

# The Final Round<sup>1</sup>

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## Connecticut Debate Association

### Ridgefield High School

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**Resolved: The United States should repeal the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act.**

## A Note about the Notes

I've reproduced my flow chart for the final round at Ridgefield High School augmented by what I remember from the debate. The notes are limited by how quickly I could write and how well I heard what was said. Others may have slightly different versions. I'm sure the debaters will read them and exclaim, "That's not what I said!" I apologize for any errors, but I hope debaters will appreciate this insight: what a judge hears may not be what they said or wish they had said.

There are two versions of the notes. The one below is chronological, reproducing each speech in the order in which the arguments were made. It shows how the debate was actually presented. The second is formatted to look more like my written flow chart, with each contention "flowed" across the page as the teams argued back and forth. It's close to the way I actually take notes during the debate.

## The Final Round

The final round at Ridgefield was between Fairfield Warde (Mary Schulman and Alex Linzano) on the Affirmative and Joel Barlow (Alyssa Bilinski and Evan Streams) on the Negative. The debate was won by the Negative team from Joel Barlow.

### 1) First Affirmative Constructive

- a) Introduction
- b) Statement of the Resolution
- c) Definition: "repeal".
- d) The Treaty contradicts safety: economic, political, environmental
- e) A1<sup>2</sup>: There is no reason to believe the promise of nuclear energy ("NE"<sup>3</sup>)
  - i) Why promote nuclear energy when we could help India by offering renewable technology

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<sup>2</sup> "A1" indicates the Affirmative first contention, "N2" the Negative second contention and so forth.

<sup>3</sup> Introduces the abbreviation, NE, for nuclear energy.

- ii) Nuclear waste persists, and there is no good disposal plan
    - (1) No regulation exists
    - (2) No plan for dealing with long-term effects
    - (3) Hiroshima and Nagasaki show how bad it is for the environment
  - iii) Densely populated India is no place to have NE grow from 9% to 25% of the electricity supply
  - f) A2: The cost of the Treaty will preclude India's adoption of alternative energy sources
    - i) Uranium is dangerous and the market for it is very competitive
    - ii) France and Russia want to sell uranium to India
      - (1) India already imports coal and oil at great expense
    - iii) Wind, solar are cheaper and more reliable
  - g) A3: The Treaty will spark an arms race
    - i) India is unreliable
      - (1) 2006 incident of nuclear blueprint leak shows there is no security
    - ii) Rivalry with Pakistan could escalate
      - (1) Treaty could make Pakistan an enemy of the US
    - iii) India has spurned the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty ("NPT")
      - (1) Iran, Iraq and North Korea are other countries who didn't sign
      - (2) Shouldn't grant a waiver for non-compliance
    - iv) India is already involved in illicit nuclear trade
      - (1) Treaty is an incentive to North Korea
- 2) Cross-Ex of First Affirmative**
- a) Aren't the countries who didn't sign the NPT India, Israel, Iran and North Korea? I was referring to those in the "axis of evil"
  - b) Isn't Israel and ally? India is too.
  - c) Doesn't the treaty only provide for full civil nuclear cooperation? Yes
  - d) If trade is diverted for weapons, why would we continue? There is no regulation of military activity
  - e) Doesn't the International Atomic Energy Agency ("IAEA") provide regulation matching the volumes of material? There is no regulation of military activity.
  - f) If India diverted uranium wouldn't it be detected? Not necessarily, if it were stolen.
  - g) What is the concern? It's a waiver for the military
  - h) Didn't France sign a similar pact with India? Yes
  - i) Won't that pact continue even if the US repeals? This is a matter for the UN and the Security Council. With repeal, the US won't be complicit.
  - j) Doesn't France have a veto on the Security Council? Yes
  - k) So you think it's better if France trades nuclear materials with India, rather than the US with safeguards? France is not our issue. It should go to the UN.
  - l) Is the UN effective? Can't answer that. It depends on the circumstances.
- 3) First Negative Constructive**
- a) For all parties concerned, there is more safety with the Treaty.
  - b) N1: India has a good track record
    - i) India is a democracy and shares our ideals
    - ii) India showed great restraint after Mumbai

- (1) Implies they will be rational with nuclear technology
- iii) India has been responsible with nuclear weapons (“NW”) and NE
  - (1) Controls have been strengthened since the blueprint incident
- c) N2: The Treaty is supported by India, the US and the international community
  - i) Is it likely 36 Senators will change their mind to repeal?
  - ii) France signed a similar treaty two days after we did
    - (1) It’s likely more nations will join
    - (2) Trade will continue even if we withdraw
- d) N3: The Treaty improves the international climate
  - i) India already has NE, NW, supplies of thorium and the ability to get more
  - ii) Treaty adds IAEA supervision
    - (1) Not perfect, but better than no regulation
  - iii) India needs NE and has no incentive to cheat
    - (1) Currently 92% of its energy is from dirty sources
    - (2) France produces 88% of its electricity from NE
  - iv) Trade with India will spur needed economic activity in the US
- e) A1: This is fear mongering with respect to NE
  - i) We have learned to use NE safely
    - (1) It’s used to power space probes
    - (2) We can recycle waste
    - (3) NE will provide thousands of years of clean power
- f) A2: Wind and solar are experimental and under development
  - i) India needs power now for its over 1 billion people
- g) A3: India’s civilian trade will now be monitored by the IAEA
  - i) There will be no arms connection
  - ii) Incentive for cooperative use
- 4) Cross-Ex of First Negative**
  - a) What happened at Chernobyl? There is better technology and safeguards, as shown by Three Mile Island
  - b) Aren’t uranium and thorium inherently dangerous? Most things are dangerous
  - c) Even if they are safe in the short-term, couldn’t they be dangerous in the long-term? Re-enrichment and re-use will solve that problem
  - d) How practical is the space technology? That was just one example.
  - e) Are the costs feasible? Yes
  - f) Where would the funds come from? Same as for other energy sources
  - g) You said trade would improve the diplomatic climate? Yes
  - h) Like it did with Iran? No, like France and the UK
  - i) Aren’t France and the UK more stable than India? Yes, but there will be IAEA safeguards
  - j) Isn’t there a chance of a nuclear war in the Middle East? No
  - k) Not with Iran, or over the Pakistan/India border? Unlikely. They lack the resources, and know the consequences from Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
  - l) Didn’t France and the UK sign NPT? Yes. India? No.
  - m) Why didn’t India sign? Didn’t want US to use it as a weapon against them
- 5) Second Affirmative Constructive**
  - a) Intro

- b) A1: Nuclear sales will not promote green energy—no solar, wind or water power
    - i) India has over 1 billion people
      - (1) All NE will produce a lot of waste
      - (2) NY would require 3 square miles of nuclear power plants to go all nuclear
    - ii) How can India afford to dispose of the waste?
      - (1) US has spent millions on Yucca Mountain repository
      - (2) Even letting NE grow from 4% to 25% of power, it will still use a lot of coal
  - c) A2: Repeal will safeguard US and the world
    - i) Neg says there is a growing nuclear market
      - (1) Many want the technology
      - (2) Repeal will cut off nuclear trade
    - ii) We should endorse trade in clean energy
      - (1) India now uses coal and oil
      - (2) NE is too expensive for India
      - (3) Alternative energy is safer and cheaper
  - d) A3: Treaty promotes unregulated private business
    - i) Wall Street mess shows they can't be trusted
      - (1) Can't regulate private nuclear trade
    - ii) India must have a reason for not signing NPT
      - (1) The country doesn't want nuclear surveillance
- 6) Cross-Ex of Second Affirmative**
- a) So it would take 3 square miles of nuclear plants to supply NY? Yes
  - b) Do you prefer covering Virginia with windmills? Yes
  - c) Or Texas with solar panels? Yes
  - d) Why would it be more desirable, given the expense? Alternate energy would replace everything, but would provide a choice
  - e) How does affirming the resolution lead to alternate energy? Signals preference though trade
  - f) Would it eliminate suppliers of thorium and uranium? No
  - g) Would it prevent India from gaining nuclear technology? They wouldn't get it from the US, and it would discourage others
  - h) How, since the US is a negligible supplier of uranium? Our example is important
  - i) Wouldn't we lose our chance to get IAEA safeguards in place? Others will respond.
- 7) Second Negative Constructive**
- a) A1/A2: These contentions are based on a fear of nuclear waste.
    - i) Science permits it to be converted and re-used
      - (1) Re-enrich waste for NE
      - (2) Supply new reactors for space probes
      - (3) Atomic battery uses nuclear waste decay
    - ii) We don't need to fear NE
      - (1) It will permit us to get rid of coal
      - (2) We can improve the infrastructure
    - iii) NE is an older technology than the alternate energy, more developed
      - (1) NE is more reliable than alternate energy sources

- (2) The two energy sources are not incompatible; both could be used
- (3) IN has massive, growing demand for energy
- b) A2: India's need for energy will provide an incentive for alternate energy
  - i) NE can't supply all the needed power; India can use both
  - ii) Both will help reduce the use of coal
- c) A3: Treaty is about civilian, not military use of NE
  - i) IAEA track fuel use, so either
    - (1) There will be no arms race, or
    - (2) Diversion will cause the Treaty to be cancelled cutting off supply
  - ii) Either way, the Resolution will have no impact
    - (1) India will get nuclear fuel from other sources
  - iii) Resolution introduces IAEA safeguards

#### **8) Cross-Ex of Second Negative**

- a) How many countries have NE technology? UK, US, France, Japan
- b) Not India? Yes, India has the technology
- c) Can India afford NE? Yes
- d) Will they be purchasing from the US at a fair price? I hope so. In any case it's a better option than alternative energy sources.
- e) Wouldn't NE need technology for handling waste? It would be a good idea.
- f) Can India afford that technology? They will need to face the problem. They need NE power to meet their needs. "Afford" means to spend wisely.
- g) If India lacks infrastructure and health care, how can they pay for this? The gov't will pay.
- h) Won't it cost the government a great amount? No idea.
- i) Assuming it is costly, should India spend money on it? Yes. NE solves many problems caused by the lack of power and will improve the quality of life.

#### **9) First Affirmative Rebuttal**

- a) The Negative lives in an ideal world
  - i) Nuclear waste is no concern
  - ii) There is no significant conflict between India and Pakistan
  - iii) Neither of these is true
- b) Nuclear waste technology exists, and is beneficial, but is not feasible for India
  - i) India is one of the poorest countries in the Third World
    - (1) If they can't pay, how will we transfer the technology?
    - (2) Only the First World has technology for nuclear waster
    - (3) India lacks sufficient food, health care, and should focus on these
  - ii) The Indian government is corrupt and can't be trusted
    - (1) It has a poor record on human rights and accountability
- c) Concern about safety is not fear-mongering
  - i) India is not entirely stable
  - ii) Blueprint leak is highly significant
    - (1) It concerned a centrifuge for nuclear weapons enrichment
  - iii) Pakistan has said it will increase its NWs to match India
    - (1) Build new reactor, develop ways to pierce India's defenses
  - iv) This is inherent in the situation between the two countries.

#### **10) First Negative Rebuttal**

- a) There are three issues in this debate:
  - i) What is the impact of adopting the resolution?
  - ii) What is the political impact?
  - iii) How safe is the Affirmative position?
- b) On the first issue, even if everything the Aff says is true, it's not significant
  - i) India has NW and can make more
  - ii) India has NE and can make more
  - iii) India has uranium and thorium and can get more
  - iv) Other countries will trade with India if we won't, e.g. France, Germany and Russia
  - v) Will others follow lead of the US on this issue?
    - (1) They didn't in Iraq
    - (2) India can go it alone
  - vi) So the Affirmative doesn't prevent the harms they describe
- c) On the second issue, the resolution will harm US safety and economy
  - i) There will be no IAEA safeguards on India's civilian programs
  - ii) The loss of trade will harm the US economy.
- d) On the third issue, it will reduce overall safety
  - i) Incidents like the blueprint will be prevented in the future as India implements US-like safeguards
  - ii) IAEA will prevent the diversion of nuclear materials
  - iii) On human rights, both the Indian and US economies will benefit by increased trade
  - iv) On security, there are no international safeguards now
    - (1) This adds safeguards for India's civilian program

### **11) Second Negative Rebuttal**

- a) The safety of NE has been a major Aff argument
  - i) The Neg has presented many examples of the necessary technology
  - ii) The Aff says India can't afford it
  - iii) Many institutions, like the IMF or World Bank, or private investors, would provide funds
    - (1) Why? Profit. A better electric grid means more business, more jobs, better health
    - (2) This is an incentive to investors.
  - iv) Even if there aren't funds for complete conversion, every bit of NE would improve the situation
  - v) And India does have funds to invest.
- b) Let's also compare the worlds that would come from the Aff and Neg positions
  - i) Affirmative world
    - (1) India is poor
    - (2) India has an incentive for NW proliferation
    - (3) India burns polluting coal and oil
    - (4) India buys NE technology from France
  - ii) Negative world
    - (1) Reduced risk of nuclear proliferation
    - (2) More electric power for health and jobs

## 12) Second Affirmative Rebuttal

- a) The Negative talked about idealized worlds, but these are hypothetical
  - i) India doesn't have money for clean, renewable nuclear waste treatment
  - ii) India has no incentive to use NE cleanly
  - iii) We are talking about experimental processes
  - iv) The trade with the US would be expensive
- b) N1: India's track record includes things like the blueprint incident, violation of human rights and bad trade partners
- c) N2: There may be international support for the treaty, but it's slim
  - i) Vote margin in India was slim
  - ii) US action may not stop France and Russia, but we should add our name to the list
- d) N3: How many more Mumbai's will it take before India escalates against Pakistan?
- e) The Treaty is unsafe, infeasible, and against the interests of US policy