20 or 25 different communities all across the State, probably at three dozen different events, town meetings, and so forth. That is not surprising anyone to learn that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty did not come up. We talked about farm policy. We talked about virtually every other thing. We talked about water policy, we talked about welfare, but at none of the meetings in which we discussed public issues did anyone raise the issue of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

I want to raise the question about this treaty because the President of the United States signed this treaty 2½ years ago and sent it to the Senate for ratification. This Senate did not hold a hearing on it during the 106th Congress, no hearing at all. It is now 6 months past. Are these tests, as we hear it, going to continue? I, with some of my colleagues, am organizing a letter to the appropriate committee and key people on the committee to say we would like to see movement here. If one Senator opposes this country joining the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, then bring it out here and let’s have that debate. I cannot conceive of significant opposition to a determination by so many countries in the world that we ought to prevent nuclear testing; we ought to have an agreement that we do not want the spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries.

In the past year or so we have seen activities that concern me and many of my colleagues a great deal. We know how many countries possess nuclear weapons. Among those countries that are understood to possess nuclear weapons we can now add India and Pakistan, because each of them exploded nuclear weapons under each other's noses. These are two countries that do not like each other a great deal. There are great tensions. In fact, yesterday on the news you would have seen shelling on the border between Pakistan and India. Each of these countries exploded nuclear weapons, apparently just to show the other country they possess nuclear bombs.

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

This country has a responsibility, in my judgment, to provide leadership, and leadership will mean this Senate ought to ratify this treaty. I do not think, we must get this treaty out of the committee and get it to the floor and have a debate on it. I urge my colleagues who feel strongly about this to join me and say to the committee it is time, long past the time, when this Senate should ratify the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

I will, in coming days, speak again on the floor on this issue and the importance of it. I hope I will be joined by plenty of colleagues who will encourage and urge and push, if necessary, the committee to bring this treaty to the floor. Give us a chance to debate this treaty and give us a chance to produce the votes to ratify this treaty, for this country's sake and for the sake of added security and safety in the world. We must prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. We must prevent the spread of technology that allows the delivery of nuclear weapons. One way to do that, in my judgment, is to prevent additional nuclear testing, and the way to do it is to ratify this treaty.

It is long past the time to do it, and we ought to do it now and we ought to expect that be reported to the floor for debate in the next 2 to 3 months. I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the morning hour be extended for 7 minutes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my colleague who just spoke on the Senate floor is the chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee. This is the educational arm of the Democratic Senators. He has done an outstanding job during his 6 months as chairman of the Policy Committee, hoping to educate not only Democrats but Republicans as to some of our responsibilities. The statement that was just made by the chairman of the committee, the Senator from North Dakota, is certainly appropriate.

I agree in every way. The fact is, it is very important that we do everything we can to ratify this treaty, and also the Nunn-Lugar money has been some of the money that has been most well spent. I do not know of any money we have spent in recent years that has done more good than that money spent to make sure the former Soviet Union is helped to retire some of their weapons of mass destruction. It has been a