

YS Gas So Costly?

countries to divert their fuel to the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

"At a time when we have not resolved our own nuclear waste problems, we shouldn't try to resolve others," Lundine said.

"It would disturb me to have to reopen storage sites like West Valley to accommodate French nuclear waste," Lundine also pointed out that every other country is proceeding on the assumption that reprocessing of nuclear fuel is feasible, while the president has declared a moratorium on reprocessing in the U.S.

Because other countries are anxious to

reprocess nuclear fuel they are not likely to want to give up their spent nuclear fuel to the U.S.

Lundine also said that congressional approval would be needed for such a plan to be implemented. He indicated that it is not likely.

In reference to his bill to begin the nuclear cleanup at Nuclear Fuel Services in West Valley, Lundine said that two versions of the cleanup bill are under consideration. The Defense Department has proposed one bill that will cost the state and the operator about \$35 million and not require any consultation with the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission.

The House version of the bill would provide for NRC involvement and require that the state and the operator of the West Valley plant be responsible for about 10 percent of the cleanup cost. Lundine said the 10 percent would be less than the \$35 million.

Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Washington, is behind the Defense Department proposal, Lundine said. Lundine added that he hopes the House bill comes to committee first. He favors the House bill and he said he does not know whether he should oppose the defense bill.