Stop putting line numbers in ENDF files.

Columns 76-80 in every line of every ENDF file are reserved for line numbers. This feature of the language was very useful when the ENDF data files were routinely printed out or in older text editors that did not show the line number one's cursor is on. Nowadays, ENDF files are rarely (if ever) printed out and all modern text editors tell the user the current line number. This feature used to be convenient, but now has outlived its usefulness

Indeed, the line numbers actually inhibit progress by preventing the proper functioning of the Unix "diff" utility -- a utility used in the CSEWG GForge site as part of the version control package. Adding a single resonance in the SLBW RRR format will add one line of new information to an ENDF file. However, because the line numbers now shift by one, the entire evaluation appears different when using "diff". This has an outsized effect on the CSEWG versioning. All version control software work by storing the difference between two files rather than the entire files. Without line numbers, the difference is one line. With line numbers, the difference is every line.

We propose to drop the line numbering in columns 76-80 entirely.

We believe this change will be seamless because the NNDC codes STANEF and its successor code STAN and the LLNL code fudge all can reinsert the line numbers for users who still need them.

The ENDF manual would have to be edited in Section 0.6.3 to remove reference to the NS field of every record type.