
8 Hanford.

9 This should serve as the foundation for
10 including Hanford workers in any compensation program.

11 Today a generation of decontamination and
12 decommissioning workers are working under the intense
13 pressure of meeting DOE's new production milestones.

14 These workers are exposed to a legacy of
15 poorly characterized buildings with radiation left
16 behind many nooks and crannies, and working with
17 unknown chemical inventories.

18 Some of these risks are probably far
19 greater than those that were even incurred during the
20 height of production.

21 These people should be protected and if
22 they fall in harm's way, they need a just compensation
23 system as well.

24 Secretary Richardson has taken a major step
25 by proposing a federal compensation law for beryllium

1 disease and for radiation exposed workers at Paducah.

2 However, to me it's kind of ironic that the
3 Paducah workers may receive the benefits of federal
4 Workers' Compensation system when it was plutonium
5 contaminated uranium oxides that originated here in
6 the UO3 facility of PUREX.

7 We are extremely happy for the justice
8 given our Paducah brothers and sisters. But we are
9 puzzled why Hanford workers, who undoubtedly had far
10 greater levels of plutonium exposure, are excluded
11 from this national compensation legislation.

12 There's another irony. DOE workers, the
13 workers that work for the Department of Energy on the
14 site, rightly enjoy a compensation program that the
15 federal government already provides to all civilian
16 employees of the federal government.

17 Why should DOE employees have access to a
18 national compensation program while contractor
19 employees at the same facilities don't?

20 Allow me to raise another point. If the
21 federal compensation program was expanded to cover
22 contractor workers and it was improved to cover
23 radiation, beryllium and other toxic substances, our
24 friends within DOE would also be eligible.

25 Finally, let me say, I don't think there is

1 anyone here in this room or outside who thinks that
2 Hanford contractor employees should be excluded from a
3 federal Workers' Compensation law, where the burden of
4 proof would shift to the government to demonstrate
5 that certain radiation illnesses are not work-related.

6 And I challenge everybody here in the
7 office of those Congressional candidates and
8 senatorial aides who are listening to get on board and
9 support Workers' Compensation for nuclear workers at
10 all sites.

11 And I thank you for the opportunity to
12 address the group tonight.

13 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Watts.

14 Mr. Staley, you are up.

15 MR. STALEY: I'm coming.

16 MR. HALL: Then we will take a ten
17 minute break, and right after the break the first two
18 people will be C. F. Foster and E.R. Sampson. We
19 still have about 40 in this stack to go.

20 MR. STALEY: Well, I'm so petite, I
21 have looked around the room out here, and I have seen
22 a lot of people out here that I've known.

23 I've worked at Hanford since 1946. I was
24 an electrician. I worked in every reactor. Even at
25 the animal farm where we used to radiate animals and

1 test them.

2 I don't have I don't believe too much
3 radiation in my body. I show signs of it.

4 I have something that I would like to say,
5 and I know these people out here will agree. They put
6 signs out there for security. Radiation zone.

7 My friend, because they put that sign up
8 does not mean that that air doesn't come over the top
9 and you breathe it.

10 The other thing I'm going to tell you, in
11 1952, that I would like an answer to. No one seems to
12 know in your department, Doctor, to answer this. 1952
13 in 108 B Area at a test lab they used to send in hot
14 air, materials that would go up the chimney.

15 And this gentleman who has long passed away
16 and I went in to do some work in this room.

17 Now, we were talking about downwinders
18 getting this radiation, etc.

19 Well, it seems to me in 1952, after I got
20 out of that zone, my wife had a baby the next year.
21 To this day I have a daughter that's had M.S. for
22 about 20 some odd years. In a wheelchair.

23 And I've asked several people whether I
24 could have been contaminated enough to impregnate my
25 wife with a daughter that now has M.S.

1 One of her closest girlfriends born the
2 same year has passed on.

3 The other thing I can say is radiation, you
4 can't see it, smell it or be with it. You can go from
5 me to you and you can get burnt out within a minute or
6 two. People that don't understand radiation, it's a
7 "ho-ho."

8 I have no complaint about working at
9 Hanford. It's been a good living for me, and I've
10 looked around here and I've seen a lot of people out
11 here that I know. It's been a good living for them.

12 But it's time that they be compensated for
13 what they have lost physically, mentally, and for
14 things to come, like I'll probably have to have some
15 of this out of my system before I'm done. I'm so
16 petite you can't tell whether I've got any or not.
17 But I'm not fat. I'm just pleasingly plump.

18 But I do thank you for coming and your
19 involvement with the people here and listening,
20 because it's well worth it, and these people out here
21 that I have looked around, they need some help.

22 And I thank you.

23 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, sir.

24 MR. STALEY: Oh. And if you would
25 like to take back, let Janet Reno to sign that bill, I

1 am happy.

2 MR. HALL: Okay. We are going to
3 take a ten minute break, maybe a little bit less than
4 that. Let's reconvene at 8:20.

5 (Short recess).

6 MR. HALL: We will come back. Again,
7 we would like to remind everybody who comes up, we
8 would like the comments of course to be as brief as
9 possible, three to five minutes, if that works.

10 Again, this is the stack, and I think
11 there's a few more out there, too.

12 We begin with Mr. C. F. Foster, and next
13 will be E.R. Sampson.

14 Mr. Foster, thank you for your patience.
15 Go ahead.

16 MR. FOSTER: This is George Foster. I
17 came here February 2nd, 1948. And it's been a
18 pleasure to work here.

19 However, in 1952, December the 29th, I want
20 to make this as short as I can, stuck a wire brush
21 that was contaminated with plutonium, I was working
22 out at Hood 8, that's about all I can say for that,
23 but anyway, they developed what is now known as a body
24 counter.

25 At that time they had no way of reading

1 contamination or anything. It had a short way, just a
2 piece of paper will cover it.

3 Well, in 1957 this old boy got his thing
4 completed, and he thought he had it ready, and they
5 called me in there, in one of the areas, I forget now
6 which one, it is immaterial, and said he had it ready.
7 It consisted of five lamb brick with his instrument
8 inside this red brick was to keep the radiation down
9 to something.

10 By that time I began to turn right, right
11 here on my finger. That wire brush was in that hood,
12 it was left in there to where they had two crescent
13 wrenches and this wire brush.

14 I was supposed to take two flanks and put
15 them up, flank them up on there, and I was having
16 trouble. I had on two pair of surgeon gloves, then a
17 pair of canvas gloves, and then a big heavy rubber
18 glove, in working in that hood. And I couldn't quite
19 reach the pipe.

20 And I turned that, with the brush back this
21 way, and by the way the handle had a hook on it, and I
22 got it in there and hooked it up over there. Whenever
23 you rupture the glove, why, this room's already,
24 ordinarily is, just breathe the air, there wasn't
25 anything wrong with it, but whenever you rupture a

1 glove or anything, you had to report it, and they put
2 the room on mask.

3 Well, when I pulled that up over there,
4 why, I pricked my hand. I knew that I had ruptured
5 the glove. And so I told them, I say, I ruptured my
6 glove. Everybody had their street clothes on there.
7 It was that clean, that you could work with your
8 street clothes in there.

9 However, I was dressed different than that.
10 I had coveralls on and all these bunch of gloves. And
11 so they had taken this sleeve off here and then this
12 one over here, they monitored it, I think they said it
13 was over a million count. I'm not going to say that,
14 but it seems to me that's what they said.

15 So they peeled that outer garment off, put
16 it in a proper container, right on down to the last
17 surgeon glove, and it was hot, over a million count
18 again.

19 And so they got the last glove off, they
20 wrapped my hand up in a towel, and we headed for the
21 bleach decontamination room. They scrubbed it off,
22 got it off just in time for me wus to go home and
23 stick my hand in the hand and foot counter, and go
24 home.

25 But over the weekend, why, they didn't know

1 that I had actually went into the skin, because there
2 wasn't any blood or anything. They didn't even report
3 it as an accident. But over the weekend, I think I
4 was working five days a week, so I had two days home,
5 was working five, but it turned red, there was two red
6 prick marks on there.

7 The first thing, when I went back into work
8 Monday morning, I stuck my hands on the hand counter,
9 and I don't know if you know how the hand counter
10 works, in other words, it turned as fast as it could,
11 or as fast as it could turn anyway, and so I reported
12 to RMU.

13 So they scrubbed me up. They got to where
14 there want any reading on my hand. But they had no
15 way of doing it. I asked Dr. Brockman, she was the
16 head of all the nurses -- I mean, all the doctors and
17 nurses, and I asked her about cutting it out.

18 Oh, she talked back in her throat, oh, she
19 says, it will just make another sore, just make
20 another sore. So that was out.

21 But anyway, I quit GE and went back out on
22 construction. And I didn't -- they didn't know
23 anything about where I went, and they didn't notice
24 bottles or anything.

25 But they did finally, well, I did go ahead

1 and go back to work out on construction again. In '57
2 is when I got, they got their thing ready to check me.

3 I am getting kind of confused, trying to be
4 in a hurry. But anyway, they called me in, I had a
5 crew of men working under me, and one of the men says,
6 we play poker at night, they said one of the girls in
7 the lab worked in there, whenever they bring that
8 plutonium, that bottle in for him, all there was on
9 there was no name, they didn't know who it was, 6204,
10 that was my number, 6 identified me as a pipefitter.
11 And he says it's so hot it scares us whenever they
12 bring it in.

13 Well, Bill Rice, the foreman, right away
14 when they found out that much, why, they called me in
15 and wondered where I got it.

16 And so at first I was at a loss. They told
17 me I had plutonium. I was working in the 300 Area at
18 the time. And they told me, they asked me if I knew
19 where I got it.

20 And he says, "Well, there isn't any
21 plutonium in the 300 Area. You must mean uranium,
22 don't you?"

23 And he says, "No, plutonium." We tore a
24 hood out of a certain building in the 300 Area and
25 said we thought maybe you got it. By that time I got

1 soap suds working. I told him, "Oh, that's where I
2 got the contamination, was with that wire brush."

3 So they called me in, and it so happened
4 that the guy that was helping to scrub me up, the
5 reason he was in there, and two or three other guys,
6 and after they talked to me for a minute, they told me
7 it would be at least ten years before there's anything
8 turn up. And we hope something will never turn up.

9 And I say, "What do you expect it to be
10 turn up to me?"

11 And they said, "Well, it will either be
12 leukemia or cancer of the bone."

13 So I said, "Well, that's pretty nice to
14 look forward to."

15 So they dismissed me. I just went outside,
16 sat down, they said, "Go outside and we will call you
17 back later."

18 Well, I just as well stayed in there, my
19 ears was good enough at that time, I could hear what
20 they was saying. So they said, why wanted that man
21 followed up with bottles, he put, he terminated,
22 regardless of where that man went. They should have
23 been followed with bottles immediately. Well, we
24 didn't have enough systems set up at that time.

25 Oh, yes, we did. That system was set up.

1 They were really chewing on each other in
2 there.

3 I guess that's enough for tonight. I've
4 got two cancers cut off my nose and I have had
5 prostate operation, three prostate operations. Where
6 I've got any damage from it, I don't think so. I hope
7 I'm not going to get any damage from it.

8 But when I will die, I want to donate my
9 cells, everything that's good, for people that needs
10 it, and the old boy that wanted a set of lungs, he can
11 have mine.

12 Thank you all.

13 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Foster. Up
14 next is Mr. Sampson. Is that correct? Following Mr.
15 Sampson, after Mr. Sampson will be Mr. Dodd, Aubrey
16 Dodd. Mr. Dodd.

17 MR. SAMPSON: I guess everybody can
18 hear me, can't you? I'm kind of hard of hearing, so I
19 have to talk a little louder.

20 I am a journeyman lineman. I started
21 working up there in the Area in 1948. I worked real
22 hard. I worked in the 2 East, 2 West. About the only
23 one I hadn't worked in was the 100 DR.

24 During that time I never had a problem one
25 until I went to work at UNC. When we got to work down

1 there I only had about the 2000 hours you could handle
2 in a month, you got sent back to town. Because I was
3 out of hours.

4 So I was disturbed about it, I didn't think
5 too much about it. I just went ahead and done my job,
6 forgot about it. In the meantime I was down working
7 right by those big carbon piles, old plutonium is
8 inside, whatever you want to call it, you know. You
9 can call it a lot of things.

10 But, anyway, in the meantime I got a little
11 stuff up my nose in there, from changing them vapor
12 type lights that was in there.

13 When we started to come out for lunch,
14 these guys said, wait a minute, you can't go nowhere,
15 and they put that across my nose there, and it just
16 pegged the needle.

17 So they took me in there and they worked
18 about an hour and a half on me, they couldn't get much
19 going, and it was still as hot as hell in there, took
20 me in to the HEWL, which was behind Kadlec in there, I
21 was in there three and a half hours before they got it
22 out.

23 The thing I'm disturbed about, they said
24 that can't cause cancer. Now, I'm the only one in my
25 family that's got cancer. I had part of it taken off

1 right here. I've got a spot in my nose now. I've got
2 a spot in my neck. And I've got a spot back in my
3 back. Same thing.

4 What I want to know is why would just me
5 and my family get it, cancer, and none of the rest of
6 them have it. Of course they ain't never worked out
7 here Neither.

8 So the only thing I'm disturbed about is,
9 oh, that can't cause cancer.

10 This was 1973 when this happened. I was a
11 lineman. I work all over the country. And I have
12 worked every place out there and every place in the
13 country.

14 The only other thing I got disturbed about
15 is when you go to the State Industrial to get on
16 there, if you ain't working, you can't file a claim.

17 So what good does it do to file a claim if
18 you ain't working, see?

19 That's what the young lady I talked to down
20 there, she said they are going to try to get an
21 umbrella setup for us. That would help immensely.

22 One other thing that I said, told her about
23 is I did get a little compensation when I pulled all
24 the muscles out from my knee, I got on disability, I
25 was doing fine. I was drawing about 16, \$1,700 a

1 month, only half of what I would make otherwise.

2 The next thing they know, they hear I'm
3 drawing Social Security and a little \$200 union
4 pension, so they take that off my disability.

5 So, what the hell good does it do to work?

6 The only reason I went back to work is the
7 union was hollering to hell, Ray, come back to work,
8 we need you out here. And I'm 73 and I'm still
9 working.

10 I'm going to Yuma, Arizona, on an
11 inspector's job next week.

12 So, protect these guys that's out here
13 working now. That's the main thing.

14 DR. MICHAELS: Yes, sir.

15 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Sampson.
16 Mr. Dodd is up and then we will have Charles Moore.

17 MR. DODD: I'm Aubrey Dodd. I will
18 take off my western bad man's hat.

19 I was born in the south, so I spent more
20 than half of my life in the west working in the atomic
21 energy program. So I feel comfortable with things
22 like that.

23 Well, in the early 1950s I went to work at
24 Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico. And
25 in Special Problems Group in the Health and Safety

1 Division. And most of my work was done in
2 environmental surveys, so you and I should have
3 something in common.

4 But much of my work took me to the Nevada
5 bomb test site during the 1950s, and one time my
6 partner and I, going out to start the equipment to
7 collect air samples of fallout from a surface bomb
8 test, our instrument in our vehicle began to go off
9 scale on all of the different settings, so we figured
10 we were in a radiation zone that we hadn't expected
11 yet. We were closer to the bomb test than we thought,
12 so we left and never got our instruments started.

13 Luckily, we were wearing personal
14 dosimeters at the time, an old brass frame holding a
15 piece of dental film. And I recall very clearly that
16 that was read, and I was told I had, and my partner
17 also, about the same thing, 15 recommend dose from
18 that one exposure.

19 That was a full year's exposure dose at
20 that time under the old AEC rules. I'm sure you know
21 what an AEC means, same as DOE now.

22 Well, what I really want to talk about is
23 the fact that Los Alamos and the contractor who may be
24 operating the facilities in Las Vegas now have no
25 record whatever of that incident, although from Los

1 Alamos I have a sheet with different years' radiation
2 exposure, a number of years had nothing at all, and
3 the only way I could have got no radiation exposure in
4 those years would have been not working at all.

5 So there's something wrong. And I need
6 help from maybe the Justice Department who really
7 administers this public law that we're talking about.
8 I need help to find out what happened to that.

9 But that's not all. Later after graduate
10 study at the University of Rochester radiation biology
11 lab I worked at Idaho reactor test station, and in
12 early 1961 the stationary low power reactor SL-1 had a
13 major accident, blew out the control rods, killed
14 three military workers on duty, and I went in the next
15 morning early, and the contractor, Phillips Petroleum
16 Company, who had set up the entry point, suited me up
17 in protective clothing, that is, anticontamination
18 clothing, boots, gloves and mask and such, and cap,
19 jackets.

20 Well, the radiation monitor who accompanied
21 me into the reactor building, his instrument went off
22 scale at the foot of the stairs going up to the
23 reactor head level, but I went on up and he refused to
24 go with me because it was too dangerous of radiation.
25 When I came out of that --

1 Oh. I went in to retrieve a nuclear
2 accident dosimeter that I had placed there a month or
3 so before as a part of my duties as nuclear safety
4 engineer there.

5 And when I got back to change back to my
6 normal clothes from that entry, they asked for my
7 dosimeter.

8 And I said, what dosimeter?

9 They had not given me a personal dosimeter,
10 so there's no record whatever of my radiation
11 exposure. And I was an employee of the Atomic Energy
12 Commission at that time. And today their records do
13 not show any radiation incident at that occurrence.

14 If they had to gather my Nevada test
15 exposure and my Idaho exposure together, would have
16 caused them to put me out to pasture, if you know that
17 term, in a job where I would have no contact with
18 radiation again. But that didn't happen.

19 So I came on here to Idaho -- or to Hanford
20 and worked ten years or so to finish my career.

21 And once while working here at Hanford also
22 I was a nuclear safety engineer, radiological
23 physicist, I almost fainted on the job one day, and I
24 was sent to a nearby dispensary, and they did a
25 glucose tolerance test.

1 Recently when trying to get my medical
2 records of occupational exposure through the now
3 Battelle Laboratory there, the contractor who
4 administrates those records, they could not find that,
5 so I have no record here.

6 I'm beginning to wonder if there's really a
7 conspiracy among the employers to eliminate some
8 employees from any benefit whatever.

9 Incidentally, this law passed in 1990,
10 according to the local newspaper, I believe that's
11 what we're talking about, to get compensation for
12 people who have suffered injury on the job, and it's a
13 public law to compensate victims of nuclear weapons
14 test programs, and I should qualify for compensation.

15 Incidentally, 10 or 12 years ago, at about
16 age 55, I had to retire because of cataracts of the
17 eyes.

18 Are you familiar with that as a radiation
19 injury, sir?

20 DR. MICHAELS: No, sir, I'm not.

21 MR. DODD: Well, maybe this will be
22 informative to you.

23 Early on at the University of Rochester
24 graduate school I learned that the lens of the eye is
25 a radiation sensitive tissue. And years later the

1 Atomic Energy Commission had within its standards for
2 radiation permissible exposure what they call a dose
3 based on the critical organ, and the lens of the eye
4 was the critical organ for certain types of radiation.

5 But very few people know that out in
6 society today, that the lens can receive cataracts
7 from radiation exposure.

8 Let me give you an example. Just a few
9 minutes earlier you said a couple of bad words when
10 you mentioned Centers for Disease Control.

11 Three years ago here in the Tri-Cities a
12 group of medical doctors came from Atlanta to orient
13 themselves in the Hanford workers' problem. I talked
14 to one doctor aside one evening, and I told him that I
15 had to retire because of cataracts, I couldn't keep up
16 with the reading requirements on the job.

17 Normally to do that I had to have, say, a
18 draftsman's table with a battery of fluorescent lamps
19 overhead to give me enough light.

20 I would like to read my letter but I can't
21 read it tonight, the light isn't good enough. But
22 that doctor told me that he had never read or heard
23 that cataracts could be caused by radiation.

24 So, if the rest of the doctors at the
25 Centers for Disease Control don't know any more than

1 that, then they can't help us in any way.

2 So please tell them to get educated on
3 radiation effects.

4 Dr. Michaels, when I came in and approached
5 the receptionist desk and signed up, I left a letter
6 explaining all that I have talked about tonight for
7 you. But in case it might have gotten shredded, do
8 you remember Ollie North, when he was under
9 investigation? All of his records got shredded.

10 And I'd like to talk with you some day, or
11 your staff, about how this public law to compensate
12 atomic workers is doing up until now, because the fact
13 that I'm still alive, I didn't qualify for any
14 benefits.

15 Incidentally, I think now I might because
16 within the past year I've developed a cancer on my
17 cheek. Two different biopsies have established the
18 condition. It's cancerous now. And maybe I should
19 apply again because I have talked to all our Senators,
20 oh, by the way I worked for years at Fernald, Ohio,
21 what was once declared the most contaminated site in
22 the Atomic Energy Commission, now next to Hanford
23 Site.

24 So I have been around chemical exposures as
25 well as radiation, and I have worked with beryllium at

1 Los Alamos and later at Idaho reactor test station, as
2 well as in the SL-1 accident.

3 So, thank you for your time.

4 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, sir.

5 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Dodd.

6 Mr. Moore? And next will be Richard
7 Berglund.

8 MR. MOORE: I am Charles Moore. I'm
9 going to try to tell you about 50 years of my life in
10 three minutes.

11 I moved to Richland with my father, who
12 died of a lung disease. My mother died of cancer.
13 They both worked on the project.

14 I started out of high school working on the
15 project in 1950. I took a leave of absence for four
16 years for something called the Korea conflict. On
17 return I went to work at T Plant. Had a big job
18 there. Process utility operator. They gave me a
19 broom.

20 I'm not a downwinder. I helped make the
21 wind. Because that's where it came from, was T Plant.

22 I can go into illustration after
23 illustration that happened to me in T Plant. And I'm
24 sure some of you have went through the same thing.

25 But after T Plant shut down they moved me

1 into U area.

2 I had two young children, one just born at
3 the time. U Area, they called a calcine building.
4 But later through my research they called them the
5 lucky pots. We were taking wastes, instead of putting
6 it in the Tank Farm, we are taking waste that we
7 didn't know at the time, it came from PUREX clear to 2
8 West, and we would drive that in open vats, and we
9 stood over those open vats with vacuum cleaners and
10 vacuumed that waste and put it in trash cans, in metal
11 cans.

12 Three times I was brought in to
13 supervision, and they told me that I wasn't taking
14 enough radiation. At the particular time, radiation
15 monitors would not enter the building. It was that
16 high in radiation.

17 We used a salt mask, and through my
18 research we found that radon gas was high in those
19 buildings. An old, dirty, worn out salt mask will not
20 stop, even a new one, will not stop radon gas. They
21 furnish your own shoes. And I don't even remember how
22 long I was there, because it was one of the most
23 horrible times I ever had in my life.

24 And from there I transferred to 2 West shop
25 and worked as a sheet metal man. As a sheet metal man

1 I worked out there for five years and I was still an
2 apprentice. I couldn't get a promotion. And I just
3 found out why. Because some idiot wrote a letter
4 saying I was a whistleblower, I was a no good
5 character, don't promote him or don't do anything for
6 him. And I found that out through my Freedom of
7 Information Act.

8 So, if you want to talk about the Hanford
9 Project, I'm bitter.

10 Then I went to work for J. A. Jones on the
11 same project, doing the same thing, as a journeyman.

12 And after 22 years on the project, they
13 fired me. Lack of production.

14 I couldn't work. I had bad lungs. I have
15 bad lungs today.

16 I was in Seattle Friday to a specialist. I
17 have gone to about three or four of them. And nobody
18 can tell me what's wrong with my lungs. University of
19 Washington, their first report was he has plural
20 plaque, air entrapment. That sounds good.

21 State Industrial was going to buy that
22 until the same doctor wrote a letter saying, no, I
23 don't think so. I think it's emphysema.

24 I've never smoked a cigarette in my life.
25 But at the same time our Governor was in North

1 Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida, walking through
2 the tobacco fields.

3 All we've done, is we've been fighting
4 political battles since day one. And I have written
5 letters and written letters to Hazel O'Leary, in fact
6 I've got a letter here that I want to read to you, one
7 sentence, it says, from the Government Accountability
8 Project. This is Washington, D.C. It says, "Thank
9 you for your contact with the Government
10 Accountability Project. Your story is that installs
11 outrageous in all of us. Regretfully, the Government
12 Accountability has an extreme full docket at the
13 present time."

14 Kind of go to you know where. Yeah. Is
15 there anybody out there that every worked in the lucky
16 pots, I would love to talk to them. In fact when I
17 worked in T Plant, I don't know one soul that's alive
18 today that worked in T Plant on my particular shift.

19 And I thank you all for listening to me.

20 MR. HALL: Mr. Berglund, followed by
21 Jim Pinkle, Pinkle, I believe that is.

22 Go ahead, Mr. Berglund.

23 MR. BERGLUND: Good evening. My name
24 is Richard Berglund. I am a business agent with the
25 Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 598, and I would

1 like to thank you for coming out here.

2 I'd like to dedicate the rest of my remarks
3 to the memory of my father who worked as a pipefitter
4 in the '40s, '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, and early '90s at
5 Hanford.

6 He died last year of cancer. He was
7 diagnosed as having asbestosis, and extreme hearing
8 loss.

9 Like I say, I would like to thank you for
10 coming out today. It's too late to help my father.
11 But it's not too late to help the members that are
12 still living and are still working at Hanford.

13 I represent around 16,000 construction
14 workers. I represent the construction workers that
15 work at Hanford. Our members are employed both by the
16 prime contractors and their subcontractors who come
17 on-site. And currently most of our members are
18 employed by the subcontractors.

19 We feel very strongly that the safety and
20 health has been poorly integrated on the site, and
21 that the health of our members has been threatened and
22 diminished as a result.

23 Although much has been done to improve on
24 this, more needs to be done. Not only with the prime
25 contractors, but there is no doubt subs that come

1 on-site that are still inadequately informed about the
2 hazards they may face and that the site is not well
3 enough equipped to monitor their performance.

4 As you know, we have a program of medical
5 screening for construction workers who have worked
6 on-site. Of the 1,000 workers who have been
7 interviewed to date, 98 percent say they have been
8 exposed to health hazards on the job, 86 percent think
9 that their health has been damaged as a result of
10 their work on the Hanford Site. The medical exams
11 being conducted confirm the workers' concerns. About
12 one-half have evidence of lung damage. Almost all of
13 our members have serious hearing loss. And so far 28
14 have tested positive for beryllium exposure.

15 It seems clear from the data, that the
16 building trades workers have experienced many
17 exposures as a result of not knowing the hazards they
18 were working around.

19 For instance, the rate of positive
20 beryllium test is much higher among the building
21 trades workers than the production workers. This
22 gives us concern about the workers now engaged in
23 construction, maintenance, repair and demolition and
24 cleanup activities. We do not know what types of
25 hazards they come in contact with and are they

1 protected adequately.

2 Let me give you one example. Last year an
3 evaluation of buildings with possible beryllium dust
4 was completed. However, these inspections did not
5 include the rafters of the areas above the ceiling
6 tiles. That's where a lot of the maintenance and
7 repair work is done on pipes, electrical lines,
8 heating H-Vac systems.

9 My guess is that if you expect to find
10 beryllium dust at Hanford now, those are the areas
11 that you will need to examine.

12 I think it's clear that we have problems
13 that we will have to address in the future.

14 I would like to suggest the following
15 recommendations for you to consider.

16 One. Workers employed by subcontractors
17 should be given parity with the federal Department of
18 Energy employees and employees of prime contractors in
19 terms of safety and health, protections and
20 compensations for injuries and illnesses arising out
21 of work at DOE facilities.

22 Two. We need to examine the medical
23 screening program for former workers. It has a budget
24 of \$790,000 per year. We believe we could use 1.6
25 million dollars per year. It is also, it will need to

1 be extended. Currently we are looking at somewhere
2 around 27,000 workers who need to be tested, and yet
3 our budget only allows to have a thousand examinations
4 per year.

5 Third. We hope that the site staff will
6 make use of the data that's being collected in
7 screening programs as they think about ways to improve
8 safety and health programs and plans on the site. We
9 think we can learn much from our past failures on the
10 site.

11 I want to thank you for what you're doing
12 to improve compensation programs. We'd like your
13 support as we begin to seek a simplified system of
14 Workers' Comp filing, particularly for the large
15 number of people who have found in this screening
16 program to be in need of ongoing annual medical
17 surveillance.

18 This site is self-insured for Workers'
19 Comp. And as of the first of this year we're self-
20 administered.

21 DOE can clearly do whatever it wants to as
22 long as it meets Washington State law.

23 We have been surprised that the site needed
24 to import a third parties' Workers' Comp administrator
25 from Texas to run the program, because it's our

1 understanding that Workers' Comp in Texas is much less
2 worker friendly than in Washington.

3 The first change was made instead of the
4 worker's doctor filing the initial claim directly with
5 the comp administrator, as was the case in the past,
6 now they have to file it with the contractors, the
7 employers.

8 Although the site says this will improve
9 the claims filing process, we are skeptical, extremely
10 skeptical. We think that the government is banding
11 together with the contractors to gang up on the
12 injured workers.

13 We hope that you can stop that. In
14 addition, we would like to see civilian workers of
15 Department of Energy sites treated as Cold War
16 veterans and that they become eligible for V.A.
17 benefits.

18 Many of the workers we see in the medical
19 screening program are retired. Many of them do not
20 have adequate health coverage as you have heard
21 tonight. Many of them retired early because
22 construction work is hard physical toil. And to keep
23 at it until you're 65 would require extraordinary
24 health.

25 Having V.A. benefits would take care of

1 this problem.

2 Our members who have worked here are
3 genuinely proud of the service that they provided to
4 our nation, and they are deserving of gaining V.A.
5 benefits and V.A. status.

6 I have a number of specific suggestions to
7 incorporate in the proposed Energy Employees Beryllium
8 Compensation Act.

9 One is it should extend to cover all
10 occupational illnesses, including asbestosis related
11 diseases.

12 That special provisions found in Titles 2
13 and 3 should be extended to all DOE facilities and
14 within those facilities to all contractors and
15 subcontractors, subcontractor workers.

16 The lump sum benefit of \$100,000 should be
17 enlarged. It is not sufficient today in today's
18 economy in light of the hold harmless provision that
19 it incorporates. You should compensate both for past
20 damage and for the giving up of future rights in any
21 additional claims. I think the amount closer would be
22 somewhere in the \$500,000 range.

23 Workers who choose lump sum settlement
24 amount should be given additional medical coverage for
25 life. For radiation related illnesses we urge that

1 you incorporate the much enlarged list of conditions
2 approved by the V.A. in August of '99. And we also
3 think that you should drop all conditions concerning
4 other possible exposures.

5 We believe you should use qualitative terms
6 like evidence of significant exposure to radiation,
7 rather than specific dose as defined risk.

8 Finally, in the 57 years since the
9 Manhattan Project began, processing radioactive
10 materials to produce bombs, the government has until
11 now minimized the hazards of radiation and chemicals,
12 criticized epidemiological studies that raise related
13 questions and spent tens of millions of dollars
14 defending itself against lawsuits that were charging
15 that these plants have made workers sick.

16 I urge you to promote the pending bill that
17 will amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to
18 be enlarged to include workers who have been employed
19 at Hanford, that you incorporate into it the changes
20 that I have suggested earlier.

21 I think that you understand that we have
22 given these matters much thought, and that they are of
23 great concern to our members. I hope we can work
24 together in the future to bring your initiatives to
25 fruition.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. HALL: Thank you. Is Mr. Pinkle
3 here? Oh, he's gone.

4 DR. MICHAELS: Could I just say, I
5 know it's getting late, if you feel you can't stay, we
6 do have an 800 number, call us or grab one of my staff
7 people before you leave and we will make sure we get
8 your story.

9 MR. HALL: We have twice as many
10 people to go as have already spoken.

11 Is Mr. Maffeo still here? Mr. Maffeo, you
12 are still up, Mr. Matthew Taylor to follow. And again
13 Matthew Taylor.

14 Try and keep in mind we have got quite a
15 few folks to go through, and if we can be as concise
16 as possible, it would benefit us all.

17 MR. MAFFEO: Good evening. Mr.
18 Michael, Dr. Michaels and Jim Hall. I am going to be
19 real brief. I didn't write anything down except a
20 couple of notes here.

21 But primarily my question is about my
22 brother-in-law. He worked at Hanford in the K East
23 and K West reactors, and he died a terrible death of
24 cancer, which is not mentioned very much here.

25 But I know a lot of people here, and I have

1 been in the Tri-City area since 1949 and worked in the
2 200 East and 200 West Area, and in the laboratories.

3 So we came in contact with all of the
4 ingredients. We analyzed everything that the
5 processing was doing.

6 Anyway, before I continue, I want to go
7 back to my brother-in-law.

8 Is there anything, now he's dead, and is
9 there any compensation for him available? And how do
10 we go about trying to find out?

11 DR. MICHAELS: Well, in some ways
12 that's the question we are here tonight. For
13 beryllium disease, as an example, if the legislation
14 passes, there would be compensation for people who
15 died 10 or 15 or even 30 or 40 years ago from
16 beryllium disease.

17 If that approach is taken for radiation
18 related cancer and if your brother-in-law's cancer was
19 radiation related, that there would be compensation
20 for him. But that's a lot of if's.

21 MR. MAFFEO: We're narrowing the
22 gauge. We are just closing the gauge. Beryllium is
23 the main thing.

24 But I filled out something about beryllium,
25 but I never got an answer back. Nobody answered me.

1 I don't know what happened. No, don't call us, you've
2 got to call this, you've got to call that.

3 I called everybody, sent in the papers,
4 never heard a word.

5 But looking at the broader picture, I mean,
6 I would like to see everybody encompassed in this
7 thing. For instance, is there a number that my sister
8 can call about this? Is there an 800 number?

9 DR. MICHAELS: There is. The number,
10 I actually don't have the sheet in front of me --

11 MR. MAFFEO: There's an 800 number
12 here, but my friend just told me this 1-877-447-9756
13 does not work. How many else have had problems with
14 this number? Anybody here? Here's a gentleman.
15 There's another one.

16 DR. MICHAELS: We do have quite a few
17 calls coming in. That's the number to call. But the
18 problem is, we are not going to be able to have an
19 answer for you on compensation for your
20 brother-in-law, because there has to be legislation
21 passed. And that's really what we're here to gather
22 information to begin to do.

23 I think the story of your brother may be
24 helpful in helping pass that. Theoretically you have
25 coverage and he has coverage under Washington State

1 L & I, and I think there are some limitations, and
2 that is why Secretary Richardson is committed to
3 getting compensation beyond just beryllium disease.

4 MR. MAFFEO: This is cancer. There
5 is nothing right in the program now to cover this,
6 there is something my sister can call in ?

7 DR. MICHAELS: I wish I could give
8 you a different answer. There is nothing to do yet.

9 MR. MAFFEO: If, if it happens, how
10 would my sister know? She lives in Oregon now.

11 DR. MICHAELS: If this legislation
12 passes, we will certainly do an outreach program.

13 MR. MAFFEO: Will I get one of these
14 little cards again? That something has happened?

15 DR. MICHAELS: I am hoping we can do
16 at least that well and maybe a little better. But I
17 can't answer that yet.

18 MR. MAFFEO: Well, in addition, we
19 covered, a lot of things that these people covered
20 here, but I look at a broader picture here, Dr.
21 Michaels.

22 For instance, back injuries on the job.
23 Has anybody ever heard of a pig, a hundred pound pig?
24 Right there. Right there. Well, lifting those
25 hundred pound pigs, do you know what that is? That's

1 a container, it's about this big, and about that round
2 (indicating). Solid lead, except for a little tiny
3 hole in the middle, which you put in a sample. And I
4 remember myself lifting those this high (indicating),
5 eye level, and the first time I tried to pick it up, I
6 almost fell over, because I didn't think it was that
7 heavy.

8 But anyway, and then that is a concern for
9 repeated heavy lifting like that, is additive to the
10 back, and later on in life, you say, I wonder what I
11 did, you know?

12 Well, anyway, is there anything for that?
13 Probably not.

14 Heart disease, congestive heart failure,
15 cancer, diabetes, other diseases caused by chemical
16 ingestion and/or radiation exposure. These are all
17 the things that I would like to see encompassed.

18 And I don't have a sign that says, here, we
19 accomplished the impossibility immediately.

20 Now, if you want a miracle, it takes two
21 minutes longer -- two seconds longer. We don't have
22 that.

23 The Hot War was over and the Cold War
24 ensued. And there was a lot of pride out here, a lot
25 of pride.

1 You talk about safety. Yes. There was a
2 lot of safety. And all the analytical procedures we
3 had, we had a procedure on the left-hand side and
4 safety on the, step by step. If it had 20 steps,
5 there would be 20 comments, beware of this, be careful
6 of that, don't do this, don't do that. So there was a
7 very, very --

8 And yet there was problems. Always
9 something popped up that would be wrong. And it was
10 rectified. And there was a lot of pride in the people
11 here. And I really thought that it was a magnificent
12 effort. I mean, solid. And it wasn't just an
13 individual effort. It was everybody that participated
14 in this tremendous effort, because production,
15 production, production was the key, and safety,
16 safety, safety ran right alongside of it.

17 But I do thank you for coming here. And
18 maybe there will be something you can look at even in
19 these areas here.

20 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

21 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Maffeo.
22 Mr. Taylor, standing by ready.

23 MR. MAFFEO: Could I say one more
24 thing.

25 MR. HALL: If it's brief.

1 MR. MAFFEO: One more thing, and this
2 is probably linked but indirectly --

3 DR. MICHAELS: Use the microphone,
4 though.

5 MR. MAFFEO: It's not directly linked
6 to this, but it is something that I'm engaged in, and
7 that is the memorial fund. I will be a field
8 representative for the memorial fund of World War II
9 veterans, and somebody at DOE, I also talked to
10 several people already, and there will be an
11 announcement made in the press, press release or
12 something, as soon as I get the documents from D.C.

13 So, beware, you may be called for the World
14 War II memorial, which we have none, not for the World
15 War II veterans. So that is my first announcement.

16 Thank you very much and good night.

17 MR. HALL: Thank you. Mr. Taylor is
18 up, Judith Morales will be next. And Jim Pinkle. I
19 think he signed up twice. I think we found that he is
20 not here.

21 Mr. Taylor, go ahead.

22 MR. TAYLOR: For those of you who
23 don't to me, my name is Matt Taylor. I am a
24 whistleblower here on the Hanford Site.

25 I am here tonight to speak on behalf of the

1 current Hanford workers. I really feel for a lot of
2 you past workers, and the ones that are currently
3 working at Hanford and are ill. I really hate to
4 think about it in the future, the kind of health
5 effects that I'm going to be facing.

6 I want to thank Dr. Michaels for being
7 here. And Secretary Richardson for listening to the
8 comments that are made here tonight.

9 What I would like to ask for on behalf of
10 the current Hanford workers and the people that are
11 out there, Dr. Michaels stated that Secretary
12 Richardson is dedicated to preventing any more sick
13 workers at Hanford.

14 And with the current situation we have here
15 on the Hanford Site, I have been made to choose
16 between my health and safety and my career.

17 Right now I'm an unemployed Hanford worker,
18 because I have been listed as a whistleblower. I have
19 spoken with Mr. Klein, I have spoken with many people
20 from the DOE Employee Concerns here.

21 Right now on the Hanford Site there is
22 still people that are being exposed. I have been in
23 the 300 Area, digging up the old drums. The
24 contractor is not telling people what the contents of
25 the drums were. Things like carbon tetrachloride,

1 TCEs, PCBs. I only found out that they existed
2 through a FOI request.

3 DOE seems to be very impotent in policing
4 themselves on the Hanford Site. OSHA and NIOSH have
5 made certain standards out there for exposure for both
6 radiation and for chemicals.

7 And I'm here to ask that you step aside and
8 let OSHA back out on the site, or let OSHA police the
9 sites, and the levels that are set for worker
10 protection. Because right now the DOE-RL people are
11 just not policing the sites.

12 When a contractor is found to be guilty of
13 something, there's no fines levied.

14 I'm here to request on behalf of the
15 Hanford workers that are currently working out there
16 some kind of protection for those that are willing to
17 stand up for their rights and for their health and
18 safety.

19 Thank you.

20 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you very much.

21 Before we go to the next speaker, let me
22 say, if there are people still in the overflow room,
23 there are plenty of seats now in the main auditorium.

24 There are 550 people who came here tonight.
25 Obviously some have gone home, they have to get up

1 early tomorrow for tomorrow morning's shift. We
2 appreciate each of you who are staying to the end, I
3 hope it is not the bitter end. We have over 50 people
4 who have applied to speak, we have gone through about
5 25 of them, and obviously some have left, and we will
6 keep going through them.

7 So please be concise when you speak.

8 MR. HALL: Is Judith Morales here?
9 Okay. Mr. Brown. Etsey Brown will be next. I
10 believe that's correct.

11 Go ahead.

12 MS. MORALES: Hi, Dr. Michaels. I
13 look around and I see a lot of colleagues present,
14 present and former, and it's discomfoting to see
15 that, when I was the new kid on the block a few years
16 back , these people were healthy environment, and I
17 see them today, and I think, wow, is that going to be
18 me in another 10 or 15 years.

19 And what my concern is, I was involved in
20 an incident July 17th, '97 at 222-S laboratory.

21 But let me back up first. I would like to
22 say that I am in safety because people don't bother to
23 ask questions. But when you tell them that you're the
24 rad cop, you know, they get a little bit excited, you
25 know.

1 Anyways, I have worked in the 200 Areas,
2 which encompasses UO3 which you have heard horror
3 stories about, the Tank Farms, T Plant, I have worked
4 at 234 Dash 5, known as PFP, and many other names as
5 well. I spent a little bit over 11 years at 222-S
6 laboratories. And presently now I just work out in
7 the environment, all over the site, collecting
8 radioactive tumbleweeds. Because I can no longer
9 presently work in a facility because I have been
10 diagnosed with chemical sensitivity, or environmental
11 illnesses is another name for it.

12 And I have documentation. And what it is,
13 it's been a slow and an ongoing process where the
14 facility, there will be an incident, four hours later
15 they will go in and they will do a monitor in a room
16 where somebody has been exposed to some form of
17 chemical, they will maybe make it in there another 12
18 or 24 hours before they actually get a good reading
19 with some of the type of equipment that they use,
20 whether it be a charcoal cartridge or whatever the
21 case may be.

22 But to make a long story short, it's still
23 ongoing, there's been numerous incidences at the labs
24 for a number of years. You have heard a lot of people
25 refer to the analytical laboratory. The ventilation,

1 they have updated over the years, but for the last two
2 years now they've been going to clean out the duct
3 level -- not the duct level, but the ducts, and I
4 believe at this time it presently has not been cleaned
5 out.

6 It's just ongoing promises. HEHF, though,
7 when you go in; oh, well, that's just Judy, well,
8 we'll just, you know, check her oxygen, check her
9 blood pressure, check her vitals. See if she's good,
10 and back to work.

11 Because of the sensitivities, we have a
12 handle on it. Some of the people, they are more
13 thorough.

14 But it gets very frustrating, because
15 depending on who you are and what the incident is, is
16 how you are treated.

17 For the most part, most medical staff is
18 very professional. But there have been times it's
19 very frustrating.

20 I just want to say that I have had problems
21 dealing with the state with my benefits. I have been
22 compensated. But now they want to close my case
23 because they feel, oh, that was a one-time acute
24 incident. You know, oh, chemical sensitivity. They
25 just kind of blow you off.

1 But I am going to continue to pursue it.
2 There's not too many of those cases around. A lot of
3 them are asbestosis, radiation, and such. But there
4 are other people that are out there that don't want to
5 come forward because they don't want to be known as a
6 troublemaker or labeled as a whistleblower.

7 You know, I hope you guys truly look at
8 each individual, every case, and take it for what it's
9 worth.

10 It's very frustrating, and I know it will
11 be a long time coming before anything is complete.
12 But, you know, you look around, and like I said, I
13 look at all these colleagues of mine, when I was the
14 new kid on the block, all their medical problems, it's
15 frightening, because I'm still fairly young and I have
16 two young boys, 10 and 11, and I want to see them
17 graduate, I want to have grandchildren.

18 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

19 MR. HALL: I believe it's Etsey
20 Brown. Is Etsey Brown here? Gai Oglesbee? I hope
21 I'm saying that first one light.

22 MS. OGLESBEE: That's it. Was I first
23 or second?

24 MR. HALL: You are up now, I believe.
25 Paul Kramar will be next. Paul Kramar.

1 MS. OGLESBEE: Mr. Michaels, thank
2 you again for coming and being so tolerant of all of
3 us, because I know that you are not feeling well
4 today.

5 I have to say that I thought the health
6 standards I was working on and under at Hanford was
7 protecting my health and that of others. This facts
8 is very clearly identified in my records.

9 The current standards are not protective
10 enough. I have learned the hard way that there is no
11 safe threshold level. As a former site facility ALARA
12 coordinator, what is Mr. Silianas doing working in a
13 radiation zone diagnosed with leukemia? Can Mr. Klein
14 call him to discuss the matter and relocation to a
15 nonradiation zone?

16 I began work at B Plant June 1st, 1987. I
17 dared to express my concerns while I worked at B Plant
18 by finally in 1989 stating I will not be exposed to
19 radiation chemicals as an unprotected employee
20 anymore.

21 My manager was dying of terminal cancer, I
22 was becoming very ill. The cold war has escalated and
23 the battle goes on.

24 Every Congress person who spoke tonight
25 represented here have been thoroughly orientated

1 regarding employee health concerns presented by many
2 who are in this room. Typically Doc Hastings is
3 content to state he nor his aging parents have ever
4 experienced any adverse health effects caused by
5 Hanford.

6 The cancer and many other related ailments
7 my family experienced is difficult to observe,
8 especially their deaths, and to make matters worse,
9 potential human experience on my children is still
10 denied. The school records are destroyed. So
11 information is made available which seems quite
12 incriminating.

13 And exposure valuation is recorded by my
14 international team of expert witnesses, the cost is
15 \$24,000. My expert witnesses are led by a Ph.D.
16 epidemiologist who peer reviews peers.

17 Who could afford this? Not very many
18 people could afford that over and over again.

19 I am involved in two litigations. The
20 government agency, ETL has spent 96 million
21 dollars-plus of taxpayer funding on their litigation
22 cost. The presiding senior judge, Alan McDonald, as
23 recently exposed, finds nothing better to do with his
24 time than over a decade but passing disparaging
25 personal notes to his clerks.

1 The Spokesman Review exposed the content of
2 certain notes which reflect horrifying slurs against
3 minorities, women and certain plaintiffs who he feels
4 is psychiatric incompetent, and the battle goes on
5 there. Just because plaintiffs filed their injury suit
6 again the US DOE contractors.

7 Many of the plaintiffs are offsprings of
8 former deceased downwinders. The offsprings are also
9 former existing offsprings.

10 One of my daughters is participating in a
11 beryllium monitoring program already after being
12 exposed to beryllium that the DOE informed her of 12
13 years after it happened. She gets very ill at times.

14 My son-in-law is also enrolled in a Gulf
15 War syndrome monitoring program. His health is
16 deteriorating.

17 My grandson or granddaughter would have
18 been born two years ago died of genetic mutations. My
19 oldest daughter is recovering from another battle of
20 chronic bronchitis and pneumonia and she got very ill
21 before Christmas.

22 I am diagnosed with 76 ailments, several of
23 which are diagnosed as terminal.

24 My physicians state on record that they do
25 not know what to do for me except cut cancer away when

1 it develops, which they have done.

2 I refuse to take all the medication
3 prescribed. I use alternative ways and means to
4 alleviate the problems and the pain encountered.

5 My B Plant boss died of cancer after I had
6 been exposed to many toxins, including radiation
7 chemicals.

8 The walls in my office were always wet from
9 leaks coming from the roof, which is highly
10 contaminated, or from the aqueous makeup area above my
11 office.

12 I was exposed to asbestos and I am told I
13 was exposed to beryllium. I was relocated to town to
14 perform my B Plant job after suffering six reactions
15 because of my heart condition in one day. I was moved
16 to the federal building where I did my B Plant job,
17 which caused more stress because I wasn't there.

18 Retaliation continued until Hazel O'Leary
19 came to my rescue on April 17th, 1996, by enforcing
20 her initiatives after her subordinate fired me. I was
21 fired by DOE personnel, which he had to retract. John
22 Wagner and Larry Musen provided false information to
23 the Workers' Comp folks, which is on record in the
24 office of employee protection which caused my Workers'
25 Comp to be denied involving the radiation chemical

1 exposures. The asbestos exposure is still open.

2 I was exposed to radiation chemicals which
3 was admitted on record by the managers and the
4 presiding U.S. District judge ordered the records
5 destroyed so I would never know. And that's on
6 record.

7 A DOE witness designated under oath my
8 deceased manager often wiped up the radiation
9 chemicals with a towel and disposed of it without
10 anybody knowing, except for the people that were
11 watching him.

12 Proposal. DOE regulations are in place to
13 end the nightmare for thousands of people, some of
14 which have been in this room tonight, and Hazel
15 O'Leary began her enforcement after only five days,
16 and I was better.

17 And I suggest that all these people that
18 are deserving to get a chance to resolve their issues
19 in five days and begin anew.

20 Thank you.

21 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

22 MR. HALL: Thank you. Is Mr. Kramar,
23 Kramar. H. P. Smith is next.

24 MR. KRAMAR: Good evening. I am
25 reading this statement on behalf of 11 workers and

1 former workers from the Hanford nuclear facility.

2 Each of us, myself included, was injured
3 from the explosion at the Plutonium Finishing Plant at
4 Hanford on May 14th, 1997.

5 It is very difficult for us to attend this
6 meeting and hear these statements of concern about
7 workers' safety at nuclear plants when we are still
8 waiting for the government to fulfill its promises
9 made to us and to our families over two and a half
10 years ago.

11 On the night of May 14th, 1997 we 11
12 workers were present at the Plutonium Finishing Plant
13 here at Hanford as laborers, operators, health
14 technicians, electricians and supervisors. At around
15 8 p.m. an explosion lifted the roof of the plutonium
16 reclamation facility. The explosion occurred in the
17 building, in one of the rooms to make finished
18 radioactive plutonium.

19 At that time one of our number was standing
20 at the door of the building about to enter it and was
21 blown backwards by the explosion. Another was
22 operating a ventilation system of the building. Eight
23 of us were directly outside the building. Another
24 arrived soon after.

25 While the plume of orange and yellow gas

1 came funneling out of the building eight of us were
2 directed to walk through that plume to other locations
3 on-site, not once but twice, and for some people three
4 and four times.

5 That very night we suffered skin lesions
6 and blisters. Over the following days we suffered
7 intense prolonged headaches, severe body aches which
8 forced us to bed, loss of lung function, permanent
9 hearing loss and other symptoms which lasted weeks and
10 months, and many of which continue to this day.

11 Some of us have lost all feeling in our
12 fingers and arms. Our neurologists have told us that
13 this is the result of chemical exposure that night at
14 the Plutonium Finishing Plant at Hanford.

15 The event has been devastating to ourselves
16 and our families.

17 In addition to our physical problems, five
18 of us have been diagnosed with severe emotional
19 problems stemming from that night and the aftermath.
20 Despite promises from then Secretary of Energy
21 Frederick Pena, we were denied independent medical
22 evaluation for months after the explosion until it was
23 too late to perform many tests.

24 The night of the explosion we drove
25 ourselves to the hospital. At the hospital our

1 requests for blood and urine tests to learn what we
2 might have been exposed to were refused.

3 During the month after the explosion we
4 were lied to about the results of early evaluation for
5 plutonium exposure. Even when we were later given
6 some health screening it was deliberately limited in
7 scope and was too late to be effective.

8 The night of the explosion we were sent
9 home in our work clothes, ensuring exposure of our
10 families. Despite promises by Secretary Pena that our
11 families would also be evaluated, not one member of
12 our families have received evaluations for all
13 possible toxic exposures.

14 It is very difficult to believe statements
15 made tonight about concern for worker safety while we
16 still suffer from these events which occurred over two
17 years ago. If we are to believe the promises made
18 tonight, the government should start by keeping its
19 promise made years ago and to address the health
20 problems this event has caused in our lives and in the
21 lives of other workers like us.

22 Thank you for your concern. God bless you.

23 MR. HALL: Thank you, sir. Is Mr.
24 Smith here, H. P. Smith?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's gone

1 home.

2 MR. HALL: Gone home. Terry Klute.

3 Is that right? K-L-U-T-E?

4 MR. KLUTE: Right.

5 MR. HALL: Next will be I believe
6 it's Lester Bolton.

7 MR. KLUTE: I would like to thank
8 you, Dr. Michaels, for coming out. We appreciate it.
9 We don't get a chance to get the upper end out here
10 very often because we are a long way from D.C. Even
11 though we are the real Washington.

12 I'll be brief. I'm a nuclear chemical
13 operator out there, at Hanford here, and I have been
14 out here for 32 years. My parents were working here
15 before me.

16 And my concerns, besides the people that
17 are here tonight, you have heard all those stories,
18 and those are all true, and they need help, but the
19 people still here are very concerned about some of the
20 things that are currently going on.

21 And although this doesn't have anything to
22 do with the legislation, in around about way, it does.
23 We're the Cold War Vet's, we did the job when it
24 needed to be done, and we helped out the nation, and
25 we should be treated as veterans.

1 These compensation laws should be enacted
2 for everyone, not just for certain places.

3 The concern that I have about the current
4 goings on here are the physicals that are being
5 eliminated. Normally we will get a physical every
6 year, and those have been very helpful. Most people
7 would agree that a lot of conditions have been
8 discovered while, as a result of these physicals, and
9 we would like to see that continued of course.

10 There is a current effort to eliminate the
11 frequency of those physicals based on the plant that
12 you're currently working in. A study has been done
13 based only on where you are currently working, and the
14 decision then to continue the physicals or to back
15 them off to every two years or every three years or
16 every five years would be based solely on that.

17 No consideration was given to previous
18 exposures. And like I say, I have been there for 32
19 years, I have been all over the project. The plant I
20 am currently in, I'm there because my seniority gives
21 me the ability to find a good place to go when I'm a
22 little older and would not like to not be in
23 radiation, to be under the effects of some of the
24 other projects.

25 Being a union person, I could do that, I

1 could pick where I want to be, so I moved to a quieter
2 place.

3 That quiet place then put me in a different
4 category, so now they don't want to give me physicals
5 as often as they did before.

6 Just in my life, this point in my life,
7 after 32 years of service out there, one probably
8 should be looking at more, not less. That condition
9 really concerns me, and my co-workers. We don't think
10 it's fair. We think that that needs to be looked at.

11 The health effects won't be discovered if
12 nobody's looking.

13 Hanford needs to be included in any new
14 laws and any health care comp. There's been bills out
15 there before for nuclear workers, compensation for
16 nuclear workers, and it should be all inclusive. It
17 shouldn't be just a couple of plants back East. They
18 have problems. They are just as in need as we are.

19 But everybody needs help. Idaho Falls, us,
20 Rocky Flats, all those places.

21 We should be treated more like Civil
22 Service workers, because that's essentially what we
23 are. There should be some sort of a program where a
24 person can retire after, say, 30 years, regardless of
25 age, just to get them away from these exposures. They

1 did their time, they did their job.

2 I'm not complaining. The pay was good.
3 But let's do the right thing and take care of these
4 folks. Asbestos and beryllium are real problems, but
5 they are not our only problems.

6 MR. HALL: Thank you very much. Is
7 Lester Bolton here? Lester Bolton?

8 MR. BOLTON: Jim, I will pass on
9 that. I think you have pretty well covered anything I
10 want to say.

11 Mr. Hall: The crowd thanks you, sir.
12 Jim Young. Is Jim Young here? Karen Southam next.
13 Jim Young? Karen Southam is now. And Lynn Taylor
14 will be next.

15 MS. SOUTHAM: My name is Karen
16 Southam, and I want to thank the DOE for coming
17 forward and having this opportunity to speak tonight
18 with Hanford workers, former Hanford workers.

19 I have been personally very moved by many
20 of the testimonies that have been given tonight. And
21 my personal story was, or is, I was a Hanford employee
22 from 1980 to 1995. And in 1991 I was diagnosed with a
23 thyroid cancer that was stage four. I'm too young for
24 the studies.

25 I was one of the children that was tested

1 when I was about seven or eight years old at my
2 elementary school, having grown up here in the
3 Tri-Cities. And I do have that report that was done
4 by the Environmental Protection Agency, commissioned
5 by the Environmental Protection Agency, studying all
6 of the local school children in the Hanford,
7 Tri-Cities and surrounding communities. That report
8 is still available by Battelle.

9 So I don't really know, and I can't speak
10 to whether my thyroid cancer was caused by my exposure
11 at N-Area when I worked out there. I worked in many
12 of the same buildings that my husband who has
13 berylliosis disease worked in. That's how I met him.

14 I can't speak to whether my exposures
15 called my thyroid cancer as a downwinder or whether it
16 was as an employee. But I can say that I am the only
17 person in my family who worked at Hanford ever, and
18 I'm the only person in my family that's ever had a
19 thyroid cancer or any cancer of any kind.

20 I have had a total thyroidectomy and I have
21 to suffer through other physical ailments as a result
22 of complications from that surgery. And I have to
23 take a little pill every day, and I have to wear this
24 Hanford necklace they call it every day.

25 But nonetheless I just wanted to come today

1 and share my thanks for the Department of Energy
2 coming forward and admitting that there may have been
3 exposures to Hanford workers.

4 I'm very proud of the administration for
5 making this very brave move, and as a part of my
6 commitment to this whole effort, I have been an
7 advisory board member for the Hanford Health
8 Information Network for the State of Washington, which
9 is a voluntary position, for about the last five or
10 six years.

11 And part of the reason I became an advisory
12 board member is because I do believe and I do hear and
13 represent the public as far as their health concerns
14 as downwinders, and that also includes Hanford workers
15 as well. We have made information available, and as
16 you know, I heard you mention earlier that when the
17 lady came up and stated that she wanted to know where
18 she could get information about radiological health
19 effects and you mentioned that the CDC and the ATSDR
20 had programs that were available, one of those
21 programs is the HHIN, as you know, and as you know, we
22 were supposed to be funded through year 2001, and we
23 have run into some funding crisis, and I am sure you
24 are very familiar with that.

25 I am hoping that in light of this new

1 information that's been shared, and this willingness
2 that the Department of Energy has shown to deal with
3 these issues, again, I can't say thanks enough,
4 because this is validation for so many people, and
5 such good work that you are doing, and so very
6 healing, and I want to thank you for that.

7 I just want to implore to you how I
8 personally feel. I wish they would find a way to
9 continue the education through the HHIN and fund it
10 through year 2000, especially in light of this new
11 information and this new, where we're at today.

12 And bottom line, this is really nerve
13 racking up here, I thought I was going to be able to
14 handle this a lot better than I am. Nonetheless I
15 want to say thanks again for allowing us to come speak
16 our minds, and please, if any way possible you have
17 any influence over that funding that is supposed to be
18 routed through CDC.

19 Thanks to the DOE for contributing for the
20 operation of the HHIN for the last four or five years.
21 It has not all be a waste, I assure you the education
22 that has been done for physicians through this program
23 and the education of the public and Hanford workers
24 has been appreciated by myself and many others, and I
25 just want to say thanks for the past support, and

1 please, if possible, see if we can't continue it at
2 least in light of this new era we are in.

3 Thank you.

4 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

5 MR. HALL: This is Ms. Taylor. We
6 are down to 65.

7 DR. MICHAELS: I think some cards may
8 even be missing.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.
10 Mine is.

11 DR. MICHAELS: I recognize the one in
12 the front, and I don't see her card.

13 MR. HALL: Trisha is next.

14 MS. TAYLOR: I should probably
15 apologize. I have listened to all these stories, and
16 mine is just another one of those, but I have waited
17 36 years to be up here, and so I am going to have my
18 peace, thank you.

19 DR. MICHAELS: Take your time.

20 MS. TAYLOR: Okay. My father brought
21 my mother and my oldest brother out here in 1944 from
22 Tennessee, and I'm not sure if he worked at Oak Ridge.
23 I don't even know if it was there then. But I know he
24 worked for duPont back there. And he came out here
25 looking for a new way of life, and was real excited

1 about it, and he was very proud to work there.

2 And when I was a little girl and I said,
3 what do you do at work, Dad?

4 He said, "I can't tell you what I do."

5 It was very secrete out there. So we never
6 talked about it. We never talked about his work.
7 Just every day when he drove off to work I waved
8 good-bye and he came home at night.

9 Well, in 1963 my father's co-worker became
10 very ill with pancreatic cancer and died. And my
11 father was very upset about that. I was 13 at the
12 time. That happened in August of '63.

13 In December he came down with what he
14 thought was the flu. He was never sick. I don't ever
15 remember the man even having a cold. My mother has
16 later told me that she thought he was depressed about
17 his friend Del passing away.

18 In March, the end of March of '64, my
19 father experienced some severe pains. He went to the
20 doctor, and they put him in the hospital. This was
21 the beginning of April. And they ran some tests. And
22 said they couldn't figure out what was wrong. And he
23 probably just, you know, he was sick.

24 And it turned out he had pancreatic cancer.
25 He ended up going to Kadlec Hospital, and he was in

1 the hospital for 33 days, and he passed away at the
2 age of 46.

3 I remember at one point, and I don't know
4 how long before that it was, I remember him being sent
5 home from work for several days, and in the bathroom
6 there was a little box that he had to send every day a
7 sample off to work, whatever work was. And that I
8 think they did for three days. I don't know whether
9 it was stool samples or urine samples.

10 And he used to wear his badge, and I used
11 to ask him about his badge, and he said it measured
12 radiation. And I thought it was like a thermometer.
13 And he said, no, it was inside. They kept his badge
14 because, I remember him saying it had been, he had
15 gotten too much of something. I'm assuming it was
16 radiation.

17 Anyway, he did die May 1st of 1964, and it
18 was very traumatic, of course, because he didn't come
19 home from work anymore, and I was very upset about
20 that. The GE newsletters stopped coming. Everything
21 from GE, he got his safety awards and he got his five,
22 ten, 15 year pen, and he didn't get his 20 year pen
23 because he died on that 20th year. So I still have
24 the 15, the three before that.

25 But in 1977 my mother received a letter

1 from a doctor Thomas Mancouso, that he was
2 representing the University of Pittsburgh, and his
3 title was research professor, and he wrote, asking her
4 to, it was in reference to a research study being
5 conducted by the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate
6 School of Public Health, relative to prior employees
7 of atomic energy facilities.

8 And they asked if my mother would take the
9 time to report what happened to my father, as much as
10 she could remember. Now, this is 13 years
11 after-the-fact. And she's kept all these letters, and
12 her response, as well. So I have that.

13 She said, she told me recently, she suffers
14 a little bit from dementia, and I didn't want her to
15 come tonight because I didn't want her to hear me say
16 that, but she has a lot of trouble with the here and
17 the now, but she can certainly remember 1964 and all
18 of that, and she never skips a beat when she thinks
19 about it.

20 It affected my family severely. She said
21 that she was afraid to send this information because
22 back then you didn't talk about work, and it was
23 scary.

24 You know, I guess they knew that it was
25 something going on for the war but they didn't know

1 what they were doing. And that's something I wanted
2 to say. It seems like some things have changed and
3 some things haven't. Some people are still afraid.
4 And I don't understand that. I mean, I have something
5 to say, and I don't care. I will say it.

6 Anyway, the second letter came after she
7 responded, and it thanked her for responding and
8 appreciated her time, and they said they would check
9 into the medical aspect of what she said. And then it
10 says we are attempting to evaluate every former worker
11 carefully, and it is with help from folks like you
12 that keeps us going.

13 And that is in April 1977. And we have
14 heard nothing. I don't know. Maybe that was just for
15 their own benefit. But nobody every talked about it.
16 You know, to have an important person in your life
17 just disappear and it was like we didn't know why.

18 I started to leave earlier because I saw
19 all your cards and I thought, you know, nobody's going
20 to want to hear what I have to say. But I looked at
21 this form that I was going to fill out, and it seems
22 to be for people who are suffering from things now.

23 This doesn't seem to apply to me. I don't
24 work at Hanford and I don't want to work out there.

25 But, I don't know, how do we get

1 compensated for the loss of a family member?

2 I know that gentleman that spoke and you
3 said, he's talking about his brother-in-law, I think,
4 I guess I need some answers. I'm not looking for
5 money. I'm looking for some kind of peace of mind,
6 how do we get compensated?

7 DR. MICHAELS: First, ma'am, I would
8 like to, one of the questions you raised was around
9 the letter your mother received in 1977, how she put
10 her heart into that response and never heard anything.

11 In fact I would like you to tell her from
12 me that in fact her response was very useful. Dr.
13 Thomas Mancouso was a researcher at the University of
14 Pittsburgh, did a series of very important studies on
15 the health of workers at nuclear weapons facilities.
16 And at least one very, very important study here at
17 Hanford. And that study is one of the pieces of
18 evidence that we have sent to the White House to
19 support this effort.

20 So, in fact your mother's contribution, you
21 know, is appreciated and was very important.

22 MS. TAYLOR: I mean, she hasn't been
23 lost in the shuffle of papers?

24 DR. MICHAELS: No. The information
25 she sent was important. It's a shame no one got back

1 to her to tell her that. But that was helpful, and
2 hopefully out of this will come a process and a
3 program that we will be able to bring back to you next
4 year or the year after, whenever it does pass, to
5 address these issues.

6 I can't tell you what the details will be.
7 We are far from there.

8 MS. TAYLOR: That's good.

9 DR. MICHAELS: But thank your mother
10 for us, for helping.

11 MS. TAYLOR: I will. Thank you.

12 MR. HALL: Thank you very much.

13 Trisha Pritikin, and Warren Kays will be next.

14 MS. PRITIKIN: Before I begin I want
15 to second Karen Southam's request for future funding
16 for HHIN and the archives. Especially with this
17 number of people who are newly coming forth with their
18 histories and their health problems from Hanford.

19 I brought several items from the Hanford
20 archives. People may recognize this. This is one of
21 the flags that flew on the boats that went up and down
22 the Columbia in the '50s, the Hanford Navy flag.

23 And tonight is the fourth anniversary of my
24 father's death of thyroid cancer, just by coincidence.
25 And I was actually born here in Richland at Kadlec

1 Hospital, and grew up about three blocks from here in
2 an F house.

3 I took a reporter with me to visit my house
4 before I came here, and the house looks a lot smaller
5 than it used to when I was little.

6 I want to talk about something just
7 slightly different than what you have heard so far. I
8 am the daughter of two Hanford workers. My father
9 worked as an engineer, nuclear engineer from '47
10 through '60. My mother worked in stores.

11 As I said, my father died exactly four
12 years ago today of aggressive metastatic thyroid
13 cancer, which we believe was caused by his inhalation
14 and ingestion of radioiodine from Hanford.

15 My mother also had thyroid disease, hyper
16 parathyroidism, and died of malignant melanoma, a very
17 aggressive form of malignant melanoma last March.

18 My brother died in 1947 of unknown
19 circumstances that's rather confusing as to the cause
20 of his death. He's part of the spike of neonatal
21 deaths that's been looked at by the ATSDR, the Agency
22 for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

23 That is of the four members of my family,
24 I'm the only one left. I have severe thyroid disease
25 and osteonecrosis myself.

1 I want to talk about the rest of us, not
2 just the workers. I am very thankful for what you and
3 Secretary Richardson have done for the workers and I
4 wish my parents have lived to see this night and be
5 here with me.

6 But by helping the workers, you are
7 dividing my family, because myself and my brother have
8 nothing. We have no monitoring, no compensation, no
9 help, yet we are ill and my brother is dead.

10 So by helping the workers and not the
11 families of the workers who are sick, and not the
12 people exposed off-site, the downwinders that have
13 been exposed to significant amounts of radiation, you
14 are dividing our community and you are dividing my
15 family. And that's not right.

16 We have been referred to as the children of
17 the Hanford sacrifice zone. We paid a price as well
18 for the effort that went on to create the bomb. And
19 it's just not right to help only the workers. There
20 are a lot of people who are not here tonight who have
21 already died and who have cancers, as well.

22 I'm very thankful for the workers'
23 monitoring program, but we have had a medical
24 monitoring program that was recommended several years
25 ago, and DOE has still not funded that program.

1 Had that program been existing my father
2 would be alive tonight because the nodule he developed
3 on his thyroid would have been biopsied and they would
4 have detected.

5 People like me did not sign up to take
6 these exposures. We have no monitoring. We have no
7 health care. We have all be kicked out of court
8 because of the burden the law places on us to show the
9 causal link between the substance and our diseases.
10 We have no Workers' Compensation for these diseases.

11 You are collecting evidence for the White
12 House of people who have no Workers' Compensation from
13 radiation exposures. We are a very large group of
14 people like that.

15 We too have suffered for this country's
16 freedom. We have given our health and often our
17 lives. We are also Cold War veterans.

18 A bill before this administration before
19 leaves which extends beyond the workers to all of
20 those of us significantly injured is what should be in
21 question, not a bill just for the workers. But please
22 look beyond the workers.

23 Also please treat the people at the
24 different atomic energy sites and the Nevada test site
25 equally. We must be treated equally to the Oak Ridge

1 people, to the Savannah River people, to the INEEL
2 people, to those exposed to the Nevada test site
3 fallout. Don't divide us.

4 I have a friend who's a Nevada test site
5 downwinder who stated simply, justice, not just us.
6 And I'm done.

7 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

8 MR. HALL: We are down to about our
9 last eight to ten before Mr. Kays, and we would like
10 to set a goal of trying to get out of here around
11 10:30. That gives us just under a half an hour. So
12 with that said, again, not trying to rush you, but the
13 end is in sight.

14 Mr. Kays is up. John Dawson is next, go
15 ahead, sir.

16 MR. KAYS: Okay. House resolution
17 3,418 on the surface appears to be a good compensation
18 measure. It provides medical and wage compensation to
19 the unfortunate individuals whose body lacked the
20 ability to compact -- combat the effects of beryllium
21 exposure while working at the U.S. Department of
22 Energy sites, including Hanford.

23 A major flaw appears in section 107
24 paragraph B where it states all compensation under
25 this title shall be paid for from the energy employees

1 beryllium compensation fund and shall be limited to
2 the amount available in the fund.

3 CBD and sensitization to beryllium are
4 chronic effects that may not a perfect for many years.
5 Current screening for sensitization has results of
6 only 50 percent accuracy. The number of people
7 affected by this exposure will multiply in the future.
8 DOE document 10 CFR Part 850, chronic beryllium
9 disease prevention program, and medical statistics,
10 will show this to be true.

11 Hopefully the medical specialists will be
12 able to treat the affected individuals and extend
13 their lives. This bill will pay wage compensation,
14 medical bills, and administrative costs on an
15 expanding number of people that hopefully will live
16 longer.

17 How can you create a limited funded bill to
18 cover all these costs? You can't. The funds must be
19 open ended because of the reasons I have stated.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you very much.

22 MR. HALL: Thank you very much. Is
23 Mr. Dawson still here? This one, while I'm trying to
24 decipher, Robert Martof, M-a-r-t-o-f, I think I am
25 correct.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He left.

2 MR. HALL: He left. Kathy Querin? A
3 Richland resident. Is Kathy Querin still here. Oh, I
4 am sorry. Come on up. Charles Hendricks will be
5 next.

6 MS. QUERIN: I am Kathy Querin. I
7 worked at 222-S from 1992 to 1997. I'm one of those
8 people that tried to prevent these tragedies. I was
9 invited to a meeting last night with DOE reps to
10 discuss my experience after raising life threatening
11 safety issues of Hanford. Many others were there to
12 share similar expenses.

13 The disclosures that were made would turn
14 any just man or woman's stomach sour. The retaliation
15 against these people by the DOE and contractors is a
16 ruthless crucifixion. We were asked to focus on the
17 safety culture on-site, and its issues.

18 My immediate response was a list of five
19 top issues I have with the Department of Energy.

20 They are, number one, profit is over human
21 life.

22 Number two. Propaganda that safety is
23 number one.

24 Number three. There is no real help for
25 whistleblowers. With the exception of people like

1 GAP. But as far as when you're working at Hanford,
2 places that you are told to go, are Employee Concerns,
3 and the DOE hotline. These have been proven to be
4 used for disclosure and damage control.

5 Number 4. That corruption and dishonesty
6 are rewarded, and a lot of times highly rewarded.

7 Number 5. The DOE has been seated on the
8 thrown of victory over whistleblowers at the expense
9 of the American taxpayer.

10 There are massive funds spent on litigation
11 against whistleblowers.

12 For any union members left tonight, the
13 union didn't fair much better. In every case I heard
14 last night the union betrayed the worker and helped
15 the company. This is inexcusable, because people have
16 fought and even died to establish unions, and to
17 corrupt it is an atrocity.

18 Understand that whistleblowers risk
19 everything because they still believe that human life
20 is more valuable than profit. The offenses against
21 them are some of the most perverse violations of human
22 rights in America today.

23 There was positive proof in the meeting
24 last night that managers at Hanford were trained to
25 treat whistleblowers as if they had an agenda other

1 than safety.

2 I would like to make my agenda perfectly
3 clear. I firmly believe that all human life should be
4 protected from conception until natural death. I
5 raise serious questions about the safety of pregnant
6 workers and their unborn children, given the high rate
7 of miscarriages and stillbirths along with other
8 health problems in that lab, and the stillbirth and
9 miscarriages included myself.

10 And my agenda was to change policies to
11 protect pregnant workers.

12 I was told that the air flow system was
13 protecting me. I was told that there were no
14 chemicals in the lab that could cause reproductive
15 problems. And even though, after nearly five years I
16 was doing the same exact job, and before I made the
17 safe -- or brought up the safety concerns, my
18 appraisals were good.

19 Despite that I had a college education and
20 the job I was doing could be done by anyone, including
21 the legally blind, I was branded as being one of the
22 most -- I think it was the worst chemical technician
23 ever in Hanford history.

24 After I was fired I learned that glycall
25 ethers were being used in the lab, which they are

1 known to cause stillbirths and miscarriages, and other
2 health problems.

3 Women have reported changes in their
4 menstrual cycles to me. There is respiratory
5 problems. And the DOE was well aware of this. These
6 ethers have been discussed in the White House for
7 years, before I made those claims. Studies had been
8 made and lawsuits were in process at the time that I
9 made those complaints.

10 So, let me remind those that are involved
11 in these deceptions, and they are deceptions, this was
12 intended to be a nation under God, and this horrible
13 violation of human life is going to demand God's
14 justice.

15 And let me send a strong message to those
16 who make these decisions of profit over life, not one
17 hair will be left uncounted for those whose lives were
18 cut short or never even born because of these acts.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. HALL: Is Charles Hendricks here.
21 Patricia Schmidt. She left.

22 David Wight, W-I-G-H-T?

23 Go ahead, Mr. Hendricks.

24 MR. HENDRICKS: Well, I appreciate
25 the opportunity to be able to speak, Dr. Michaels and

1 Jim. In fact I think Jim knows my family, always back.
2 That's not what I come here to say though, but I would
3 like to say a little bit of history before I do
4 present my story.

5 I come from a long line of family that
6 lives a very long life, like 97 years, 98, 101. My
7 father died -- my father came here, and we did in
8 1948. My father died in 1990 at the age of 83. He
9 lived a pretty good life. But if your father lived to
10 be 97 years old, then it's kind of a short life.

11 I lost my mother a year ago today, and she
12 also comes from a long living family.

13 So I do feel that what has happened here on
14 the reservation has caused and will probably be the
15 cause of my demise and probably my son's and
16 daughters.

17 I've never worked in the Area. I worked
18 for Exxon Nuclear, which is now Siemens. I was a
19 process control auditor. And we had to go through the
20 whole plant and make sure the whole operation was
21 going right and being done right.

22 We had a building out there that was called
23 the plutonium plant, building, and that is exactly
24 what it was, it processed plutonium. Us being process
25 control auditors, we would have to go into the

1 building, and they had all the machinery, the lathes
2 and everything to cut these little pellets that goes
3 inside the fuel rods. And it was probably about a
4 three-eighths inch plexiglass cage box that we worked
5 in. And we had rubber gloves.

6 Of course we put on a white uniform with
7 white shoes. But we did not have any type of
8 protection for our chest, for our body against the
9 plutonium, and you would reach your hands inside of
10 the glove boxes and take out a little plutonium pellet
11 and measure it with a micrometer and weigh it.

12 And now and then you would hear the whistle
13 go off at the other end of the room, which meant that
14 there was a tare in one of the rubber gloves that we
15 had our arms in, which came up to about our shoulders
16 here. And of course by the time the whistle went off,
17 we had already been exposed.

18 And I have just in the last year started
19 experiencing strange things going wrong with me. My
20 voice is one of them. I was a Toastmaster for 22
21 years, and now I probably couldn't speak in front of a
22 group for probably more than five minutes. My throat
23 is gummy, very gummy.

24 I am losing my sense of stability. I have
25 fallen down stairs twice, 12 stairs. This last time I

1 had a compression fracture. And I'm not doing a very
2 good job of talking right now because my voice, my
3 throat is like it has got gum in it, and it has been
4 that way for quite some time.

5 I never really gave it much thought until
6 this project here came up. And I don't think I'm a
7 hypochondriac. I do know there's something wrong with
8 me. My doctors don't know what it is. I don't know
9 what it is. But maybe sometime in the future we can
10 find out what it is. And I hope that in me getting up
11 here and saying something for the people that did not
12 work on the project but was working with nuclear
13 fuels, I hope this will help them also.

14 And in ending this, I would like to say I
15 was sent to Germany and Sweden to train people on
16 fuel, building nuclear fuel, and also followed the
17 delivery to Sweden, and I was hurt at that time. I
18 did stay over and finished the job. I came back. Two
19 years later I was fired. They came to my house and
20 fired me, because I couldn't travel any longer.

21 And it took me 14 years of fighting Labor
22 and Industries to get my disability. But I got it.
23 It took 14 years. You have to be persistent, folks,
24 and that's what we're doing here, is being persistent.

25 And I appreciate Dr. Michaels listening to

1 us, and take all of this information back to
2 Washington. It will help some of us, probably. Thank
3 you.

4 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, sir.

5 MR. HALL: Is David Wight here?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, he left.

7 MR. HALL: Allen Krebs? Randy Walli,
8 W-a-l-l-i? That being said, --

9 MS. SUTHERLAND: How about Kay
10 Sutherland?

11 MR. HALL: I am sorry, Ma'am. I
12 didn't see your card.

13 MR. HALL: Mr. Walli, come on up.

14 MR. WALLI: My name is Randy Walli.

15 I have worked numerous jobs at the Hanford Site for
16 different contractors over a number of years. I grew
17 up in this area. My family is from this area.

18 You know, we have lived here and watched
19 the Tri-Cities grow, and revolve around Hanford. We
20 have seen a lot of people testify to the pride of this
21 community.

22 It's been a bad experience for me and some
23 of my fellow pipefitters over the last three years,
24 because we took a stance at the Hanford Site over some
25 safety issues. We've since been labeled as

1 whistleblowers. Which is a bad term for people that
2 are concerned over safety issues or their fellow
3 workers.

4 In my case I was a pipefitter foreman, 200
5 West Area. We had some issues that came up over some
6 testing of some new pipe systems that were being put
7 in. And subsequently we were terminated. The whole
8 crew that worked for me was terminated.

9 We ended up going through numerous avenues,
10 including lawyers, over a period of time. We tried to
11 go through what we call the Hanford Joint Council
12 here, which is an agency that is set up to try to
13 resolve issues here at the Hanford Site.

14 Some of the gentlemen that I worked with,
15 we all met with the Joint Council, told our stories,
16 tried to get it resolved by keeping it out of court,
17 kind of an in-house deal.

18 The company we worked for refused in
19 writing to meet with this agency that DOE has set up
20 to handle these issues.

21 We then pursued things through legal
22 systems. The Department of Labor ruled in our favor.
23 The company appealed it. The company, the day before
24 we went to trial, settled this out of court. They
25 agreed to take us back under the whistleblower acts.

1 We are supposed to be treated fairly.

2 Six months and four days after we were
3 rehired, most of us were laid off again.

4 It's not a big deal to construction people
5 to be laid off. I mean, it's part of our life. We
6 know the first day we go to work, we are working
7 ourselves out of a job.

8 But to work here at home was an honor.
9 Most of us have families, young families. It would be
10 nice to stay home once in a while and work with them,
11 play with them, watch your kids grow up.

12 But because we have been labeled as
13 whistleblowers, we can't work out here anymore.

14 Most of the people out here at the Hanford
15 area, if they do support us, it's around the back
16 door, it's quietly, they don't want to be seen talking
17 to us, but yet they want us to listen to their
18 concerns.

19 A lot of these people that talk here
20 tonight, they have been injured, they have sicknesses.
21 I have heard this lady's story, sitting next to me.
22 These are ongoing things that have happened since the
23 '40s.

24 We stood up for some safety concerns,
25 numerous different safety issues, to try to help keep

1 people from getting hurt.

2 And these companies don't want to really
3 listen to this. They put on a window dressing all the
4 time about safety first, there's no price tag on
5 safety. But it seems like it's window dressing.

6 There are some very concerned people
7 working out there, but they are getting harder and
8 harder to talk to, and most of them are going into
9 hiding, because if they bring up a safety issue, they
10 are either demoted or they are replaced.

11 After we were released the second time we
12 ended up calling the Department of Labor again. They
13 came in, looked at it. They handed down an amazing
14 finding on our behalf again. One of the stiffest
15 findings they have ever handed the company. Six
16 months after they hired us back.

17 And yet here we are, we are out of work, we
18 are going through it again. The company has now
19 appealed it again. And it will be a matter of time,
20 we will be back in court. And we have got a hundred
21 times more evidence this time than we had the first
22 time. We have got truckloads of paperwork, documents
23 that shows malice, cover-ups, how they've treated
24 people that have worked with us.

25 We have had people that were in car pools

1 with us and just because they associated with us, they
2 got laid off.

3 This is the new atmosphere at Hanford. And
4 I tell you, from people that have grown up here,
5 thought Hanford did a good thing for this country, I
6 mean, this was the town that gave a day's pay to buy a
7 bomber for the war effort.

8 I don't believe that would happen again,
9 you know, and it's a sad thing that you have to have
10 people that have a little bit of backbone and can
11 stand up to a company and take it through the court
12 system to try to make safety work.

13 I know there's some sincere, honest people
14 out there, but they're not up-front. And I just wish
15 that maybe DOE could step in and help the workers
16 instead of the company.

17 We've got proof that DOE counsel is helping
18 the company counsel fight us on our own lawsuits.
19 That means that you people sitting there, your tax
20 dollars are going to the government to help fight
21 ourselves. My own tax dollars, I'm fighting myself.
22 You know, this shouldn't be.

23 DOE is supposed to be out there guiding and
24 rough rodding these companies.

25 I think they should step in and make them

1 either tow the line or kick them out of here. Because
2 this is not the way we do business. There's a lot of
3 skilled people out there that know their jobs and
4 they're willing to do their jobs. Let's get a company
5 in here that will back the workers, let's do the work
6 to clean up this mess that we've got sitting in our
7 back yards so that our kids can grow up in a safe
8 environment.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. SUTHERLAND: My name is Kay
11 Sutherland. I have been an outspoken advocate for
12 downwind people for ten years.

13 Listening to this testimony tonight, it
14 struck me as why wasn't this televised tonight to show
15 this community what they have been through? Why
16 wasn't it televised to show the nation what we have
17 been through?

18 My husband went, four months ago my husband
19 went to work at noon. He was a happy man who loved to
20 joke with his friends at work. He told his friends
21 that he would rather -- felt rather tired that day.
22 He slipped away from the group, sat down in a chair,
23 and his heart stopped, and he died. There was no
24 warning. Nothing.

25 Walt had had other ailments; diabetes, skin

1 cancer, blood pressure problems. The list goes on.

2 His father worked out at Hanford, started
3 in the late '40s or early '50s, he left for a time,
4 came back in the '60s, retired there in the '70s or
5 early '80s. He was a pipefitter. He went home and
6 threw his clothes in the laundry with all the other
7 family members.

8 Out of five family members of my husband's,
9 four are now dead. Four died from heart disease -- or
10 four -- Excuse me. His mother was the only person who
11 did not have heart disease or diabetes in his family.
12 But his mother died of a very severe, fast growing
13 ovarian cancer, and she died one day after her 49th
14 birthday in 1957.

15 Walt and I had -- have lost six children,
16 four to miscarriage, two to infant mortality. Our
17 daughter was born badly deformed. She had double club
18 feet. She was a probable dwarfism. She had tumors
19 throughout her body. An enlarged liver. And other
20 anomalies. And many other problems.

21 The green run, we were told by the DOE, the
22 green run only happened one night, December 2nd and
23 the early morning of December 3rd, 1949.

24 It has come to light that the green run was
25 still continuing in the '60s. In September of 1962

1 right before my getting pregnant with Jennifer, and
2 again in July of 1963, the month that Jennifer was
3 born, they had a small minute green run.

4 I am a Holocaust survivor from the American
5 Cold War. We cannot forget the family children -- the
6 children of the workers. We cannot forget the
7 community people or the downwind community who has
8 surrounded Hanford, whichever way the wind blew that
9 day that they could have been exposed.

10 All these people are now dying. I'm going
11 to the cemetery to visit my family, my friends, the
12 people I went to school with are now very ill or dead.
13 We know that one x-ray harmed a fetus. Alice Stewart
14 discovered that in the early '50s. She was also
15 working with Tom Mancouso for the Hanford workers
16 study.

17 But radiation released from a nuclear
18 facility has never harmed one worker or one person.
19 Yet we have never been out of the x-ray machine. It
20 has never been turned off. The people in this area
21 have been forced into poverty because they have to
22 retire in their 30s, 40s, 50s. Too young to get a
23 retirement, too young to get Social Security, too
24 young for an extended health care. They fall through
25 the cracks. They die.

1 I have over my ten years of being an
2 advocate, I have talked to thousands of people, and
3 many of them, very dear friends, who can no longer
4 fight the fight when there was only a handful of us to
5 begin with, because they are very ill or have now
6 died.

7 You have got to stop the old DOE
8 propaganda. You have got to stop the old DOE from
9 saying that it's all in our heads. We have been
10 harmed. We were used as an experiment without consent
11 or knowledge, and abused and thrown completely away,
12 and we have been forgotten.

13 The judge hearing the downwind law case is
14 one of the most prejudiced judges that I have ever
15 heard of. He has limited the litigation to only
16 thyroid cancer, and a very limited thyroid cancer, and
17 only a couple of other diseases.

18 And as you know yourself, you have admitted
19 to 22 cancers and many other diseases.

20 This man has got to be stopped. He keeps
21 notes and passes them back and forth in his courtroom,
22 making fun of the people that is in his courtroom.
23 Whether they're there to give testimony or on trial,
24 or one of the attorneys, it doesn't matter, it doesn't
25 make any difference to him. But he makes fun of them.

1 Gay Ogalsbee and I know, we are part of those notes.

2 We have had our genetics altered forever.
3 Our children, our grandchildren, our children's
4 children's children have been forever altered. And
5 they need to have some comprehensive health care and
6 we need compensation to take the people out of
7 poverty.

8 There is no safe level for radiation, and
9 we have got to honestly make the DOE tell that to
10 everybody. Tell it to the world. Because it does
11 harm. I am a product of that. I have been hip oh
12 thyroid since I was a teenager. My health has been
13 adversely affected from tumors, from strokes, from
14 cancers. I now have cancer in both lungs. My husband
15 was supposed to be taking care of me. My daughter
16 moved back so that she would be here for him. Not the
17 other way around.

18 I thank you for listening to me. And
19 please find it in your heart not only to think about
20 the workers, but think about all the other families
21 who have been so adversely affected.

22 Thank you.

23 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you very much.

24 MR. HALL: Darla will be next.

25 MR. McELLEMENT: My name is Tim

1 McEllment. I am a sophomore at Kamiakin High School.
2 I have concerns about the health of my family and the
3 Hanford workers.

4 Three members of my family are part of the
5 Hanford work force. My grandpa Jay is an engineer at
6 BNFL. My grandfather Mack was a surveyor and a
7 pipefitter. My dad was a pipefitter and now is a
8 chemical technologist at the laboratory. Any grandpa
9 Mack has suffered -- or has lived in the area since
10 1932 and has worked on and off the site until 1987
11 when he was forced into retirement because of his
12 health. The past few years he has had prostate cancer
13 and numerous skin cancers. I don't know if the
14 cancers were caused by exposure to radiation or
15 hazardous chemicals.

16 I am now concerned about my father's health
17 and our future. Will he be diagnosed with cancer or
18 develop lung or liver problems or other illnesses in
19 the future? Why is there a bill before Congress to
20 compensate only the workers at Paducah? Should the
21 workers at the Hanford Site have the same
22 consideration?

23 Also I have questions for the Congressional
24 representatives. What are you doing in support of the
25 Hanford workers?

1 Thank you for your time.

2 MR. HALL: Thank you very much.

3 Darla Yount, Darla Yount.

4 Are you folks all waiting to talk? Raise
5 your hands if you are.

6 MS. YOUNT: I feel totally
7 insignificant after hearing everybody else's story but
8 I have been here since o'clock and I did turn a card
9 in at six o'clock.

10 My problems started approximately three
11 years ago. I started having problems with my right
12 arm. At night it would go numb and wake me up. This
13 was occurring about four or five times a month.
14 Within several months my arms started going numb
15 during the day. After extended walking, stick or
16 instrument work.

17 So I went to our site first aid with my
18 complaints and I was told I probably had tendonitis.
19 I was given an arm brace and told to take Ibuprofen as
20 an anti-inflammatory and return to work with no
21 restrictions.

22 Over the three years since my symptoms
23 started I have returned approximately six times to
24 first aid or HEHF. Each time the diagnosis was the
25 same. Ibuprofen was prescribed and I was returned to

1 work.

2 In June of '99 I once again returned to
3 HEHF with almost constant pain and numbness in my
4 right arm. I already had missed about 60 hours of
5 work due to pain in my arm since the first of the year
6 and I was now experiencing pain and numbness in my
7 left arm. I was once again told I had tendonitis and
8 given a work restriction. The work restriction was
9 patient defined and to wear an arm brace. The
10 physician's assistant that was evaluating my arm also
11 referred me to Dr. Walter Hales. Dr. Hales is an
12 orthopedic surgeon specializing in arm and upper
13 extremities.

14 After explaining to Dr. Hales my job
15 duties, he examined me and diagnosed me with carpal
16 tunnel syndrome. Dr. Hales explained to me the
17 constant repetitive motion with my instruments was
18 causing carpal tunnel in my arm, to swell and restrict
19 the nerves that passed through it.

20 At this point in time I was unaware that
21 the type of work I do could possibly lead to carpal
22 tunnel. I thought this was only something that only
23 grocery clerks or persons key boarding on a continual
24 basis could get.

25 Dr. Hales informed me that I had the

1 classic symptoms of carpal tunnel. And he in fact had
2 treated numerous people in the HPT field at Hanford
3 for the same problem.

4 Dr. Hales thought that my carpal tunnel had
5 progressed got point where I would require surgery in
6 one or both of my wrists.

7 He referred me to Dr. Dickinson for
8 electromagnetic testing to determine the extent of my
9 condition.

10 When I arrived at this appointment I was
11 told L & I had approved testing for my right arm only.
12 This was due to a paperwork error in Dr. Hales'
13 office.

14 Before Dr. Dickinson started the testing he
15 explained to me that carpal tunnel can be treated very
16 effectively without surgery if it's caught early
17 enough.

18 After the testing he informed me I had a
19 severe case of carpal tunnel and recommended I have
20 surgery as soon as possible. When the nerves are
21 restricted in this manner for extended periods of
22 time, permanent nerve damage will occur.

23 Dr. Hales performed the surgery on my right
24 hand on September 30th with plans to perform the
25 surgery on my left wrist around the 1st of November.

1 Lockheed Martin protested my claim in mid
2 October, stating they did not feel it was work-
3 related.

4 My job has not been evaluated to determine
5 whether my condition is work related or not and no
6 independent studies have been conducted. As of today
7 I have been unable to get relief from the pain in my
8 left arm because L & I is holding my claim in abeyance
9 until I have an independent medical exam in
10 mid-February.

11 My private insurance refuses to authorize
12 surgery for my left arm as they view carpal tunnel as
13 an occupational injury.

14 If L & I denies my claim, then my private
15 insurance will authorize the surgery.

16 To date I have found out they have done on
17 one of my co-workers, they came out and did an
18 ergonomics study and the ergonomist out of Yakima
19 determined that the job that I do is at risk for
20 carpal tunnel.

21 Well, between Lockheed Martin and L & I,
22 they decided that that was not a very good opinion,
23 and they got him together with Dr. Schmeck, and they
24 did another review of the health physics job, and they
25 decided, well, no, it can't cause carpal tunnel.

1 And now I am being sent to Seattle to try
2 to explain my job and how I perform my job to a
3 physician that's never practiced medicine. She got
4 her medical degree and went to work for L & I.

5 How is that an independent medical review?

6 The problems that we have with L & I aren't
7 something that are just of the past. They are
8 ongoing. This company is using our tax dollars
9 instead of to help us with medical benefits, to fight
10 the treatment that we're getting in medical benefits.

11 Also three years ago I requested that I be
12 put on the beryllium study because of the beryllium
13 tools that I work with on a continual basis in the
14 Tank Farms. And after six month of arguing with HEHF,
15 whether I should be on the beryllium program or not,
16 because in their estimation beryllium tools are not,
17 you're not at risk for getting berylliosis from the
18 beryllium tools.

19 All the research I did on the beryllium
20 tools, the production workers that make the tools,
21 most of them have berylliosis.

22 Anyway, the first test that I had two years
23 ago came back negative. When I was tested again in
24 September, I came back positive for berylliosis. I
25 don't know -- or beryllium sensitivity. Excuse me. I

1 don't know where that is going to lead or what will
2 happen there.

3 But I think everybody that I have worked
4 with should be aware that if you have worked with the
5 beryllium tools or if you have been exposed to the
6 dust from the beryllium tools you should be requesting
7 to be put on the beryllium screening program and you
8 should be able to be on that program.

9 Thank you very much.

10 MR. HALL: Thank you.

11 MR. HALL: Go ahead and come right
12 up.

13 MS. ERTELL: Hello. My name is Kathy
14 Ertell. By profession, I am an industrial hygienist
15 and a registered nurse.

16 I worked at Hanford for a number of years
17 and I am currently employed by the University of
18 Washington's former Hanford worker medical monitoring
19 program.

20 I would like to say, however, for the
21 record that my statement tonight doesn't reflect views
22 of the university or of our program but only my
23 personal opinions and experiences.

24 During my career I have had the opportunity
25 to talk with many Hanford workers, both current and

1 former, about their work experiences, their exposures,
2 and their health concerns. And I'd like to just
3 briefly touch on three major areas of concerns that I
4 have heard over the years from workers.

5 First. There are many current workers who
6 feel that their past exposures have not been
7 adequately characterized or addressed. These past
8 exposures may have occurred at other DOE sites, or in
9 a prior job at the same DOE site.

10 Historical or past exposures are very
11 important because there are many occupational diseases
12 that don't manifest themselves until long after
13 exposure.

14 If past exposures are not recognized,
15 proper medical surveillance and protective measures
16 won't be provided for workers. I believe this is an
17 area where there needs to be significant attention
18 focused for our current workers.

19 Second. You have heard lots of stories
20 tonight about radiation exposures, so I am not going
21 to go into much there. I would like to note that I
22 have spoken with a number of former workers who have
23 internal depositions of radionuclides, that is,
24 radioisotopes that they have breathed in, they have
25 swallowed, or that have entered their body through an

1 open wound on their skin.

2 Many of these workers have strong feelings
3 that they have just been abandoned by DOE. They have
4 a lot of concern about their health. Some have health
5 conditions that may or may not be related to their
6 internal depositions.

7 No one from DOE followed up with them after
8 they left employment. No one seems to be able to tell
9 them what they should do, where they should go, or
10 what kind of risk this poses for them in the future.

11 So this is a group of workers that I think
12 also definitely merit our attention and care.

13 And third. There are Camp Hanford
14 veterans, or orphans as I like to call them. These
15 are Army troops that were stationed at Hanford from
16 the 1940s into the 1960s, and their jobs were to
17 provide security as well as antiaircraft surveillance.

18 They were in fact for a number of months to
19 years housed in tents out in the 200 Area where the
20 chemical processing plants are located.

21 So they may well have had very significant
22 exposures to stack emissions and to some of the agents
23 inside the processing plants.

24 These veterans do not appear to qualify for
25 the V.A.'s atomic vet's program, and they are not

1 currently covered by the Hanford or other DOE site
2 former worker medical programs either. So there
3 appears to be a need to include these troops in some
4 kind of compensation or medical services program.
5 That concludes my statement.

6 Thank you.

7 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

8 MS. WILSON: I promise to keep this
9 brief. My name is Tamara Wilson. I am here on behalf
10 of my mother.

11 I am here today to gather information, and
12 as I heard people talk, I heard that my mother may be
13 a candidate for Workmen's Compensation. She worked
14 out at United States Testing from 1968 to 1978. She
15 handled the dosimetry badges for all the workers who
16 came in and had them tested and then gave them back to
17 them, every worker on a monthly basis.

18 My mother quit work in 1978 and moved to
19 Yakima, Washington. She came down with cancer I
20 believe ten years later, breast cancer, had her breast
21 removed, went through chemo therapy for a year.

22 After that she came up with certain
23 situations with pleurisy of the lung. She has
24 diabetes where she has four injections a day. She's
25 been in and out of the hospital at the University of

1 Washington ever since she has had cancer with unknown
2 situations that they cannot seem to find out what's
3 wrong with her.

4 Right now she's in a situation where she
5 has what they think is caused diabetic neuropathy. It
6 is where the nerves die in your body. And she is in a
7 situation, she was forced to retire at 58 years old.
8 She is now 63.

9 She's fallen in the cracks of Medicare,
10 because she can't get insurance in this situation to
11 cover it.

12 As of last month my mother is paying \$800 a
13 month in order to just keep the pain down. I had her
14 in the hospital last Sunday where they just keep
15 injecting her with morphine and then we send her home.

16 I'm just here in the situation, my mother's
17 never been -- blamed anybody for anything. She worked
18 out there, she left, and I have just heard so many
19 things, my mother's grandparents -- or my mother's
20 parents are still alive and very healthy. Her name is
21 DeeDee Sione and I would like her to be considered if
22 there is a situation where they find out radiation is
23 causing illness, because she is in a position now
24 where she's not really living, she's just existing.

25 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you. Let me just

1 say and apologize for some of you who are waiting,
2 although I think this may be a relief to others, we
3 just received about 25 more cards that actually were
4 put in an envelope outside. I'm not going to read
5 them all. I see a few of the people are standing
6 here.

7 If there is anyone else who would like to
8 speak, you don't have to stand up, we will get to you.
9 But these four, and then anyone else, we will keep
10 going.

11 MS. PADLEY: Given the hour, I will
12 be mercy any brief. My name is Pamela Padley, and I
13 am a librarian and the manager of the Hanford Health
14 Information Archives.

15 We are a project of the Hanford Health
16 Information Network which has been mentioned earlier
17 this evening. It is a federally funded program, and
18 we are located at Gonzaga University in Spokane.

19 I want to tell you and those in the
20 audience tonight here about a significant portion of
21 the archives collection. Our holdings, which are
22 available on line, I will give you that information in
23 a minute, include occupational records, medical
24 records, oral histories similar to many of those that
25 we have heard tonight, personal recollections,

1 photographs, and other scanned images of Hanford
2 workers, children of Hanford workers and their
3 families, Camp Hanford workers, military personnel,
4 and others who have lived in the exposed area from
5 1944 to 1974. The time period is determined by the
6 authorizing language of our legislation.

7 I am here simply to encourage anyone who is
8 interested to consider donating an oral history or
9 medical records or any other significant documents to
10 the archives. You can contact us at our web site at
11 WWW.HHIA.ORG, or through our toll free number
12 1-800-799-4442.

13 Your stories are very important. And we in
14 the archives want to ensure that they are preserved
15 for the sake of those who come after us for current
16 research, to benefit future generations.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. HALL: Thank you. I think we
19 have about four or five people. We are going to take
20 a quick four or five minute break. Let's just take
21 three or four minutes.

22 (Short recess).

23 MR. HALL: Go ahead, sir.

24 MR. ARSEN: My name is Marion Arsen,
25 and I worked out in the Area for, off and on for about

1 25 years. And I went on a disability in 1995, but
2 fortunately I took the advice of my doctor and took
3 disability rather than a big layoff that they had
4 coming. And I have been on disability ever since,
5 what they described as chronic fatigue.

6 I have about worn out the highway between
7 here and the University of Washington in Seattle,
8 trying to find out what's really going on. One of my
9 problems is thyroid, hypothyroidism, and they found a
10 myriad of other problems. Nothing clear. Never been
11 able to clearly diagnose it.

12 I have been working radiation zone since I
13 was 20 years old, started in '62 in the shipyards,
14 working in the nuclear shipyards, working with hot
15 zones.

16 So I have had a long and varied career with
17 a lot of radiation exposure.

18 I was under the old AEC guidelines for
19 years in the early '70s working commercial power where
20 you get your quarterly dose in one day, go back two
21 days later, the next quarter and get your quarterly
22 dose again.

23 On the commercial side, they did that to
24 people.

25 My concerns, the reason I did get up and

1 speak tonight, and I was not going to until I started
2 hearing some of the horror stories, I also have a
3 hearing loss. And I asked around, and I am glad I did
4 beforehand, because I was advised to be careful of who
5 I went to for medical clinic for my hearing loss
6 because there are some of the hearing clinics that are
7 asking you to sign an agreement prior to even being
8 tested to sign over part of your L & I claim, as much
9 as a third to that clinic, if you get a favorable
10 claim.

11 Well, this is bordering on, I'm not sure
12 whether you would call it malpractice or not. But
13 it's a very shady situation.

14 I notice there's been a myriad, just about
15 every hearing clinic within a 50 mile radius, is
16 sending pamphlets to people in the Area, to come in
17 for a free hearing test, and part of this agreement
18 is, and I was fortunate, I picked an agency that did
19 not do that.

20 But this gets me back to another subject
21 that came up earlier, what happened to HEHF along the
22 way? I remember when I came here 25 years ago, it was
23 a heads up outfit. If you had a health care question,
24 they tried to help you, tried to steer you to the
25 right doctors so you got some care. And if they

1 couldn't help you, they would make sure that you found
2 good physicians to help you.

3 That's gone. And as one fellow said, as
4 you get older and you get away from the radiation
5 zones and all the hazardous jobs, they cut you back on
6 your annual physicals to once every three years to
7 once every five years, and you get sick, and there is
8 nobody around to help you or advise you.

9 As a matter of fact, on the down side, when
10 I went out on disability, fortunately I did not take
11 the comments and advice from one of the HEHF members,
12 said, ah, why don't you go for layoff and take all the
13 money.

14 And I was smart enough not to do that.

15 L & I has become a pitfall for a lot of
16 these people. You have heard horror story after
17 horror story tonight.

18 Is there not a way in the system you can
19 shortcut that, instead of us who have worked on a
20 federal reservation, having to go back to a state
21 that's had nothing to do with nor any interest in what
22 we have done, other than we are another body that they
23 can make body on through their agency, to lander the
24 money through, can't you shortcut that, make it a more
25 efficient system so that you get better coverage for

1 the individual and save money for the DOE as well?

2 I think you can.

3 Back to the people making money. This is
4 getting to be a money game for the attorneys, too, and
5 all these people being disabled.

6 The only agency that I see that regulates
7 this, and I had to hire an attorney after being out on
8 disability for two and a half years, they shut mine
9 off, they said, well, you can go to permanent
10 disability now so we have got to analyze you to
11 determine if you really are disabled.

12 Well, they spent eight, almost nine months,
13 I think there was ten months between checks, before
14 they decided that I was really disabled. They paid me
15 all the way back, but here's ten months without that
16 affiliation, and without the program, being a long
17 term disabled employee. And in that time I was still
18 on Social Security and on Medicare, that was my only
19 saving grace.

20 Coming out of that, I learned that the
21 Social Security Administration regulates how much an
22 attorney can get. So an attorney can't clean you out
23 on your disability benefits. Whereas the private
24 benefits, if you're trying to get those back, it is
25 buyer beware, again, so a person such as myself who is

1 having difficulties with his private claims through
2 the Cigna, who is supposed to be the health insurer
3 for the Hanford workers, many of us Hanford workers,
4 we have to go out here and go through the wilderness
5 of attorneys and hope we don't get raped too bad in
6 the process in getting an attorney to help us get
7 through the disability mess.

8 And I would hope that you would find some
9 way for us in your own agency, maybe you need to adopt
10 some of the Social Security Administration's
11 guidelines in those areas so that people aren't
12 getting shafted quite so bad.

13 And it isn't a big money maker for some of
14 the attorneys as it is right now.

15 The one comment I heard tonight that stuck
16 was we needed well educated health care specialist to
17 help those of us who are really affected. In other
18 words, I'm sure that there's a concern for the people
19 who want to get a free lunch. There's a lot of us
20 that worked hard for a lot of years.

21 We're not looking for a free lunch. We're
22 not looking for a lawsuit to get a big money claim.
23 But we don't want to be left with nothing, with no
24 health to be able to go get another job, we want
25 enough to at least get by and live a dignified life

1 for what's left of it.

2 And I think the vast majority of these
3 workers feel the same way. They don't want some big
4 claim. They don't want a whole lot of -- a lot of
5 amenities. They just want their basic life and be
6 able to live it out in peace the best they can do what
7 with they have, with some good, well educated health
8 care specialist to help them along the way so they can
9 get the best of what they can out of it.

10 Now, the comment was made about cataracts.

11 DR. MICHAELS: Sir, one thing --

12 MR. ARSEN: Cataracts, I learned about
13 those cataracts in 1973. That was 27 years ago when I
14 was working in commercial power. So that information
15 has been out there for a lot of years.

16 MR. HALL: Thank you.

17 MR. DeCARMEN: Thank you very much
18 for coming out to our lovely state, the other
19 Washington. I am Tim DeCarmen, University of
20 Washington, Former Worker Program.

21 I have been examining and investigating
22 exposures in production and nonconstruction workers.
23 I was very glad to hear from Rick Berglund about the
24 construction worker results.

25 I would like to very briefly describe some

1 of our results in the first thousand workers that we
2 have examined. The first thousand workers that we have
3 interviewed and the first six hundred exams.

4 Very briefly, we've asked approximately
5 75,000 workers, are in the process of asking for their
6 work histories to evaluate exposures and possible
7 health hazards, primarily from asbestos exposure,
8 beryllium exposure and noise exposure.

9 In the process, however, we have gathered
10 information on other exposures, and in this first
11 thousand workers we found over 600 workers who worked
12 with radiation, not a big surprise, but over 500 who
13 worked with both uranium and plutonium, almost 500
14 exposed to noise, 400 exposed to acids and asbestos,
15 400 exposed to chlorinated solvents.

16 All of these very significant exposures
17 with known health effects.

18 We've conducted about 600 exams, and these
19 exams again are for asbestos beryllium disease and
20 noise induced hearing loss.

21 We found a phenomenal amount of illness in
22 this voluntary program so far. About half of our
23 x-rays are abnormal. These range from plural plaques
24 to pulmonary fibrosis to lung tumors. Again, though,
25 I find that the number of over 50 percent abnormal,

1 despite the fact that it is a voluntary program, to be
2 quite surprising. 5 percent of our workers examined
3 for beryllium disease are positive. 78 percent of the
4 workers examined for hearing loss have significant
5 hearing loss, which is compensable under our Workers'
6 Comp system. And 20 percent have abnormal spirometry.

7 One of the issues that you will have to
8 deal with and we all in occupational health have to
9 deal with is that of attribution. How do you assign a
10 particular illness to a particular exposure?

11 And it's very clear that that will not be
12 possible in most cases. The courageous workers who
13 you have heard from tonight are workers who served the
14 country at a time when the country needed them, and
15 they are in a place now when they need the country to
16 serve them.

17 This means that attribution should not be a
18 requirement. Compensation programs in the Veterans'
19 Administration operates on a system where if an
20 exposure can be shown and a disease end point is
21 demonstrated, that attribution is not an issue.

22 And I think especially with hazards such as
23 asbestos where you have four years of asbestos
24 exposure in your Navy experience, ten years of
25 asbestos exposure in your rocket dyne experience, 25

1 years of asbestos exposure in your Hanford experience,
2 attribution becomes a moot issue.

3 And I would suggest that for each of these
4 hazards where a hazard can be demonstrated, an
5 exposure demonstrated, and an illness which can linked
6 to that hazard demonstrated, that attribution be
7 dropped as a requirement.

8 Finally, I would mention the Workers'
9 Compensation system. We have recently undergone a
10 significant change here in Washington state for
11 Department of Energy workers, and that is a change
12 from Labor and Industries, which has been the line
13 here tonight, but I would venture to say that if you
14 were in Tennessee, you would have a different story to
15 say.

16 In this current system what we have been
17 told by the third party administrator for Workers'
18 Compensation is that not only must current workers go
19 through their contractor to file a claim, but former
20 workers must go through the current contractor to file
21 claims.

22 My understanding is that this is not legal
23 under Washington State law. And I think this should
24 be examined closely.

25 It is very onerous for workers to have to

1 file a claim through their employer, especially in the
2 case where their employer, in fact Westinghouse for
3 example, or duPont prior to them, is no longer here.

4 I just would urge that your office examine
5 this requirement, not only for our former worker
6 programs but also for the current workers. It's not
7 reasonable to have a worker have to go to his employer
8 to file a Workers' Compensation claim.

9 Thank you.

10 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

11 MR. ANDERSON: Good evening. My name
12 is Innerd Anderson. I am here representing my mother
13 who can't be here tonight. She is in Alabama.

14 This has to do with my dad who was a
15 Hanford worker, started in the late '40s, contracted
16 Hodgkin's disease, died in the year of 1980.

17 The thing I remember mostly about all the
18 issues that goes around my dad's employment is the
19 fact that many times I looked up on the top of his
20 dresser in his bedroom and seen this film badge
21 totally overexposed.

22 His reply was, well, they're taking care of
23 it.

24 You've got a big job to do. I appreciate
25 your time this evening.

1 Thank you very much.

2 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you for your
3 patience.

4 MR. HALL: Go ahead and come on up.

5 MR. ASIACK: My name is Bob Asiack.

6 I worked at Hanford out at 200 West, 234
7 Dash 5 from 1983 to 1986 when I took an early
8 retirement.

9 I would like to bring your attention to
10 some incidents that I was involved in in 1987 when we
11 were in production. I want to share this with you,
12 Dr. Michaels, and the few that are left.

13 This is one of my concerns, involve release
14 of carbon tetrachloride transfer operations in 1987.
15 At about 9 p.m. on August 27, which I was on the swing
16 shift, I was transferring carbon tet from a 55 gallon
17 drum to a tank in the chemical makeup room, which is
18 the same room that had the explosion in it. But when
19 the 55 gallon drum got empty and the pogo pump which
20 we were transferring with started making a bunch of
21 noise, I figured it was time to shut the pump off and
22 change barrels.

23 When I walked around to the other side of
24 the room, which was probably 25, 30 feet away, I
25 noticed a mist and liquid on the floor, and the drum,

1 the top of the drum was full of liquid.

2 I immediately told my helper to get out of
3 the room and shut the air off and left the room. The
4 room was equipped with a carbon tet alarm which was
5 set for three parts per million, which I was under the
6 impression was supposed to be working, never told it
7 wasn't.

8 A few minutes after I went into the control
9 room to report to my manager what had happened, I
10 started getting nausea, felt sick. So I went down to
11 the restroom downstairs, started to vomit. After that
12 I went back up to my control room and told my
13 supervisor what had happened.

14 He asked me if I wanted to go home. And by
15 this time I was getting pretty well nausea, things
16 were kind of getting out of whacky, blurry. And I
17 told him I don't think I could make it.

18 So he said, well, you had better go down to
19 the change room and get changed and see if somebody
20 could take you home.

21 And the last I can actually remember is
22 starting to walk out of the office, and headed towards
23 the elevator, and when we get on the elevator, I can
24 remember two people trying to hold me up, and that is
25 the last thing I remember.

1 And from the records I have accumulated
2 through my searching around, this happened about 9:15.
3 And nobody really after everything, was three or four
4 days later when I started putting pieces together,
5 nobody could tell me nothing really happened, until I
6 got the nurse's reports from the HEHF, the hospital
7 report which I got through lawyers, and expert
8 witnesses, which the lawyers got some more information
9 for me on.

10 And nobody could really come up with how
11 much exposure I really took.

12 I have a copy here that was published in
13 the Tri-City Herald, and I want to read one statement.
14 This was put out by, it says Westinghouse officials
15 were unable to determine exactly how much of the
16 chemical the worker was exposed to, but the symptoms
17 are consistent with doses between 100 to 200 parts per
18 million. Which is way over the TLV five parts per
19 million.

20 And after I got my records and found out,
21 talked to my wife later on, I guess she showed up at
22 the hospital somewhere around between 12 and 12:30,
23 and she said I was kind of still incoherent when she
24 saw me at 12:30 when they let her in to see me.

25 And one thing that got me, and I couldn't

1 figure out, what happened between 9:15 and 11:45 until
2 I got to the hospital, why it took so long to get to
3 the hospital, and I still have never found out, just
4 through some of the HPTs at the time that were there
5 at the scene, and said I was convalescing, and foaming
6 at the mouth, and said I was in pretty bad shape at
7 the time.

8 That was one reason why they wouldn't move
9 me until they stabilized me.

10 So my concern, getting back to that, I woke
11 up about 4:30 that following morning. It was on the
12 27th. And then I realized where I was, and I could
13 hear the monitor beeping and sounds going off, then I
14 knew, they told me I was in intensive care. But after
15 I -- so they released me.

16 Like I say, I was stabilized enough they
17 could release me by noon that day, the following day,
18 which was on a Saturday, because this happened on a
19 Friday evening.

20 So Monday they told me to report to HEHF,
21 which I did. They released me to go back to work.
22 And then I was supposed to have follow-up for blood
23 tests and urine tests.

24 I had one, as far as the records I can
25 find, I had one blood test, one urine test within six

1 months, and that was the last of it.

2 So since I am left out there, and the
3 things is down the road, how do I know what the future
4 has for me, and if I have to go get help to find out
5 before something serious does happen, because this is
6 a liver, carcinogen is involved, your lungs, your
7 liver, all these things that are involved, which I
8 could go and get help and keep a check on it.

9 Nobody's, since I left Hanford, has even
10 bothered, wanted to know how I was or what's happened
11 or nothing. And this is one of my big concerns.

12 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you. I think it
13 would be very important for you to be in touch with
14 the former worker medical surveillance program.

15 MR. ASIACK: Nobody's ever told me who
16 I could contact to keep track of it. Between this and
17 radiation exposures I have taken over the years,
18 because I did work on aerating the 234 Dash 5, I am
19 more concerned on this, carbon tet than anything now.

20 DR. MICHAELS: I think if you call our
21 800 number, we can get you in touch with the people
22 who could offer you that medical examination.

23 MR. ASIACK: One other thing I would
24 like to bring to the attention of some people here.
25 You can't take nothing for granted on monitors,

1 because I would like to give you a copy of this
2 investigation report that came out afterwards, and
3 that is the first time I knew what was going on. This
4 tells that the carbon tet monitor hadn't been working
5 for six months. The books weren't around to calibrate
6 it. We were never told that the -- we were under the
7 assumption that the stuff in there was working.

8 DR. MICHAELS: I think we are going to
9 have to move to the next speaker. Thank you very
10 much, sir.

11 MR. HALL: Les, you're up.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I tell
13 you there's a few brief souls left in this house
14 tonight, and I appreciate it very much. This is going
15 to be very, very brief.

16 After being discharged from the Army as a
17 combat veteran in the infantry I went to work at
18 Hanford for the General Electric Company on August 14,
19 1947. I worked approximately, I was trained as a
20 nuclear chemical process operator. I went to work at
21 the PUREX plant shortly after it started up. I was in
22 this complex for approximately five years.

23 I then transferred to the building 234 Dash
24 5 for the construction period and for the start-up of
25 this plutonium producing and finishing complex. I

1 remained in the 234 Dash 5 building for approximately
2 25 to 30 years.

3 We were exposed to all elements of the
4 plutonium production facility where plutonium was
5 molded into weapons components.

6 In addition to the plutonium I was exposed
7 to uranium, beryllium, nitric acid and a variety of
8 other radioactive or highly toxic substances.

9 I was in a criticality situation in
10 building 234 Dash 5 during a routine filter change
11 when contamination control was lost. I received at
12 that time 75 percent of my lifetime internal
13 deposition of plutonium. I was one of the first
14 nuclear operators to receive a cheerleading substance
15 injected into my veins which was used in hopes of
16 reducing the ingested plutonium in my body. According
17 to my last whole body count, this procedure had
18 reduced my lifetime internal deposition to
19 approximately 35 or 40 percent.

20 During my tenure at Hanford, in addition to
21 my exposure to plutonium, I was exposed to asbestos on
22 a routine basis, and have been diagnosed with having
23 asbestosis.

24 After much deliberation with the Department
25 of Labor and Industries my Workers Compensation claim

1 for January 10, 1982 has been allowed to remain open
2 for the purpose of monitoring the claim with an annual
3 physical.

4 In addition to the plutonium exposure this
5 claim also includes my asbestos.

6 I would just like to say I would like to
7 thank Dr. Michaels, Jimmy Hall and all these people
8 who have sat through this afternoon or this evening.
9 Thank you very much for your time.

10 MR. HALL: I think we are approaching
11 11:30, and I am going to give the last word to Dr.
12 Michaels. One more.

13 MR. TURNER: Well, my name is Cedric
14 Turner. I started out in Hanford, Washington, in
15 September of '80, and I was a janitor out that way. I
16 was working on 234 Dash 5. Everybody is familiar with
17 234 Dash 5.

18 And I was kind of like they would send me
19 out there for assignment on the back side of 234 Dash
20 5. Got there, and they told me they wanted me to go
21 to the back side. So I went, put on my whites and
22 everything to go to the back side. Went through the
23 door.

24 When I went to the air door, it just took
25 my air away from me, I just blacked out. I was

1 stumbling around, I just stumbled out of one door,
2 door 137, and it made a security violation, shut West
3 Area down, shut East Area down.

4 They took me to an office and asked me what
5 happened.

6 I asked him, "What happened to me?"

7 They said I did a security violation.

8 So I said, well, it was two choices I had
9 to make, die or take door 137 out. And so I took door
10 137 out, and I blacked out on the ground.

11 The next thing I know, I was revived back
12 up. I was gun pointed by officers. They asked me
13 what was I doing?

14 I said I just passed out right here. I
15 don't know what's going on.

16 So they pulled my clearance, told me to go
17 to the HEHF and take a physical. I went there -- they
18 told me don't use the bathroom that morning. So I
19 went there, I got up this morning, I used the
20 bathroom, you know, dead-headed.

21 So I said, I will stay here until about 11
22 o'clock and I will have to give them urine. So I
23 said, well, I've got to get back to work. So I went
24 to Kadlec Medical Center over here for an emergency
25 physical, cost me \$137, and so then I went back to

1 work and they pulled my clearance and they told me
2 that we will have to lay you off because you failed to
3 take a physical. And I took one at Kadlec Medical
4 Center.

5 I figured my insurance would cover it, as
6 long as it happened the same day or whatever they
7 detected, they could go get information from Kadlec
8 Medical Center, because they are still doctors. So I
9 said to myself, I haven't been physicaled out yet. I
10 have been exposed back there. They took my dosimetry,
11 told me, head on down the road, we don't want to see
12 you no more.

13 So I have been here suffering, and I know
14 how these people is feeling about suffering. And I
15 figure it's going to take more than DOE to get this to
16 Washington, to President Clinton, before he leaves
17 office, Gore's going to be the President, and I would
18 like to see them pass this issue here, Gore and Janet
19 Reno, put DOE to the side and let these people quit
20 suffering. That's my final word there.

21 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

22 MR. HALL: I just want to thank
23 everybody for the supreme patience, and I am going to
24 give the last word to Dr. Michael.

25 DR. MICHAELS: First I would like to

1 thank Jim Hall, our facilitator, and our court
2 reporter who is working very hard all evening. Keith
3 Klein, the manager of the Richland office, the
4 representatives of both Senators that stayed here
5 through the evening listening to this, my staff has
6 been very patient listening, and most of all, all of
7 you, Dr. Decarey used the word courageous, I think
8 that is a fitting term for all the people who came up
9 here to speak.

10 It is difficult to speak in front of big
11 audiences. It is especially difficult to speak in
12 front of large audience if you have never done it
13 before. It took a lot of courage for you to come out
14 and take that.

15 All of this information will go to the
16 White House, to the President, to Congress, and we
17 hope out of there will come a program that addresses
18 the needs of workers, not just to Hanford, but across
19 the whole complex.

20 On behalf of Secretary Bill Richardson, I
21 am very grateful for all of you for coming, and thank
22 you again.

23

24

(11:45 p.m.)

25

1 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
2 County of Benton)

3 I, William J. Bridges, do hereby certify
4 that at the time and place heretofore mentioned in the
5 caption of the foregoing matter, I was a Certified
6 Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public for Washington;
7 that at said time and place I reported in stenotype
8 all testimony adduced and proceedings had in the
9 foregoing matter; that thereafter my notes were
10 reduced to typewriting and that the foregoing
11 transcript consisting of 191 typewritten pages is a
12 true and correct transcript of all such testimony
13 adduced and proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

14 Witness my hand at Kennewick, Washington, on
15 this _____ day of March, 2000.

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William J. Bridges
CSR NO. BRIDGWJ548PO
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Notary Public for Washington
My commission expires: 11-1-03