CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

July 18, 2001

I had an amendment, which would have prohibited the shipment of plutonium to SRS until March 1, 2002 or until a final agreement is reached on disposition activities. I fear that stopping these shipments would be devastating to our clean-up efforts at other sites. I say that paying away from our commitments of safe and timely disposition of this material would be just as devastating. All I want is for the Administration to commit to me, the Congress and to the State of South Carolina on plutonium disposition. I do not want this plutonium to be shipped to SRS and then have the Administration come back and say that MOX is not going to work and they're going to study another way of disposing of the material. I fear this is the road we are going down, especially in light of a recent article in the New York Times saying the White House wants to restructure or end programs aimed at disposing of tons of military plutonium.

I have spoken to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee and we have worked out an agreement on my amendment. With this compromise, hopefully, DOE and the State of South Carolina will come together and reach an agreement to continue these disposition programs at SRS, while ensuring they're done in a timely and safe manner. If an agreement cannot be reached, you can rest assured this will not be the last time this issue is raised on the Senate floor.

I want to thank the distinguished chairman and ranking member for all their help on this amendment.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2001

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m., Thursday, July 19, I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be extended, you can rest assured this will not be the last time this issue is raised on the Senate floor.