

continue for the life of the repository, and I believe that sound science and sound policy guide this decision. For over 20 years, we have relied on science to guide us, and now that science says this site is suitable.

I am often reminded how these things are resolved, and while it is appropriate to have public input, this is an area of technology in which we really need sound science and not emotional discussions or arguments. We have created this waste. We have to address it. Nobody wants it. Somebody has to have it. The Yucca Mountain site has been determined as the best site, and the science supports it.

In fact, the review board addressed the very issue of science vis-a-vis policy and concluded that the ultimate decision on Yucca Mountain is one of policy and informed science. Policy decisions lie with our elected officials. That is why we are here, Madam President. We base them on sound science and facts, of course, but ultimately, we have to make the tough calls. We cannot vote maybe; we can only vote yes or no.

The Secretary has acted. The President has acted. The House of Representatives has acted. Now the Senate must act. Nevada exercised its opportunity to object to actions taken by the Federal Government. That is their right as granted by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

It should be pointed out that the veto authority given to the State of Nevada is rather unusual. A Governor of a State was able to veto a decision of a sitting President—indeed extraordinary—but now it is time for the Senate to act, and it is our obligation, indeed our duty, because some decisions, tough as they are, need to be made with the good of the entire Nation in mind.

I should also point out that when the act was considered in 1982, the question of a State veto was somewhat controversial. The subsequent votes of both the House and Senate outlined very specifically the necessary balance to this State veto. If Congress is not permitted to act, as some have threatened in the Senate, then that carefully crafted balance will be lost. I wish the State of Alaska had been given an opportunity for a veto on the issue of ANWR. Nevertheless, that is a different issue for a different time.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act anticipated that this would be a tough decision and laid out some very strict, fast-track procedure to ensure that the decision would be put to a vote so that the will of the majority would be heard. This is one of those rare cases when Congress made the decision to not allow procedural games to obscure the substance of a very important decision. We will have to vote sometime before July 27 of this year, governed by certain rules on S.J. Res. 34, and a decision will be made, Madam President. That is the procedure that Congress decided back in 1982. We must make this decision, and we will make it soon.

The Federal Government has a contractual obligation to take the Nation's spent fuel. That obligation, as I indicated in my earlier remarks, was due in 1998. That was a contractual commitment. The Federal Government is in violation of that contractual commitment. So far, no waste has been removed despite the fact that the nuclear waste fund now has in excess of \$17 billion for the specific purpose of taking the waste.

If the spent fuel is not taken soon, at least one reactor, the Prairie Island reactor in Minnesota, will have to shut down, and we cannot afford to sacrifice nuclear power, not in Minnesota nor, for that matter, anywhere. Madam President, 21 percent of all power generation comes from nuclear energy.

Other States have spent fuel piling up: 1,860 metric tons in California, 1,542 metric tons in Connecticut, and a whopping 5,850 metric tons in Illinois. We have waste at other sites, including Hanford in the State of Washington.

Nuclear, as I indicated, is 21 percent of the Nation's clean, nonemitting electrical energy. Nuclear is safe, solid, baseload generation that helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

The Federal Government's obligation does not just extend to utilities. We also have a responsibility to continue to clean up our cold war legacy. These are Department of Energy weapon sites, several throughout the United States, that must be cleaned up. To accomplish cleanup, waste must be removed in sites such as Rocky Flats in Colorado, Hanford in Washington, Savannah River in South Carolina.

For a variety of reasons, all based on sound science, we must proceed to affirm the President's site designation of Yucca Mountain as one of our Nation's safe, central, remote nuclear waste repositories. To borrow from Secretary Abraham's February 14 letter to President Bush:

A repository is important to our national security. A repository is important to our nonproliferation objectives. A repository is important to our energy security. A repository is important to our homeland security. A repository is important to our efforts to protect our environment.

We have a responsibility, Madam President, to site a repository. It is an overarching national responsibility. It is one we cannot shirk. The alternative would be to leave this waste at 131 sites in over 40 States—sites which were not designated to be permanent repositories.

I yield the floor and 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.

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

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

Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recog-

nized to speak for up to 5 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

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#### JACK BUCK

Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, I rise today—in great sadness—to mourn the loss of broadcasting legend Jack Buck.

Jack Buck has been appropriately referred to as both “the voice of the Cardinals” and “the soul of St. Louis.” He has been a mainstay in the Cardinals broadcasting booth for nearly 50 years.

He called games featuring Cardinal greats such as Stan Musial, Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, Ozzie Smith, and Mark McGwire. He was well known for wrapping up Cardinal victories with his trademark, “that’s a winner.”

Mr. Buck was a decorated war veteran, father of eight, and one of the most accomplished sports broadcasters of all time. He has been inducted into 11 halls of fame, including shrines for baseball, football, and radio.

Jack Buck was accomplished out of the broadcasting booth as well. In fact, he was selected as St. Louis' Citizen of the Year in 2000 for his contributions to the community.

He was dedicated to finding a cure for cystic fibrosis and raised well over \$30 million toward that goal. “Finding a cure would be the greatest thing to happen in my lifetime,” he once said.

Jack Buck was also a poet who enjoyed a well-turned phrase. When baseball resumed last year after the September 11 attacks, Buck, a tear in his eye, read a patriotic poem during a pregame ceremony at Busch Stadium. “As our fathers did before, we shall win this unwanted war,” he said. “And our children will enjoy the future we’ll be giving.”

Buck often told a story about the day his wife, Carole, asked what he would say to the Lord when they meet at the gates of heaven. He responded: “I want to ask him why he’s been so good to me.”

Today we join with all who knew and loved Jack Buck to say, “Now that’s a winner.”

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CARNAHAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.