

--Introduction of Collegues--

Let me just reflect on why we have decided, those of us who are here, to come to Portland to hold this hearing today. First each one of the members of the Congress who are participating in this hearing has fought against the arms race throughout his career in the House of Representatives and each of us has been committed from the beginning, to the question of a Nuclear Weapons Freeze.

There's another reason why we are here, and that is, that in 48 hours, the deadline will be reached, for the petitions to be filed here in Oregon, to put the question of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze before the people of Oregon. It is our purpose in this hearing to finally, in the remaining hours of this drive, to give an increased focus to the issues surrounding this question so that all Oregonian's can see, in the remaining hours that are left (those who had intended to sign these petitions) can see what the issues are--and still have time to join in on a genuine grassroots effort, in an attempt to bring a margin of safety and peace to the world.

I don't think its any geeat secret that Congressman Weaver & I initiated the petition, the ballot measure, we were pleased to be chosen, Co-chairmen of the drive to win this campaign and it is our hope that examination of the issues in this hearing today, will help focus--give impetus-- to the final hours of this drive.

On Friday, at 9 o'clock, Jim and I intend to take the petitions, which we believe will be far in excess of the number required to put this question on the ballot, take these petitions personally to the Secretary of State and file them so that this ballot measure will be before the people of Oregon--thats at nine o'clock in Salem on Friday of this week.

THE QUESTION OF COURSE is, as I indicated before and I think we all would agree, the most important one Oregonians have probably ever had before them, the question really boils down to this: Do we or do we not want to put an end to history's greatest risk to the survival of the human race itself--that's what this issue is all about, and that's what the people of Or. through this petition drive, will have an opportunity to answer.

Before we begin with the lead-off witness and other opening statements--I want to make just the following observations--  
... It is my belief that the arms race is moving into the most dangerous stage since the introduction of the atomic bomb itself back in WW II. I say this because if the next round of nuclear weapons is deployed, with an infinitely more difficult job of trying to verify them in any kind of strategic arms treaty, it will make infinitely more difficult any future attempt to verify or ratify or negotiate such a treaty. And if such new generations of nuclear weapons are deployed the first strike capability of these weapons raises the risk of those weapons being deployed by accident, because of a perceived intention on the other side to fire them at the other side and we will begin to get into a hair-trigger state because the only defense in this situation is to be in a "Launch-on-Warning" posture, which I think is incredibly dangerous to the entire human race. The

The freeze movement should be understood as being not a movement from within the halls of Congress, but a peoples movement....