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13 various officials.

14           The quality assurance program at the Los  
15 Alamos National Laboratory and throughout the DOE  
16 complex is very rudimentary and does not provide the  
17 assurances for to safeguard the weapons complex as  
18 well as the new 2030 complex, and I would like to see  
19 the quality assurance program elevated to the point  
20 where we do provide the degrees of assurance and make  
21 sure that those facilities for the 2030 complex have  
22 quality assurance, independent oversight to make sure  
23 that those requirements are met and the facilities  
24 will be operated properly and safely and in accordance  
25 with federal law. And the federal law I'm referring

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1 to is 10 CFR 830-122. It's -- and there is also DOE  
2 orders that aren't being followed, and that's a major  
3 concern to me as a citizen and as a quality assurance  
4 professional.

5           MR. THOMAS LARSON: First, my name is Thomas  
6 E. Larson. And I guess I'll start with when I first  
7 became knowledgeable about -- about atomic weapons,  
8 and that was in 1945, in July. I was drafted into the  
9 Army presumably to invade Japan, and always knew that  
10 the casualty rate was going to be about 70 percent. I  
11 reported for duty one of the first days in August, and  
12 I think it was a day or two later that I found out I  
13 wasn't going to have to invade Japan because they had  
14 dropped the bombs.

15           I then spent some time in Korea and all that  
16 kind of stuff, and went to college after spending a  
17 year and a half, very close to two years in the Army.

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18 And I got a bachelor's degree in chemistry, went on to  
19 Johns Hopkins, got a master's degree in organic  
20 chemistry and a doctor's degree in physical chemistry.

21 The lab was one of the places I was offered  
22 employment, and it wasn't the highest paying, but it  
23 appealed to me the most, and so I came to work here at  
24 the Laboratory in 1956. I worked mainly in high  
25 explosives business. That's what I was hired into,

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1 but because of the structure of the laboratory, I was  
2 able to work in many other aspects in high  
3 explosives. And my contributions probably were more  
4 in other areas. For example, I invented what's called  
5 Terrazo. Terrazo is a nickname for the classified  
6 system in our nuclear weapons, and I worked with  
7 initiators that initiated their -- the nuclear  
8 reaction, and also worked with another classified  
9 material that we call Fog Bank. That name is not --  
10 that's an unclassified name for it, which you guys  
11 will be able to figure it out.

12 One of the things that was -- has been --  
13 was great about Los Alamos is the interchange that one  
14 could have with various parts of science. And we  
15 didn't just sit the explosives people and fiddle  
16 around with explosives. We got to go to the  
17 laboratory colloquiums -- this was encouraged -- where  
18 they spoke about all aspects -- all of these meetings,  
19 of course, were classified in those days, and so you  
20 got to know about many of the things, and there was an  
21 unusual amount of -- of free association so that new  
22 ideas could come up. And that was one of the --