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PRESS BRIEFING

BY SECRETARY OF ENERGY RICK PERRY

AND PRINCIPAL DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY SARAH SANDERS

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:31 P.M. EDT

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35:15

Q (Robert Weiner) Mr. Secretary, you're very enthusiastic about nuclear power and the potential that it has. A lot of people are still scared of nuclear power because of nuclear waste and nuclear plant safety. And this has been happening since the '60s, when one television documentarian said that really it hasn't changed in terms of what we know to do with nuclear waste, which isn't much. Can you assure the American people that nuclear waste and nuclear plant safety are such that we should expand nuclear power in this country?

SECRETARY PERRY: You know, I would reflect that -- or deflect that, if he was here, to President Macron of France, who gets 70-plus percent of their power from nuclear energy. Now, this is the country that wouldn't buy Texas beef for some reason, yet 76% of their energy comes from nuclear power. So the French, who I've always thought were a little bit different -- (laughter) -- and that's in a good way. You know, they recognized us as a state back in the 1830s, so we actually have a really close, personal relationship with the French. We like them. We had an embassy in Paris. They had one in Austin; as a matter of fact it's still there, called the French Legation. I invite all of you to come and see it. But the French are a little different when it comes to some things. And one of those I would find it really interesting -- our French friends are very comfortable getting 76%, thereabouts, of their energy from nuclear, and I can assure you they're very fond of getting it at the rate they're getting it.

