

hand a unique opportunity to advance an abundant source of power with minimum environmental impact. We are following such a course, fulfilling such an opportunity.

My total experience in the nuclear energy field for more than a quarter of a century and my association with others who have devoted their lives to this field have given me the firm conviction that the environmental problems associated with nuclear energy are manageable. With good planning and continued dedicated work on the part of those in the nuclear field, our electric utilities, and those government agencies that regulate our nation's power systems, we can have safe, clean, and reliable nuclear power—as much of it as we will need.

The suggestions I have made earlier of vast benefits that can be derived for mankind from nuclear energy were not made without full awareness that there are inherent in this technology certain risks and potential hazards to health and safety, just as there are risks in many other activities. Recognition of the fact of these risks is the basic reason for the comprehensive system of safety review and regulatory controls set up by the Congress for the protection of people and the safety of reactor facilities and for the extensive programs of safety research in both the physical and biological aspects of nuclear power plants and radiation.

In spite of the current wave of misunderstanding and fear registered by a certain segment of the public, I think we are going to prove the important point that the benefits related to nuclear power will outweigh the risks involved by a factor far greater than most of our modern technologies can boast.

There will be continuous agitation, there will be adjustment and compromise, but, more important, there will be more understanding and a better working relationship between reasonable and rational environmentalists and technologists who will see that they are not as far apart as they had believed. As a result, we will see in the long run more nuclear power and a healthier environment.

When we have got past this point, I believe we will see some remarkable things happening with nuclear power. We will find, with good site planning and the aesthetic designing of nuclear plants, that nature and technology are not incompatible. We may well see the advent of "Nuclear Parks" advocated by members of this committee. We could see the use of abundant and very economic nuclear energy having a widespread beneficial effect on many other environmental problems—helping us