

Letters To The Editor

DOE Budget Cuts Irresponsible

The proposed \$151 million budget cuts to DOE radioactive waste site cleanups are not by any stretch of the imagination "prudent fiscal policy" or "sound budgetary constraint."

When the cloud of politics is lifted, it is plain to see that the cuts represent a gross dereliction of duty and responsibility to communities who, through no fault of their own, have been forced to live for 50 years with the legacy of the atomic bomb. We, in effect, have become the ultimate victims of history's ultimate weapon.

Why is it that our new congress can find \$20 billion to boost the

economy of our neighbors to the south of the Rio Grande while sentencing our own Niagara River to a slow death?

We celebrate NAFTA as we attend our own funeral. We welcome European radioactive waste into our country and turn away foreigners whose souls are filled with hope. We run secret missions into Soviet Republics and bring their nuclear warheads back to Oakridge, TN. Russian warheads have finally made it to the US, not powered by missiles, but in our own cargo planes. The inmates are finally running the asylum.

By choosing to put dollars over

common sense, our children and grandchildren are being condemned to a future of health risks and environmental uncertainties that will leave us all, including our Canadian neighbors, impoverished. A price tag has just been put on Western New Yorkers and we have all been discounted and put on an indefinite layaway.

We are told by the new majority in congress that they are only doing what we sent them to do. Surely no one voted to lower our quality of life or increase our risk to cancer.

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president, ROLE