

is no use in trying to develop a situation where we cannot possibly achieve this because we do not have a prototype to go on. We are bound by the existing environmental laws, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. We are not waiving basically anything relative to this repository.

The language in S. 1936, section 501, simply provides that the specific environmental standards set forth in that bill will govern if they conflict with other more general laws that were mentioned by the Senators from Nevada.

Mr. President, the language in this bill merely prevents environmental law from being misused to reconsider the decisions that we are making today in this Congress. Senate bill 1936 is a bill to prevent a gridlock—and that is what we have been in—and to prevent stalemate—and that is what we have been in. All we have to do is to say that Congress has decided that we will build an interim site in Nevada, and we do not let the NEPA process revisit that decision. That is what we are saying, Mr. President.

We started on this, I think, in 1983 or thereabouts. We have expended 15 years. We have expended almost \$6 billion trying to determine a process and a site. The responsibility to conclude that is now. As we proceed with a permanent repository at Yucca Mountain, this will provide the movement and the storage in casks of the high-level waste from the various sites around the country.

Mr. President, I have a couple of other points, and I will conclude because the hour is late.

The State of California, as an example, has six nuclear units, including the Rancho Seco. These are reactors that have been shut down since about 1989, or thereabouts. But they cannot be decommissioned until the spent fuel is taken away from the site. What do the people of California want? They want that former reactor removed and the site brought back to its previous state? Surely, they do. But it is not going to happen unless we pass a bill like this. The estimated cost of monitoring each shut down reactor is some \$50 million per year. You will never get rid of them unless you have a place to put the spent fuel. And the place to put it is in the one place that has been designated in S. 1936.

Now, finally, there have been references to the industry's role and that somehow this process is a fabrication. The RECORD will note letters from some 23 Governors and attorneys general relative to the necessity of this bill passing, so that they can get some relief for the storage of nuclear waste that is in their States in pools and is about to exceed the licensing capability. And as far as suggesting that the

Washington Post editorial somehow is the beneficial voice of reason, I think one should simply go back and read it. It says, "Waste Makes Haste." Well, Mr. President, we have been at this 15 years. We have been at it to the tune of \$6 billion. The Washington Post editorial does not propose a solution. S. 1936 is a responsible solution to the problem of nuclear waste. May I suggest that the Washington Post is a responsible solution to the problem of parakeet pet waste.

I was very pleased with the vote today. We got 65 votes for cloture on the motion to proceed. We had one Senator out, who is inclined to vote for us. So that gives us 66. That is one short of overriding the Presidential veto. That is why I went on to great length in my statement, to encourage those Senators who did not vote with us on cloture to reflect a little bit on their own situation in their own State relative to whether or not they are building nuclear submarines and do not want to have any part of the responsibility for the waste when those submarines are cut off, but purporting to simply give the responsibility to the State of Idaho is being unrealistic and unfair.

I am sure that, as we address the new technology in nuclear submarines, there are some Members here that will remind the Senators from Connecticut, as an example, that they, too, must bear the responsibility associated with what nuclear technology provides our country in the interest of our national defense, but, as well, in the responsibility of addressing what we could do with the nuclear waste in Senate bill 1936, which is the best answer we have had so far—certainly a responsible one, unlike the position of the administration, which has chosen to duck the issue.

We would have an entirely different matter if we were debating a proposal that the administration had vis-a-vis a proposal that had come through the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. That is not the case, as the evidence has suggested. In the communications with the White House that I have had over the last couple of years relative to trying to address this, along with my colleague, Senator JOHNSTON, we have found that the White House has simply chosen to duck the issue. They do not want it to come up before the election. They are satisfied with the status quo. Well, the American public is not satisfied with the status quo. The Governors in the States are not satisfied with the status quo. The attorneys general are not satisfied. And the Government has reneged on its commitment to the ratepayers to provide, by 1998, the capability of storing that waste, and the Government is not prepared to deliver. Yet, they have collected \$12 billion from the ratepayers.

I think I have made my case for the merits of this legislation. As we continue to debate, I urge my colleagues to reflect a little bit on the fact that we are all in this together and we all have to share the responsibility together.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I see no other Senator wishing recognition. I wish the Chair a good day.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, at 7:20 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, July 17, 1996, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 16, 1996:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

RICHARD J. STERN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY ADVISORY BOARD

MARCIENE S. MATTLEMAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY ADVISORY BOARD, FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 12, 1998.

REYNALDO FLORES MACIAS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 22, 1998.

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION

ALAN G. LOWRY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 29, 2001.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

DORIS B. HOLLEB, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2002.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

LEVAR BURTON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 19, 2000.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

LUIS VALDEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2000.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

VICTOR H. ASHE, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 5, 2000.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

REGINALD EARL JONES, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2000.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE ON THE SENATE.

THE JUDICIARY

JOSEPH A. GREENAWAY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY.

LAWRENCE E. KAHN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.