

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION
FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 4

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending April 4, the United States imported 8,330,000 barrels of oil each day, 1,534,000 barrels more than the 6,796,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 56.5 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers? Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 8,330,000 barrels a day.

Mr. President, I yield the floor at this time.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT
AMENDMENTS

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in the course of resolving the status of Senate bill 104 and recognizing that we have just concluded a vote and the vote was 72 to 24, and it was a tabling motion which would have, had it passed, invited every State Governor to prohibit the transfer and transportation of nuclear waste through those States, I will discuss a few States at random, Mr. President. I hope the Members in their offices will reflect on these charts because there are just a few States where the problem exists today. The point of this examination is to simply state that the alternative is to leave the waste in these States or provide an alternative.

Now, again, I want to refer to the major chart which shows where the waste lay currently. There are 80 sites in 41 States. The commercial reactors, shut down reactors, spent fuel on site, commercial spent fuel, nuclear storage facilities, it is non-DOE reactors, it is Navy reactor fuel, it is Department of Energy—all in spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. That is where it is, Mr. President.

The question is, Do we want to leave it there or do we want to move it? Now, the next chart again will attempt to show our experience in moving waste through the country because we have done it for an extended period of time. We have had 2,400 movements all over the country. As soon as the chart comes, it will show that it has moved through all States with the exception of South Dakota and Florida.

Now, again the choice that we have relative to an alternative is leave it where it is. We have here the chart which shows the transportation routes of the waste moving across the United States, and it has not been a big deal. The reason is because there have not been any incidents. It has moved safely. It has been moving in containers subject to State and Federal law from 1979 to 1995. So to suggest that it cannot be moved safely or to suggest that we are suddenly thrust upon some kind of a crisis because we are about to move the waste to a temporary repository in Nevada—facts dictate otherwise. It is moved by rail, indicated by the red, it is moved by highway, as indicated by the blue network. Every State but Florida and South Dakota have escaped. That is the reality.

As we look at the argument here, to a large degree, the transportation argument has little validity. This would be the same type of waste that we would be moving from our reactors. Where do we propose to move it? From all the sites I showed on the previous chart, to one site out in the Nevada test site used for over 50 years for more than 800 nuclear weapons tests. I have yet to have anybody come to the floor and suggest there is a better place.

I recognize the reality that nobody wants it but we will look how this dilemma affects a few States. Take Connecticut, for example—and it is significant in Connecticut because nuclear energy makes up 70 percent of the energy that is produced in Connecticut—those ratepayers have paid \$521 million over the last 12 years, or thereabouts, into a fund which the Federal Government has taken and put into a general fund for the specific purpose of taking Connecticut's waste. That was a contractual commitment. It is due next year. Connecticut should, under a contractual agreement, be relieved of its waste. The ratepayers have paid, as I said, \$521 million. In Connecticut, there are four units, the Connecticut Yankee and the Millstone 1, 2 and 3. Those reactors have stored 1,505 metric tons of waste. It is stored in Connecticut. If this bill does not pass, it will stay in Connecticut. A portion of it is Department of Energy defense waste.

Now, the significant thing here, Mr. President, is that Millstone 1 would be full by 1998. Now what does that mean? It means their storage, the pools adjacent to the reactors, will be full. What will they do? Either build more storage and get new permits, because the Federal Government is not going to be able to take it, or the other alternative is

to shut down the reactor. Millstone 2 and 3 will be filled up by the year 2000. What will they do then? Shut down the reactor? Haddam Neck will be filled up in the year 2001. These are factual circumstances surrounding the state of the industry in Connecticut.

Now, if I was representing Connecticut, I would want to get the waste out of there, because two things will happen. One is if this bill passes, the waste will get out. If it does not, the waste is not going to get out, and when these reactors shut down because storage is at capacity the waste is still going to be there. It will be sitting there until somebody does something with it. And to do something with it, you have to move it. Otherwise, it will stay there.

Again, we have a location. I am sure my friend is getting tired of me showing the desert of Nevada where for 50 years we have had testing.

Now, looking to another State, moving south a little bit, the State of Georgia. Now, Georgia is dependent 30 percent on nuclear power. The residents of Georgia paid \$304 million into the waste fund. They paid that basically to the Government to take the waste. The Government cannot do it. We have four units, Hatch 1 and 2 and Vogtle 1 and 2. The waste stored in Georgia is 1,182 metric tons at the Savannah River site. The waste stored is 206 metric tons over on the South Carolina-Georgia border. Hatch 1 and 2 reactors will be filled by 1999, and Vogtle 1 and 2 will be filled by the year 2008. Again, we have a case where State ratepayers have paid it, and what have they gotten from the Federal Government? Nothing, other than a chance to continue to store their waste. How long? It is indefinite if this bill does not pass, because nobody can agree on where to put it. The alternative is to leave it where it is, and it will stay there after the reactors have shut down because we do not have anyplace to put it.

Moving on, Mr. President, to Illinois. This is even a bigger set of realities. The State of Illinois is 54 percent dependent on nuclear power. You say "dependent"—what does that mean? It means 54 percent of the energy comes from nuclear power. There are alternatives, sure, coal-fired, oil-fired plants. They all cost money, all take permitting time. Illinois has paid into the waste fund, the residents have paid \$1.36 billion, paid to the Federal Government to take the waste next year. The Federal Government will not do it, and they have 13 units in Illinois: Braidwood 1 and 2, Byron 1 and 2, Clinton, Dresden 2 and 3, LaSalle 1 and 2, Quad Cities 1 and 2, and Zion 1 and 2. They have 5,215 metric tons of waste in Illinois. A DOE research reactor is fueled there, with an additional 40 metric tons. A State that is 54 percent dependent.

Looking at their reactors when they have to shut down, because the storage pools are filled: Dresden 3, the year 2000. Dresden 2, the year 2002. Clinton,