

IT'S ABOUT TIMES

FEBRUARY 1980

"We Won't Go!"



photo by Steve Stallone

It took just about two days after Jimmy Carter announced his plans to "revitalize the Selective Service System" for an anti-draft movement to shatter the illusion of an America ready to march off to war.

Carter issued his call for military registration during his State of the Union address on Wednesday January 24. On Thursday, 600 Stanford University protesters chanted "Peace Plus Draft Equals War" and burned a huge copy of a draft card issued in the 60's.

The Friday *San Francisco Chronicle* reported the rally but hastened to gloat that "the president's proposal... found few harsh words at the University of California" at Berkeley. That noon, a crowd of 1500 -- the largest since Vietnam War days -- rallied at Sproul Plaza and marched down Telegraph Avenue chanting, "One, two, three, four, we don't want your fucking war." The *Chron* lamented, "None of the songs had the same poignancy as the John Lennon song heard frequently during the Vietnam War protests: 'All we are saying is give peace a chance.'"

They didn't know how lucky they were when they only had the flower children to worry about.

At Sproul Plaza on Friday, Diane Thomas-Glass of the UC Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project told the crowd, "The specter of our organized, mobilized opposition is very frightening to the government." Thomas-Glass spoke of the "permanent war economy

that has existed in this country since World War II" and of the distortions this has created in the economy. As an example, she stated that "a nuclear weapons framework means that we have to live with nuclear power in our backyards."

Speaker Mark Courtney commented, "I really got scared when Carter said that we have to defend the vital interests of Exxon in the Persian Gulf." Helen Michalowsky of the War Resisters League talked about the possible inclusion of women in the new draft. "They say they're giving us equality with men," she said. "But I don't call the chance to kill people any kind of opportunity." Michalowsky pointed out how the military manipulates men's sexuality to make them "competitive, aggressive and willing to blow away whoever is defined as the enemy."

Lee Trampleasure of Berkeley Students for Peace urged the formation of affinity groups and invited delegates from each affinity group to a meeting to plan further anti-draft and anti-war activities. Berkeley Students for Peace has already begun setting up a draft counseling service.

"This new movement is bringing together the peace activists, the anti-corporate people, the movements against nuclear power and nuclear weapons. Even the retired activists are coming out of the wall," commented Tommy Rinaldo of the Abalone Alliance later that day. "The issues are all connected, and we're starting to coordinate our strategies."

Marcy Darnovsky

"The earthquake did something we've been trying to do for a long time," said Steve Ladd of the War Resisters League at the January 25 anti-draft rally at UC Berkeley. "For one day, it stopped the arms race."

A 30,000 gallon tank containing a mixture of water and low-level radioactive tritium sprung a quart-per-minute leak and 7100 workers at the Lawrence Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory were sent home January 24 in the aftermath of a quake described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "only a whisper compared with some of the major shakes that have struck California this century." In addition, the Shiva laser complex, used in fusion and thermonuclear weapons research, was "knocked off its pins" by the tremor. Lab officials estimate it will take at least a month and \$1 million to repair the damage done when the bolts holding the metal frame of the 132 foot-long laser complex and its 60 foot-high target were sheared off.

Environmentalists and anti-nuclear activists have been warning for several years of the dangers posed by the little-understood fault systems near the Livermore lab. "We knew of 13 active faults in the Livermore Valley," said Scott Ullman of the UC Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project. "And the fault that produced this quake wasn't one of them."

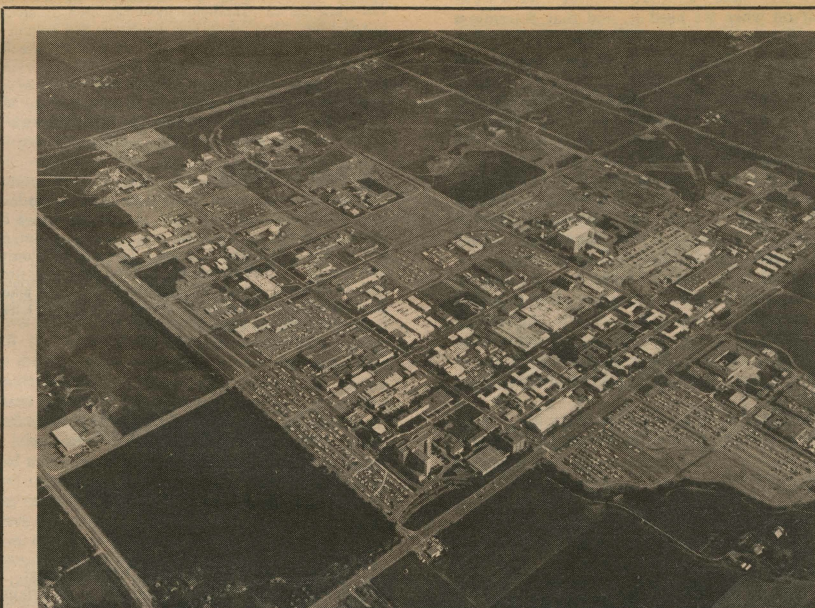
Building 232 at the Lawrence Livermore complex contains up to 500 pounds of plutonium, an alpha-emitter that causes cancer when a particle lodges in a lung or other part of the body. This facility was undamaged in the January 24 quake.

Friends of the Earth attorney Andrew Baldwin warned, "Building 232 is not built to state earthquake standards that would be acceptable for a school or hospital. The plutonium is often housed in plastic containers that could break if the building collapsed. Or, a fire caused by broken electrical wiring and leaking natural gas could ignite the plutonium, creating a critical danger for the Bay Area."

Ullman agreed with lab spokespeople that the released tritium was well within government standards and posed no direct threat to lab workers or the Livermore population. "But a study done in the early 70's by the Biomedical Department at Lawrence Livermore concluded that any level of tritium exposure caused ovary damage in mice," Ullman said. "They found no threshold for that effect."

Marcy Darnovsky

Quake Shuts Down Livermore



Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, home of the H-bomb and 500 pounds of plutonium, was rocked by an earthquake registering 5.5 on the Richter scale on January 24.

NRC Panel Says TMI Came Near Meltdown

Last spring's Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident came within "30 to 60 minutes" of a meltdown, according to a report by Nuclear Regulatory Commission consultants. The report of the NRC's Special Advisory Group, released January 24, detailed the findings of a panel headed by Washington attorney Mitchell Rogovin. Rogovin was hired by the NRC last June to head its independent investigation of the TMI accident.

The Rogovin panel pointed out how narrowly TMI avoided a meltdown, the most serious of nuclear plant accidents. According to the report, plant operators allowed cooling water to escape from the reactor through a stuck valve for more than two hours. An-

other valve, which was closed to stop the leak, was not checked until a consultant to the reactor's manufacturer suggested it in a phone call from his home. If the leak had continued, the panel says, fuel melting would have occurred. But they thought the reactor building "probably but not certainly" would have contained the radioactivity and prevented a major public health disaster.

The report recommended that future nuclear plants be sited at least ten miles from population centers to minimize the effects of nuclear accidents. It also said some existing plants too close to cities might have to shut down.

from SF Chronicle, 1/25/80

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LETTERS



STRATEGIZE NOW

Our strength springs from the nature of our movement. A decentralized movement provides a strong foundation that can't be shaken by attacks from society's "top." We are our own leaders and there are simply too many of us with too many good ideas for them to counter and manipulate us in their normal manner. The pro-nuclear forces can only hope that our decentralization becomes fragmentation, and that our wealth of vision becomes a lack of direction.

Our numbers have grown dramatically since Three Mile Island. Projects are being undertaken on a local level that prior to now were neglected, and important regional initiatives have begun. Yet compared to last spring, overall cooperation has fallen off and large scale coordination is practically non-existent.

I believe it's been cooperation and coordination (mutual aid and solidarity) that's enabled our grass-roots movement to build the kind of strength that has brought us within reach of some critical goals. That kind of shared support has never stood in the way of our autonomy as individuals or as groups. The Abalone Alliance was built on those principles, and yet I suspect most people reading this letter think of the Alliance as an it, or a them, not as us.

It's more than a semantic difference. It determines how much support we each feel we can count on when we need it, and that determines what type of struggles we allow ourselves to take on. And the latter is the crucial question we need to face now.

The Abalone Alliance has a new structure and we're all in it, but that means nothing if we don't agree that it's important to work together. The intent is not to exclude local initiative but to enhance it through the assurance of mutual aid. We haven't held an Abalone Alliance strategy conference in a year, but we will on March 14-16th. Its business is our movement; where does it need to go and how will we get there.

We need to be there to make it work, and we have to come prepared with some clear thoughts and proposals. Proposals need the support of four Abalone groups to be placed before the conference, and they have to be circulated beforehand, so some good thinking needs to be done now.

It's time that we realized our strength. This is the year when we decide the future of the nuclear industry.

See you soon,

Tommy Rinaldo

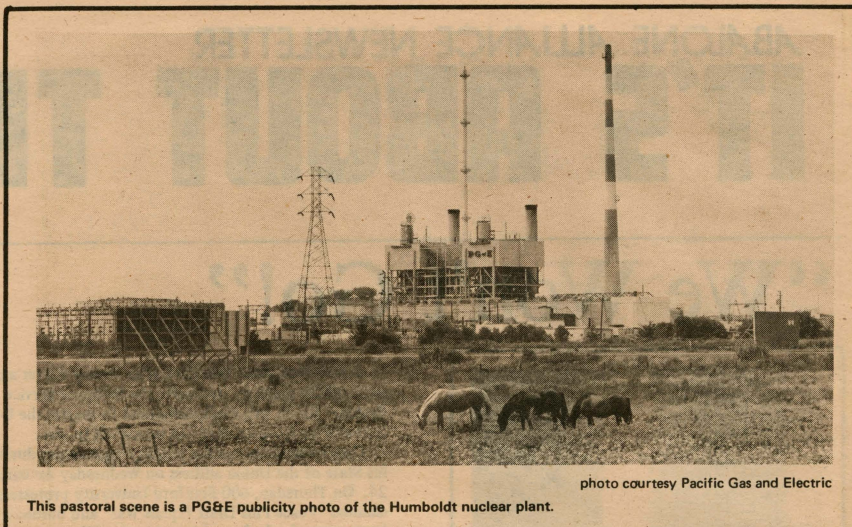
AA Staff Openings

Two positions are open for staffing the Abalone Alliance state office in San Francisco. The salary is \$500 per month. The two positions could be split between as many as four people.

Skills required: administrative and office; political organizing; ability to work collectively; ability to communicate effectively; sense of humor; willingness to travel; flexible schedule.

Preferred background: previous involvement in the Abalone Alliance; good grasp of the issues of nuclear weapons and power, and alternative energy; familiarity with coalition building.

Applications must be submitted to the AA office by February 11. Interviews will be held immediately thereafter. A decision will be made no later than February 19, and the position will begin no later than March 3. Contact: Abalone Alliance, 944 Market St., Room 307, San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-543-3910.



Humboldt Removed from Rate Base

In mid-December, when the Public Utilities Commission allowed Pacific Gas and Electric a \$400 million rate increase, they also did the ratepayers a small favor. In a little-publicized decision, the PUC took the Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant out of PG&E's rate base.

The Humboldt nuke hasn't been delivering electricity since four years ago, when it was closed for seismic reasons. The ratepayers have been paying PG&E \$7 million a year for all that time, and have gotten nothing in return.

Nuclear Once a Good Investment

Still, less than half of PG&E's original capital investment has been repaid. In 1963, the utility spent \$28 million to build the plant, which had a predicted lifespan of 40 years. The original cost plus interest was to be paid to the bondholders (who had loaned the money to PG&E) over that period. This is why nuclear utilities used to be a good investment — bondholders could count on a steady return over a long period of time.

Now that PG&E can no longer charge its customers for Humboldt, there's no one to pay the original bondholders. So PG&E must get short-term loans from banks that are understandably reluctant to invest in nuclear power. These short-term loans are very expensive for the utility.

Even for the most diehard nuclear investor, PG&E's cash flow on the Humboldt nuke has been decidedly disheartening. The utility has spent over \$63 million a year (in the two years for which data is available) since the plant's closing. Between the rate base, fuel costs (for fuel that was never used), and operation and maintenance, PG&E has been able to pass only \$7 million of the \$63 million annual costs on to the ratepayer. That leaves a \$55 million yearly deficit.

The Diablo Connection

It has been speculated that PG&E is willing to lose money purposely on this plant so that the issues of decommissioning and seismic safety will stay out of public view until Diablo Canyon is licensed. Diablo sits near a fault, as does Humboldt, and the consulting firm that assured the Humboldt community that the plant poses no seismic hazards is the same firm that PG&E has retained for Diablo Canyon.

OCAW Strike Mushrooms

On Monday, January 28, 1800 Chevron clerical workers in Concord will join the 60,000 other striking oil workers across the country who are demanding wages and benefits that keep up with inflation. "We don't think that's unreasonable, considering the oil industry's profits over the last year," said Pat Ellington, president of the clerical workers' Unit 71 of the Petroleum Workers' Union.

The PWU affiliated itself with the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers' Union in November of 1978 and has been negotiating unsuccessfully for a contract since then. Chevron has offered the clerical workers of Unit 71 — most of them women — a 6% pay increase, though the standing industry offer to the other striking oil workers is 9%. (*Business Week's* probably optimistic projection for the inflation rate over the next year is 13%, so even the 9% increase would mean a substantial cut in real wages.) Ellington says that "the company has declared us clerical workers second class labor."

PWU can use help on their picket line in Concord. For details, call Pat Ellington or picket major Margaret Troia at 415-676-4722.

PUC Ultimatum

Despite the recent PUC ruling, ratepayers are still paying PG&E \$200,000 a month for Humboldt maintenance and payroll. But these charges, too, may be discontinued before long. The PUC ordered PG&E to come back in six months "with either plans for decommissioning or a definitive answer as to how they plan to use the facility." A spokesperson for the PUC said this action is a "significant first step towards decommissioning the plant."

The issue of decommissioning has recently been getting local publicity due to this decision, a recent NRC ruling on PG&E's withholding of seismic information, and informational events held by the Redwood Alliance, the local Abalone group. Even *Business Week* has predicted that the Humboldt Bay reactor will be the first one to be decommissioned.

—Honest Savage,
Redwood Alliance

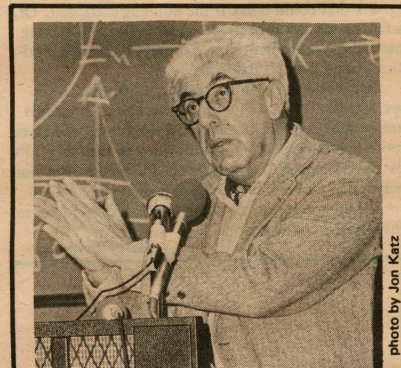
...but NRC still sides with Utility

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company was given a belated Christmas present by the staff of the NRC this past December 26 when it recommended granting the utility's third requested extension to prove the seismic safety of the shuttered Humboldt Bay nuclear power station.

This action was greeted with incredulity by those seeking the decommissioning of the facility, as it was a complete reversal of the federal staff's position and came after the cancellation of a fact finding tour. NRC geologist Anthony Cardone had been scheduled to conduct a seismological study of the plant prior to the ruling, but his study was also cancelled because of "time constraints."

These events have prompted Northcoast activists to take the issue directly to the people in the form of ballot initiatives. The first such effort is a local advisory initiative to be placed on the ballot of the City of Arcata for the April city elections. A countywide ballot measure is scheduled for the November Presidential elections. With other counties passing parallel initiatives, the Redwood Alliance sees this type of strategy as a vehicle for establishing a "Non Nuclear Zone" in the northern part of the state.

—Carl Zichella



Dr. Barry Commoner was among the speakers at a conference focusing on "Labor and the Nuclear Issue" at Laney College on January 6. The conference, sponsored by AFSCME 1695, SEIU 535, OPEU 29, Abalone Alliance, and the Bay Area Rank and File Coalition, drew 350. Next month, *It's About Times* will present a special labor edition.

PG&E Fined, But Gets Rate Boost

On December 18, the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) fined Pacific Gas and Electric Company \$7.2 million for failing to develop cogeneration in its service area. Cogeneration combines the production of industrial heat and electricity, using much less fuel than producing the two separately. The Commission also required the utility to buy cogenerated electricity at a price equivalent to PG&E's own generating costs—a move that will encourage industries to participate in cogeneration programs.

In another action the same day, the PUC granted PG&E a \$432 million rate boost, bringing the 1979 total to \$1.1 billion. The two Commission actions symbolize this country's energy mess. Even in a crisis atmosphere, with skyrocketing energy prices, the development of energy alternatives has barely begun.

Inside the packed hearing room, PUC Commissioner Claire Detrick reminded the audience that PG&E had done nothing to implement cogeneration until the PUC threatened to reopen its 1978 rate case. In the hallways, PG&E representatives told a different story to interviewers. They claimed the company's latest resource plan includes 800 megawatts (MW) of cogeneration capacity by 1985, including one project to generate 280 MW in the Kern County oilfields. But testimony before the PUC has placed the potential of the oilfields alone at 3000 MW, and the California Energy Commission has estimated 6000 MW of cogeneration could be developed statewide. Even PG&E's own 1977 study, authored by now-President Barton Shackleford, identified 3150 MW of cogeneration potential in the utility's service area.

Faced with such an obviously "token" effort, the PUC set some goals of its own. It called for PG&E to contract for 2000 MW of cogeneration by 1985—still only a fraction of the potential. And it allowed the utility to "earn back" the \$7 million penalty if it contracted for 600 MW by 1981.

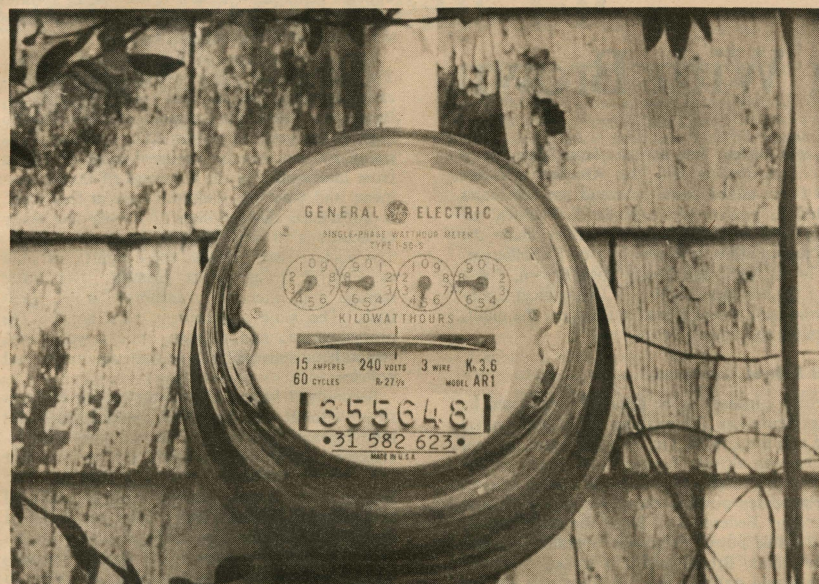
The Commission's action in mandating cogeneration performance signals all California utilities that their resource plans will be subject to PUC review. Until now, resource plans have been the inviolate domain of the utilities.

San Diego Gas and Electric is the next utility to present its resource plan to the PUC, and work on small hydro, wind, and solar photovoltaic will come to the PUC's attention in the near future. The state can be expected to mandate guidelines in these areas if utility performance is less than satisfactory. As with cogeneration, the state will probably require utilities to pay "alternative" power producers a price equivalent to their own power generating costs.

In addition to utility intransigence, obstacles to cogeneration include air pollution regulations and 1978 Department of Energy rules which restrict the use of oil and natural gas in new generating installations. It is likely these hurdles can be overcome, because an added cogeneration unit uses much less fuel and produces less pollution than a conventional new generating plant. In effect, it extracts more useful energy from fuel that is already being burned.

If a fair price for independently produced power is guaranteed, development of alternatives to large, inefficient centralized generating plants should be greatly hastened. However, the utilities will clearly remain in control of supplying the electricity to users. But cogeneration also has small-scale industrial, commercial, and residential applications. For example, a few apartment buildings are now equipped with cogenerators which efficiently use natural gas to produce the building's electricity and heat simultaneously. If such units were mass-produced, smaller industry, neighborhoods, and perhaps individuals could disconnect from electric grids. These units could also run on methane gas derived from sewage or biomass, and would be the perfect "bad weather backup" for decentralized solar electricity and solar heating systems.

—Ward Young



S.F. Household Says Rate Strike Working

The rate strike has begun. In fact, it started in San Francisco seven months ago when a Polk Street household began refusing to pay PG&E bills. The accident at Three Mile Island and PG&E's continuing contribution to nuclear madness prompted Mitch, Terry, Gordon, and Christine to act. Taking a cue from Ralph Nader's comment at the Civic Center last April, they sent their PG&E payment to the California Public Utilities Commission instead of the utility.

According to Tariff Rule 10 concerning disputed bills, utility customers may deposit their payment with the PUC when the correctness of a bill is in question. The payment must be payable to the PUC and be accompanied by the disputed bill and a brief description of the dispute. The commission must then review the case, advise the customer and the utility company of its decision and "send the deposit to the utility or the customer accordingly."

The Polk St. household mailed their payment to the PUC in early May, along with a letter questioning the correctness of their bill, because it reflected nuclear power research and development costs and the yearly purchase of \$34.5 million worth of fission-generated electricity from Rancho Seco. Through the intervening months the rate-strikers have asked for but failed to receive information from either PG&E or the PUC on the amount of the utility's nuclear investment. Since it was impossible for them as customers to determine what portion of their bill goes towards the propagation of nuclear power, the rate-strikers deposited the full amounts of their PG&E bills with the PUC.

"We wanted to protest the authority of PG&E to develop nuclear energy in spite of public disapproval," explained Mitch, who until recently hadn't considered himself an activist. "Before TMI I was warning my friends—those who would listen—that something like it was certain to happen... Our hope is that the action we're taking will open up the PUC as a conduit for more popular protest."

The PUC does not seem pleased with this role. They have responded by returning the rate-strikers' checks. According to D. Solari, consultant for the consumer affairs branch of the PUC, "The commission's interpretation of the disputed bill rule doesn't allow it to receive money for deposit when you are protesting rates or rules authorized by the commission..." The rate-strikers have maintained that Rule 10 does not specifically exclude their interpretation and accuse the commission of "...placing a post-facto addendum on the rule by assuming catch-all interpretive privileges on their own regulations."

On July 9, the rate-strikers wrote to Governor Brown's office, enclosing copies of all correspondence with PG&E and the PUC, their PG&E bills, and checks to cover all bills since May. They requested that Brown place their checks on deposit with the PUC. Four weeks later, General Counsel Janice E. Kerr returned their money and

reiterated the commission's interpretation of Rule 10: "It does not apply to disputes which question matters of policy or practice by the utility." Their next letter to Brown included the check for their August bill, a copy of the disputed rule, and a statement that the text of Tariff Rule 10 does not preclude the rate-strikers' interpretation of what the "correctness of a bill" encompasses.

Aside from the bother of sending the letters, the only problem that the household has encountered so far is having their gas shut off for one day in mid-December. A telephone call to the PUC, where their payments were on hand if not on deposit, was enough to get an embarrassed and harassed PG&E to turn it back on. This was done after one PG&E employee suggested that they just make it easy on everybody and pay their bill, and another, management-level employee complained their electric meter couldn't be read from the outside anymore. (They had innocently converted the porch where the meter is located into a darkroom.)

As of this writing, no further correspondence has been exchanged and their gas and lights are still on. In an attempt to focus their action on fission-generated electricity, the household has now chosen to pay PG&E for the gas portion of their bill while maintaining their interpretation of TR 10. None of the household members belong to the anti-nuke movement proper and none had made any efforts to contact people in the movement until December, when they saw their rate strike would have to be broadened to be successful.

Meanwhile, the Direct Current affinity group and a number of other people are calling for a general rate-strike not only against nukes but against any technology that might threaten us (coal, microwave...) and against the wage cut known as inflation. Our household was inspired by the Polk Street household's efforts and we have also embarked on a rate-strike. We are questioning the right of the government and corporations to saddle us with a lower quality of life, lower standard of living, lower income. We hope others see fit to stop paying also.

There are many possible ways to challenge your utility bills, from withholding a couple of dollars to refusing to pay at all. Needless to say, the more that is withheld by large numbers of people, the greater the political and economic effect on PG&E, and the more solidarity and militant action we will need to keep our utilities on. In the meantime, the Polk Street household needs your support in whatever way possible. Legal and information-distribution support will be needed as the protest picks up steam, so let us know how you can and want to support this action. Their address and phone number is: 2511 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, 415/673-6495. Ours is: 495 Frederick Street, #5, San Francisco, CA 94117, 415/731-1465.

—John Johnson and Brian Kane
Direct Current

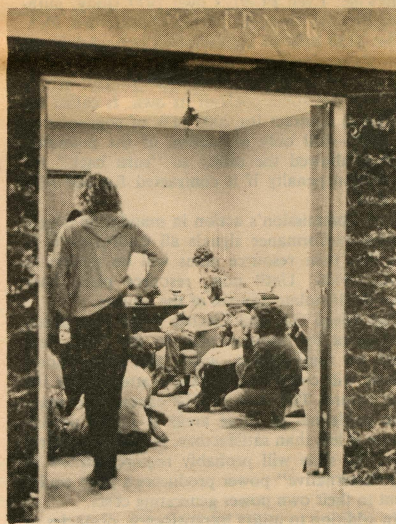
Reflections on Midnight Meeting With Brown

Since November 28, People United Against Rancho Seco (PUARS) have been sitting-in in Governor Brown's outer office, trying to convince him to invoke his emergency powers to shut down the nearby Rancho Seco nuclear power plant. I was asked by PUARS to participate in a meeting with Brown on December 17.

When I walked into the capitol building that morning, there were 40 or 50 demonstrators in and around the governor's office. We spent the rest of the day in a series of meetings, setting the agenda and structure of the meeting, and the demands that would be presented to Brown. While we talked, a secretary worked in a corner of the outer office, looking somewhat uncomfortable. Literature, signs, backpacks, sleeping bags and other paraphernalia were piled up around the sides of the room and in corners. PUARS had established a presence here, and it appeared that they were being tolerated if not fully accepted.

As the 9 p.m. meeting time approached, excitement built up and 100 to 150 people crowded into the office, some of them singing songs and playing instruments. However, we were to have a much longer wait. Three hours after the appointed time, at midnight, Brown finally arrived. We were told he had been at his staff's Christmas party.

About 30 of us then piled into a large inner office and were greeted by Brown and about six of his aides. An attempt to get a photographer for *It's About Times* in to take some pictures was sharply rebuffed by Gray Davis, Brown's Chief of Staff. Brown did not want any publicity for this meeting, and no press—including our own—was allowed.



From outside looking in: Photos of the meeting were not allowed.

Meeting of the Minds

Our group consisted of two facilitators, six negotiators, twelve silent observers and the eleven presenters. The Brown staff in attendance included Wilson Clark (Brown's energy advisor), Gray Davis, Alan Cunningham of the Office of Emergency Services, Anthony Kline, Brown's attorney, and two others I did not recognize.

We each had five minutes to speak. Dr. Peter Joseph from Physicians for Social Responsibility began with a talk on the dangers of low-level radiation. He was followed by Frank Zucker, a student at U.C. Davis, and Homer Iber, a physics professor at Sacramento State, who presented some of the technical arguments against Rancho Seco.

Peter Zweig of the Farallones Institute and Arthur Lish from Sacramento made presentations about alternative energy. I made my case about the feasibility of converting Rancho Seco

to a non-nuclear fuel source. Tom Richman of SoNoMoreAtomics and the Abalone Alliance Task Force talked about jobs and the economics of nuclear power. Moira Holland, PUARS' attorney and another PUARS member made the legal presentation, followed by Don Eichelberger, also of PUARS, and finally Jock Brown, director of the Northern California Ecumenical Council, who gave moral arguments against the plant, appealing to Brown's Jesuit past.

Fears Federal Preemption

Brown appeared to be genuinely impressed by the presentation. Throughout he seemed interested and thoughtful. On the other hand, he said that he was already familiar with much of the material presented and stated that even if he used his emergency powers, the move would be preempted by Federal law. Since the NRC legally has the sole power to govern operating nuclear power plants, Brown said it is unlikely that his action would stand up in court for even a day, so it would be a futile gesture.

Brown further argued that contesting the issue in the courts would draw away valuable resources, time and money from other areas where there are real chances of success. He felt that it would also seriously weaken his credibility in these efforts. He reminded us that he has joined in the legal intervention against the opening of Diablo Canyon and referred to a struggle over electrical demand projections between the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the utilities. (These are used in determining whether or not new generating plants will be needed in the future. The CEC projection is only half the growth rate predicted by the utilities.) Brown also referred to other efforts of his administration to promote solar energy, cogeneration and conservation. With respect to Rancho Seco he pointed to safety hearings to be held by the Office of Emergency Services (OES) on February 9. Both the NRC and SMUD have been invited, and PUARS will be allowed to have some input into the agenda.

In short, Brown's position had changed little since PUARS had begun their sit-in. While he was never hostile, Brown clearly showed irritation, which indicated that he wasn't altogether happy about the sit-in in his office or the late-night meeting. At one point, he argued that he and his administration have taken the most progressive stand on the nuclear and alternative energy issues of any national leader and state government, and asked in effect, 'Why are you giving me a hard time when we are actually allies, and have the same goals?' He added that you can only turn around the 'ship of state' so fast without tipping it over, and that he's trying to move it as fast as possible.

The negotiators and some of the presenters made statements and counter-arguments. They conceded the likelihood of federal preemption of any Brown ruling, but argued that Brown should invoke his emergency powers anyway as a symbolic and educational action and a sign of the governor's commitment to stop nuclear power in the state. Furthermore, the negotiators stressed the moral responsibility of the governor to take a clear stand even if the action is overruled—and there would be a small possibility they would eventually win the court battle and actually close the plant.

The meeting finally ended around 2:30 a.m., with few concrete results and a pervasive sense of frustration. One of the PUARS negotiators wanted to set a time for another meeting before this one ended. Brown demurred, but finally said that Gray Davis would meet with them the next day.

Aftermath

I learned from a PUARS member who was there that feelings within PUARS about the second Brown meeting were very mixed. Some felt that Brown was doing everything he could, but others didn't, expressing the opinion that Brown is playing presidential politics with the nuclear issue, and doesn't necessarily want to shut down the plants.

I believe Brown to be sincere in his wish to stop nuclear power. The CEC under Brown has taken the most progressive stand of any state agency in the nation in its work towards an alternative energy path. Brown's commitment to pre-

venting Diablo Canyon from going on-line also appears genuine. Whether or not taking a stand against Rancho Seco would weaken his position vis-a-vis Diablo is debatable, however.

Brown's stand against Rancho Seco is weak. The OES hearings, for example, have some educational value, but no real teeth. Most likely, Brown is concerned at the moment about Rancho Seco being politically risky. The meeting illustrated for me how far removed most of us are from understanding the workings of the government, and what the limitations are at that level. It underlined the problem of having too many expectations of what a state governor can do. The nuclear issue involves some significant state vs. Federal struggles, for example, over waste storage and interstate transportation of spent fuels. The state government may not be the proper target, and activists should work with sympathetic state officials to fight against federal policies.

Secondly, I believe that direct actions like this sit-in without any supporting educational and lobbying activities are limited and somewhat ineffective in achieving our goals. It is obvious that there never could have been a meeting with Brown or his aides, nor the many educational and lobbying activities which have grown out of the meetings, without the sit-in. It is very important that there be constant and vigilant pressure on the office of the Governor, and on others in political power. PUARS' work has greatly raised the consciousness within the Brown administration, and for the public generally, about Rancho Seco's danger. But the goal of actually shutting down the plant will require much more effort at many other levels.

With the help of the Brown Administration, and on its own, PUARS is stepping up its educational and lobbying activities. It is also engaged in more grass-roots organizing work in the Sacramento area and will be contributing input to two upcoming hearings on Rancho Seco. Direct actions are also being considered for the future. My own feeling is that a large action against the plant could be valuable, but only if it is in the context of continued and persistent lobbying, education and grass-roots community organizing, rather than as an end in itself.

—Joel Yudken

Governor's Guests Remain

People United Against Rancho Seco (PUARS) are continuing a presence in Brown's Office but will only be there from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Many of the demonstrators, originally from Sonoma and Marin Counties, have moved to Sacramento for the duration of the action.

Two meetings have been held with Brown, and several more have been held with his aides. Energy advisor Wilson Clark has provided information on energy alternatives to Rancho Seco. "He's made a sincere effort to work with us, and he's been very helpful," recalls Mary Moore, who has been a part of the occupation since its inception.

Gray Davis, Brown's chief of staff is helping the group set up screenings of Helen Caldicott's film "The Medical Implications of Nuclear Energy" in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Sacramento. He has promised they will be advertised in state buildings, and memos will be sent to state workers.

The Brown administration has promised to appoint a member of PUARS to sit on the board which helps determine the state's Employee Pension Funds investments. 11% are presently invested in the nuclear industry. PUARS will be allowed input into hearings on the safety of Rancho Seco, sponsored by the Office of Emergency Services. Ron Clary, recently fired from Bechtel Corporation after writing an expose on Rancho Seco for New West magazine has agreed to testify. Bechtel Corporation designed and built the plant. Babcock and Wilcox provided the nuclear materials.

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of the NRC is having their own hearing on February 26. PUARS has been promised five speakers or witnesses.

The Sacramento Utilities District Board comes up for election in November. Two of the Board members are anti-nuclear. If those two can keep their seats, and if one more anti-nuclear person were elected, the Board would have the votes to shut down the plant.

Rancho Seco was shut down January 19 for refueling. It should take 30 to 40 days. PUARS would like to see it remain shut down. Help is needed in continuing the campaign. People are specifically needed to coordinate the media campaign, coordinate the legislative lobbying, and someone to serve as a liaison person with other Abalone Alliance groups. Research into energy alternatives for Rancho Seco also needs to continue. For more information, call 916-448-5071 or write People United Against Rancho Seco, Box 160334, Sacramento 95814. Or visit PUARS at their office, 1414 16th Street, Sacramento. —Mark Evonoff

LNG Battle Heats UP

Some twenty miles north of Santa Barbara lies Point Conception, which has become the site of controversy in a battle between Western LNG Associates and Native Americans and environmentalists. As a result of five years of regulatory and legislative maneuverings, Western LNG now has a conditional permit for the siting of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal at Point Conception.

Western LNG, a partnership of Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Gas, and Pacific Lighting, claims that we desperately need the gas that the LNG supertankers would bring from Alaska and Indonesia. But a careful examination of the facts reveals serious doubts about the company's motives and an apparent unconcern for the safety of the surrounding communities.

Since the deregulation of domestic gas and the improved prospects of getting gas from Canada and Mexico, the need for importing LNG has come into question. As usual, it appears that profit is the motive. Special actions by the state and federal governments will grant Western LNG a 15% profit (as opposed to the usual 8%) on the LNG project, and will allow them to pass all costs along to consumers once the project is operational. So the more the project costs, the more Western LNG stands to make.

In addition to the corporations, prominent political figures seem to have an interest in seeing the terminal built. Former Governor Pat Brown imports oil from the Indonesian company that would sell LNG to California. He has also worked as an agent for the Indonesian regime. His law firm (along with Jerry's Office of Planning and Research) wrote the legislation that stripped local government of its veto power over the LNG project.

Community Organizations Oppose Project

Varying concerns about the project have united a wide range of community organizations in opposition to the project. LNG is one of the most volatile substances known and the Point is the site of some of the most treacherous wind and wave conditions in the country. It is also in the missile path of Vandenberg Air Force base; but the Air Force withdrew its objections after being assured by Western LNG that they would not be liable for any accidents involving ships or the terminal.

The Chumash Indians claim Point Conception as the "western gate", the point of departure for all souls leaving this world. They say that desecration of the area would be a violation of their religious freedoms. Anthropologists support the claim that the area has held religious significance for hundreds, if not thousands of years. Environmentalists and nearby landowners oppose the terminal because it would destroy the largest remaining area of unspoiled coastal open space in the county. The cost to consumers of imported LNG has been estimated at double the price of deregulated domestic gas, and the president of Pacific Lighting, when asked about the

impact of the facility and importation costs on gas bills said, "it's easy for me to talk triple."

In 1978 Indians and supporters occupied the site of an ancient Chumash village at Point Conception for several months until a court order restricted the number of Native people allowed to visit the site for religious purposes to 24.

On Halloween, opponents occupied the site when informed that trenching was imminent, but they left the same day when the sheriff's department arrived with a SWAT team. As punishment for the action, the court restricted religious access to a list of eight Indians Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

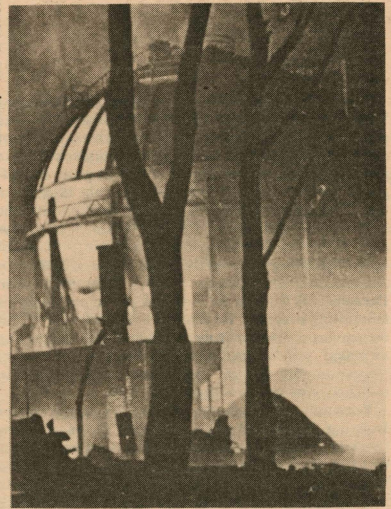
Trenching finally began in late November after many delays and as of this writing at least six faults have been uncovered on the site. The PUC will hold hearings evaluating the seismic data in March.

The Coalition to Protect Point Conception (which includes Santa Barbara, and UCSB People Against Nuclear Power and the Lompoc Safe Energy Coalition) is continuing to educate the community about the issues, trying to get the legislature to hold oversight hearings on economic need, working on building regional and statewide support and pressuring Brown (Jerry) to reverse his position on the siting of a terminal at Point Conception.

For more information contact the Abalone groups involved, or the Coalition to Protect Point Conception, 808 East Cota St., Santa Barbara 93103.

—Tony Mitchell

photo courtesy Mother Jones



Cleveland, 1944: LNG from a ruptured storage tank flowed through city streets and caught fire, killing 133 people and injuring 300. The proposed Pt. Conception LNG terminal is 30 times larger than the Cleveland tank.

What's Wrong With LNG?

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) accidents have already killed over a hundred people. In the industry's short history there have been several fires, four or five collisions involving LNG tankers, one LNG terminal ramming, and numerous truck-tanker accidents. Cracks, leaks, and overpressurizing are common occurrences at LNG storage tanks.

What is LNG?

LNG is normal natural gas, refrigerated to -259 degrees F. What was once 600 cubic feet of gas condenses into one cubic foot of liquid. One shipload of LNG is enough to fuel nine million homes for a day.

The energy industry is very excited about the product, claiming that it is cheaper to store than conventional gas and easier to transport from remote places. Algeria is the world's main supplier of LNG.

Despite industry enthusiasm, corporations have not been willing to invest in LNG development without firm government financial support. Low-interest loans, direct subsidies, and guarantees of future markets without price constraints are some of the government benefits the industry already enjoys. Ratepayers will be required to pay for an LNG facility owned by "their" utility whether or not they use the gas.

As with nuclear power, a utility's rate of return will depend on how much it invests, not on how much energy it produces. So profits will be much greater with LNG than with ordinary gas.

LNG is Unsafe

Economics aside, LNG is not safe. The gas becomes flammable when it vaporizes and mixes with 5% to 15% air. In the worst possible case, the vaporized gas escaping from a ruptured tanker (enough to heat nine million homes) would blow over a populated area, ignite, and incinerate the city.

In 1944 a small LNG storage tank in Cleveland, Ohio burst and started the worst blaze in the city's history. More than a million gallons of LNG flowed into the streets and sewers. Flames around the tank rose 3,000 feet into the air. A quarter square mile of the city was burned, 133 people died, and another 300 were injured. Today's tanks are 35 times larger than the tank that exploded in Cleveland.

Although industrialists claim that tank technology has improved since 1944, another accident occurred in 1971 while an Esso LNG tanker was unloading at La Spezia, Italy. LNG from the ship did not mix properly with LNG in the storage tank on shore. 440,000 pounds of gas suddenly jetted into the sky through safety valves and vents. Fortunately, the winds blew the gas out to sea instead of over the city.

In February 1973, 40 workers on Staten Island, New York were repairing leaks in what was then the world's largest LNG tank. A thin plastic lining, designed to be fireproof, caught fire and collapsed the dome, killing all the workers. The industry still maintains the "incident" was a construction accident, and was not LNG-related. Critics argue that LNG leaked through the lining and saturated the insulation, which was ignited by a cigarette.

Storage of LNG is only one aspect of the danger. Supertanker shipping of the gas adds to the catastrophic potential. In the first half of 1976, 419 oil tankers smashed into vessels, got stranded, or suffered fires or explosions. An accident involving LNG would be much more serious.

The sea off Pt. Conception, site of the proposed LNG terminal, is the most dangerous part of the California coast. So many ships have sunk in the choppy ocean that there is a graveyard of ships off the coast there.

Recently, a Cruise missile test-launched from a Navy vessel crashed two miles from the proposed Pt. Conception LNG site. More tests are scheduled for the area.

—Mark Evanoff

Sources:

—Ron Chernow, "The Day We Set New York On Fire," *Mother Jones*, January 1977, pp. 21-26.
—Lee Niederinghaus Davis, *Frozen Fire*, San Francisco: Friends of the Earth, 1979. \$12.50 cloth, \$6.95 paper.

Philippine Anti-Nuclear Activist Killed

With the fate of a Westinghouse reactor hanging in the balance, the Philippine regime of Ferdinand Marcos has stepped up repression in Morong. Bataan. Residents of the town report that security forces have killed another townsman suspected of being an anti-nuclear activist. The victim, Diosdado Dimmano, is the second resident to have suffered this fate. Ernesto Nazareno, a young construction worker, disappeared in June 1978 while under the custody of the military, and is presumed to be dead.

Dimmano was shot to death by Constabulary troops seeking key leaders of the Movement of Concerned Citizens of Bataan. Warned of the manhunt, most of them were able to elude the military in time. According to Romeo Villanueva, one of the founders of the movement who is presently on a speaking tour of the United States, "Dimmano was the wrong target. He was merely a sympathizer, like most of the people of Morong." Villanueva added that his own grandfather has been harassed by Constabulary troops looking for him.

The wave of repression renders questionable the government's public posture on the reactor. On November 14, Marcos declared that the plant was adequately prepared for seismic and volcanic events, but warned Westinghouse that unless it made "fundamental changes in design," he would not allow construction to proceed. According to the government's special commission on the reactor, one of these modifications is the installation of an "adequate emergency core-cooling system."

Another Marcos Ploy?

Observers feel that the Marcos move is an attempt to influence the actions of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which is presently determining its jurisdiction over health and safety issues associated with the export of the U.S.-built reactor.

"Marcos apparently wants the NRC to get Westinghouse to make his design changes," noted Lyuba Zarsky, spokesperson for the Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Philippines (CNFP). "Then he can wave this around as a certificate of good health to appease public opinion and move on with the project. The problem is the modifications he wants do not address the major issues—the volcanic and earthquake hazards."

Confidential Review

A confidential review of the project made by an NRC consultant contradicts the government's claims that the earthquake and volcanic dangers have been adequately addressed. The review, obtained by the Washington-based Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), was done by Dr. John Kelleher, former staff seismologist of the NRC.

According to Kelleher, a "fundamental shortcoming" of the nuclear project has been the "failure to install an adequate seismic network to evaluate earthquake hazards in the vicinity of the Bataan peninsula." He asserted that without at least two years of gathering data with such a network, it would be difficult to evaluate the seismic design of the plant. The plant is presently designed to withstand ground acceleration of .4g. Like the 1978 Mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Kelleher warns that, with the present inadequate data, the possibility of earthquakes with greater ground acceleration cannot be discounted.

Kelleher also supports the IAEA Mission's view that volcanic eruption is a "credible event." The plant, which is rising on the western flank of Mt. Natib, is only 9.5 kilometers (6 miles) from the volcano's nearest crater.

Other shortcomings pointed out by Kelleher include the inadequate review of the possibility of tidal waves; the impossibility of predicting a specific volcanic eruption; lack of concrete plans to remove and transport nuclear fuel and waste, and to decommission the plant in the event of seismic or volcanic activity.

NRC Jurisdictional Issue

The NRC is reported to have received 20 different submissions arguing for and against the agency's legal capacity to consider health and safety questions associated with the export. Among the organizations which have submitted arguments are the Friends of the Filipino People, Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defense Council, Campaign for a Nuclear Free Philippines, Concerned Citizens Reactor Safety Review Board, Westinghouse, Center for Development Policy, and the Philippine Government. An NRC decision is expected soon.

—Walden Bello

Careless Handlin

The Hanford military reservation, located in Southeast Washington state, is a huge facility which produces plutonium for nuclear weapons under the management of Rockwell International Corporation. Radioactive waste from the production process is stored in giant million-gallon tanks at the site. Over the years, the tanks have leaked dangerous amounts of radioactivity into the environment, and they may still be leaking—or so says physicist Steven Stalos, former manager of a Rockwell team monitoring the leaks (see John Abbotts, *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, October, 1979). Stalos resigned in December 1978, after he was ordered to cut back his monitoring program. He charged that Rockwell, "...at the request of the Department of Energy is still covering up leaks," and he further accused company officials of "irresponsible action" and "unethical action" in radioactive waste management.

Rockwell also manages the DOE's Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP), an investigation into the feasibility of permanent burial of high level waste in the Grande Ronde Basalts located on the Hanford reservation. But here too Rockwell has run into difficulties. In a heretofore unpublished letter to DOE officials, dated June 18, 1979, William Dudley, District Chief of the U.S. Geologic Survey Water Resources Division in Cheyenne, Wyoming, sharply criticized the scientific competence and integrity of Rockwell and its ability to give an unbiased assessment of the long-term effects of buried waste.

Dudley wrote that Rockwell's interpretation of certain hydrologic data were "...strongly slanted toward site verification rather than site evaluation... it appears that (Rockwell) personnel are blind to some rather obvious and disturbing features of the data... some of the data appear to be in conflict either with other data or with common sense." He concluded that, "I am left with the feeling that both DOE management and the Overview Committee are being given an overly optimistic viewpoint and I strongly recommend (a review) by a group of 3 to 5 hydrologists who have no reason to be biased either for or against the Columbia basalts as a waste host medium."

Six Week Leak

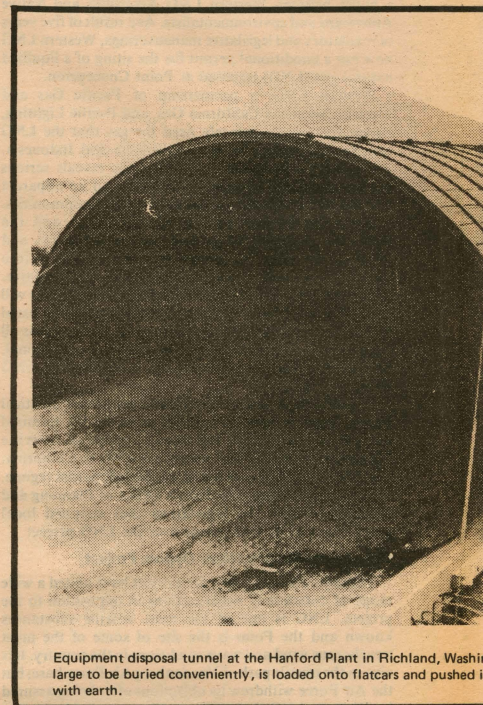
Rockwell's cavalier attitude towards radioactive waste has been apparent for a long time. One of the worst leaks at Hanford occurred in 1973 when weapons waste leaked out of one of the steel tanks at a rate of two gallons per minute for *six weeks* before it was detected. 115,000 gallons seeped through sand and gravel reaching a depth of 100 feet, just 108 feet short of the ground water table that feeds into the Columbia river. The Columbia river is used for irrigation, salmon fishing and for drinking water.

Why did the leak go undetected for so long? The employee in charge of analyzing field monitoring data went on an extended summer vacation and no one took his place. The fact that the waste has so far only migrated 100 feet towards the water table is, according to Rockwell engineers, proof that the system works. The waste, they say, has been stopped by a layer of clay. And they quickly point out that only ruthenium, which has a short half-life of only one year, has moved any significant distance. In fact, according to a 1969 publication by the old AEC, burial of so-called intermediate-level waste in the top soil and reliance on the clay "barrier" to prevent contamination of the ground water is apparently common practice at Hanford.

Hanford has a total of fifty million gallons of high level radioactive soup in need of permanent disposal. Although new, double-walled carbon steel tanks, costing \$4 million each, are replacing the old leaky ones, they have an expected lifetime of only 50 years.

Computer Modeling Determines Acceptability

Even if all reactors were shut down tomorrow and no more nuclear weapons were produced, the problem of where to put the millions of gallons of radioactive waste already generated would remain. Present research on permanent waste disposal focuses on burial in deep, geologically stable rock formations such as granite, salt, basalt or shale deposits. It is very difficult, however, to ascertain that the wastes would remain isolated from the biosphere for as long as 250,000 years. Unfortunately the only way to determine the behavior of physical systems over such large time scales appears to be through reliance



Equipment disposal tunnel at the Hanford Plant in Richland, Washington. Large to be buried conveniently, is loaded onto flatcars and pushed into the tunnel with earth.

Nuclear Disarmament Summer, 1980

To date, the relatively small movement to stop the arms race has been far outpaced by the momentum of the arms race itself. The latest developments in Iran and Afghanistan only serve to make the work of this movement more difficult. But this year, a Nuclear Disarmament Summer Project is being organized nationwide to conduct a massive grass-roots outreach campaign to alert the American people to the growing dangers of nuclear war—particularly through the development of first-strike weapons—and to provide them with alternative information and a credible first-step program for disarmament.

In 1964 the Civil Rights movement organized Freedom Summer to register Black voters in the

South. In 1967 Vietnam Summer was put together to coalesce anti-war sentiment at the grass-roots level. To eliminate the threat posed by nuclear weapons and reduce global tensions will require building a movement here in America and around the world like we have never seen. As a start the nuclear arms race must be elevated to the highest possible place on the public agenda. At present, it is barely a debatable issue.

1980 presents a unique opportunity to do this since it is the beginning of a new decade and a Presidential election year. But to wake people up to the dangers we face will take a major new initiative to reach out to millions of Americans who have been lulled into a silent acceptance of the nuclear arms race by the military's propaganda.

The plan for Nuclear Disarmament Summer is to recruit and train thousands of new volunteers to do a variety of outreach activities during the summer of 1980—including door-to-door canvassing, housemeetings, presentations to groups, leafletting at events and shopping centers, demonstrating at candidates' meetings, holding public hearings, circulating local referendums, and organizing local demonstrations. The Summer Project will begin officially after the April 26 National Actions for a Non-Nuclear World and will tie into other major events throughout the summer, such as the mid-July Survival Gathering in South Dakota, demonstrations at the national political conventions, and August 6-9 actions. The Summer Project may culminate with national demonstrations prior to the elections. The hope is that by the end of the summer we will have raised the nuclear arms race to at least a major debatable issue, and substantially broadened the base of the disarmament movement here and abroad.

Originated by some Northern California anti-nuclear groups and religious community people, the Summer Project proposal has been embraced enthusiastically as a major priority by the Mobilization for Survival at its December national conference. Many initial national organizing responsibilities have been undertaken by an ad hoc group locally.

Lots of creative energy and ideas are needed to make this project a success. If you're interested in getting involved with the Summer Project, contact the temporary office at 944 Market Street, #808, San Francisco, CA 94102, 415/982-6988. A more detailed proposal is also available from the office.

—Steve Ladd

Military Spending: Rev

In June of 1976, candidate Jimmy Carter wrote the Democratic Platform Committee: "Without endangering the defense of our nation or our commitments to our allies we can reduce defense expenditures by \$5 to \$7 billion annually." This same Jimmy Carter last year promised a 3% real annual increase (above inflation) in military spending. While the 1976 Pentagon budget was about \$100 billion, in FY 1981 military spending is budgeted at a staggering \$157.5 billion.

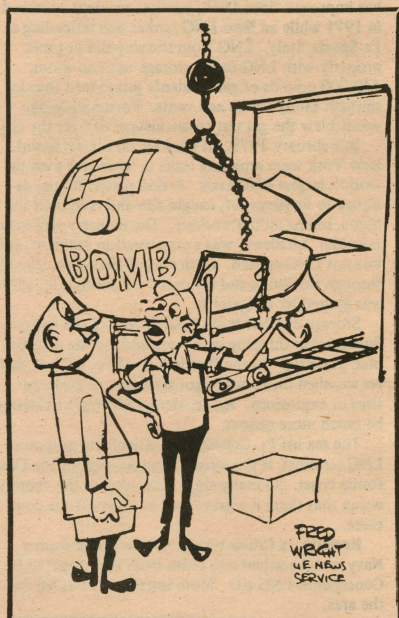
Included in this huge sum is money for the novel "Rapid Deployment Force" (an addition to the special strike forces of the army, navy, and air force). Able to move all over the globe with lightning speed, The Force will have its own ships, airplanes, oil transporters and tactical nuclear weapons, giving it the ability to move all over the globe with lightning speed. Like the other new war toys we saw this holiday season, the RDF is uniquely destructive, experimental and expensive — over five years, it will cost \$9 billion.

An entirely new generation of sophisticated "counter-force" weapons are also scheduled for production and deployment within this budget. (The research, development and testing bill for these weapons will be paid through the Department of Energy budget, yet to be announced). Through our taxes, we are buying deadly Trident II subs, MX (mobile) missile systems, and Cruise missiles. The U.S.-led NATO decision on December 12 to place these Cruise missiles and the Pershing II's in Western Europe is also underwritten in this budget. This decision (basically unnoticed by the U.S. movement) may be the most significant quantitative leap in the nuclear arms race to date. Certainly these highly destabilizing weapons and their presence on Soviet borders foster the rapid chilling of the Cold War. Carter anticipates little domestic opposition. He is confident that the Cold War consensus for "national strength and international involvement survived the divisive and tragic Vietnam War."

Despite a rhetoric of austerity in federal spending and threats of economic chaos, Pentagon planners are free to think of new ways to spend their loot. Spare parts are being stockpiled and relatively fat salaries upgraded. The 1978 military advertising budget was more than all federal outlays for childcare—and the gap is growing. The care and nature of our nuclear weapons is a public responsibility, but children are the private burden of each individual or family.

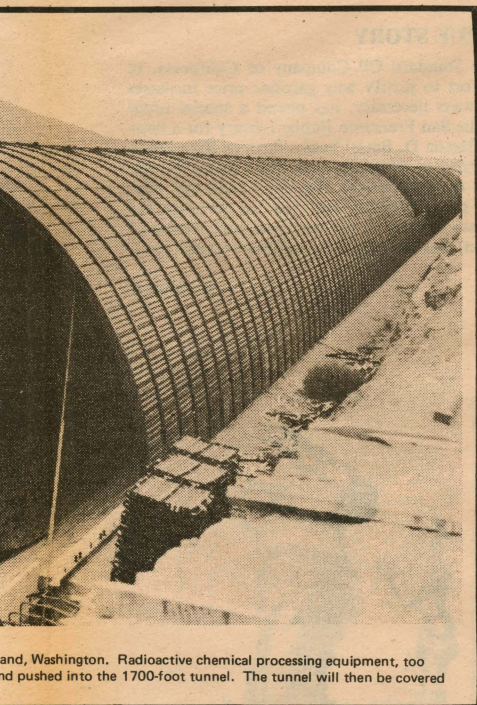
On December 12th President Carter assured the best and the brightest of our corporate world (the Business Council) that "...the keystone of our national security is still our military strength." Recalling Harry Truman, Carter called for expanded military might to protect the "free world" from "communist aggression." Congress annually votes their agreement.

It would be instructive to receive from Baptist Carter and Congress a precise operational definition of "security." With rampant inflation, world "confidence" in the U.S. justifiably eroded, violence and crime the fruit of people's rage and frustration, just who is secure and from what?



"So what if we don't finish it today...
Will the world be worse off for it?"

dling at Hanford



and, Washington. Radioactive chemical processing equipment, too and pushed into the 1700-foot tunnel. The tunnel will then be covered

on computer modeling. Field experiments would not be conclusive unless they were extended over thousands of years.

Computer modeling will be useful in determining site "acceptability" in that it can rule out certain proposed sites as unsatisfactory. But it can never guarantee that a site is absolutely safe. The inability to predict events such as earthquakes and volcanoes thousands of years into the future rules this possibility out. Clearly any site will involve some sort of compromise. In the words of Fred Donath, Professor of Geology at the University of Illinois: "It should be recognized, however, that no one site is likely to have to the fullest degree all the desirable characteristics one can identify. An optimal situation must be sought whereby, if some characteristic associated with a potential repository site is not in itself desirable, other factors, taken collectively, can make the site acceptable."

The standards for "acceptability" may determine whether there are many possible sites for repositories or none at all. At present there are no such standards, and the DOE and NRC appear to be dragging their feet waiting to see what is technically and economically feasible rather than insisting on what is safe.

The most likely failure of a radioactive waste repository is intrusion by water, which could leach waste out of the canisters and carry it into the biosphere.

Computer modeling of the complex interplay of water and heat flow and chemical reactions in deep fractured rock is in its infancy. Present capabilities allow engineers to simulate the behavior of highly idealized systems but it may require many more years of research to model realistic cases. Experiments in this area, which are needed to check the validity of computer models and to provide modeling parameters, are also just beginning. They are very complex, costly and time consuming. No reliable results can be expected "fast".

Preliminary results from idealized models are not very promising. They indicate, for example, that the heat produced by the radioactive waste as it decays may cause large pressure buildups that could rupture the rock, thereby enabling water to flow in and out of the repository. To alleviate this problem it may be necessary

to first allow the waste to cool some 100 years before burial or else leave the repository slightly "open" so that the pressure can escape.

Currently an experiment is being performed by Rockwell inside Gable Mountain at Hanford to determine the effects of heat on basalt. It is called the Near-Surface Test Facility (NSTF) and will use heating elements instead of radioactive canisters to generate the heat. This experiment will not be directly applicable to actual repositories however, because it is conducted at shallow depths.

Uncertainties Remain

To summarize: there are many uncertainties and unknowns in the behavior of radioactive waste buried deep in the earth. It would seem most sensible to stop all production of such waste until it can be determined that a solution is at hand. It may turn out that no solution can be found, or that a "satisfactory" solution is extremely costly. In that case, we would be all the more better off, first for not having produced any more waste, and second for not having developed an ever deepening dependence on an unsafe and unsound technology from which we will find it difficult to turn back.

While it is certainly a step in the right direction to finally address the technological problems of permanent waste disposal, rather than to continue muddling through, much skepticism toward government and industry programs remains. There are many indications that the technical work is often of poor quality and biased towards finding easy solutions fast, rather than addressing the full complexities of the problem. Also industry — in particular Rockwell — keeps much research data proprietary, precluding independent technical review of their results. Considering the fact that much of this research is carried out with public funds, such practices are at best scandalous.

—Roger Garret and
Richard Lessing

Reviving the Cold War

But the deeper question must be *who are we* in all of this? How do we organize to insure that our money buys what we know we need? How do we collectively express our commitment to world community, not U.S. domination and exploitation? It is ours to push our government (out of the way, if necessary) to shape a future which recognizes the well-springs and the price of genuine society.

—Diane Thomas-Glass

Nuclear Free Pacific Day

A public march and civil disobedient actions opposing the manufacture and testing of Trident submarine missile parts will be held in Santa Cruz County, site of Lockheed Missiles & Space Corporation's facility on March 1-3. March 1, anniversary of the 1954 thermonuclear bomb test on Bikini Atoll, has been designated as "Nuclear Free Pacific Day" by those Pacific peoples resisting nuclear proliferation in the Pacific basin. Residents of Santa Cruz County will be voting in June on an initiative which would "...prohibit the manufacture and testing of nuclear weapons..." The actions in early March are intended to heighten awareness of the initiative and related issues.

Saturday's (March 1) activities will include public outreach in the Santa Cruz area followed by a musical fundraising event in the evening. A march on Sunday afternoon will conclude the weekend's outreach efforts, followed by direct action at the Lockheed plant on Monday morning, during which both "legal" and civil disobedience participants will raise the issue of nuclear hostages being a violation of international law. The demonstration will portray the fact that, as world citizens, we are all held hostage by a nuclear arms race which could, within hours, escalate due to an international conflict and destroy all planetary life. There may also be a blockade of a truck transporting explosives into the plant. Nonviolence training is required of all committing civil disobedience.

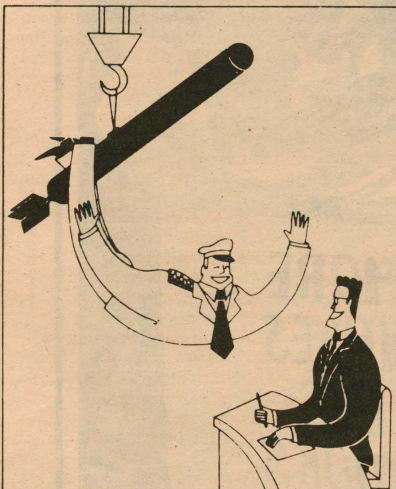
These events are being coordinated by Stop Trident/Convert Lockheed, a coalition of several anti-nuclear weapons and power groups in California. For more information contact: PNFF, 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz, CA 95063, 408/425-1275; PLC, 2120 8th Street, Berkeley, CA 94710, 415/849-2360.

More U.C. Labs Actions Planned

The U.C. Nuclear Weapons Lab Conversion Project is planning Winter and Spring sit-ins aimed at the University Administration. The actions are intended to intensify pressure and broaden support for severing the University of California's ties to the Livermore and Los Alamos weapons laboratories. Abalone Alliance affinity groups are invited to participate.

On November 12, seven members of the Labs Project were arrested for sitting in at U.C. President David Saxon's office in Berkeley to protest continued U.C. involvement with the labs. In December, the District Attorney's office decided not to file charges.

The November 12th action was a beginning. Others are planned for the coming months, culminating in another U.C. Regent's vote on severance and conversion in late spring or early summer. In February a sit-in organized by several members of Bay Area religious congregations is planned for University Hall. In March, students and faculty from U.C. Davis will organize another sit-in. If you wish to become involved, please contact Berkeley Students for Peace 642-7783 or Steve Ladd at WRL/West 626-6976.



"AND BEST OF ALL, SENATOR, THE NEUTRON BOMB STABILIZES PROPERTY VALUES."

"FANTASTIC! LET'S TRY IT ON DETROIT."



Health Department To Do Soil Samplings

In another development, the State Department of Health has decided to act on concerns of anti-nuclear activists and conduct soil samplings and other environmental studies around Lawrence Livermore. The studies will determine if regular releases of plutonium and other radioactive materials from the Laboratory could endanger Bay Area residents.

According to Dr. John Heslet, chief of state laboratory services, "We realize it means a commitment of enormous resources. But there is such a controversy nationally over the effects of low level doses of radiation that we must find some way to make time and resources available." This health survey will include soil samplings within a 20-mile radius around the Lab; a mapping of areas where children have been born with birth defects; location of cancer and leukemia cases; and a study of autopsy samples from area residents.

—Scott Ullman

SHORT CIRCUITS

NUKES REJECTED IN WASHINGTON

Residents of Skagit County in Northwestern Washington have apparently forced cancellation of two nuclear plants scheduled to be built in that state by voting two to one in a referendum not to allow Puget Sound Power and Light to begin construction on the twin Skagit nuclear plants. The utility says it is now considering coal and has put off consideration of the nuclear option for three years. This is the most recent of a series of setbacks for nuclear proponents in the Pacific Northwest. Of 13 nuclear plants planned for the region in the last decade, only one—the Trojan plant in Prescott, Oregon—has been built.

—Critical Mass Journal

OIL EXECS FINED

On January 11, three oil executives pled guilty before U.S. District Judge George Cire and were fined \$40,000 each for violating federal crude oil pricing regulations. Among the guilty executives was Oscar S. Wyatt, chair of the billion-dollar Coastal Corporation. Cire also ordered Coastal and two of its subsidiaries to pay a total of \$20 million in restitution and fines. The violations involved falsifying invoices to pass off domestic crude as foreign and thus sell it at a higher price than permitted for domestically produced oil.

—KPFA

CRANSTON TURNS HAWKISH

Support for increased U.S. military spending has come from an unusual quarter. California Senator Alan Cranston said he thinks federal programs such as state revenue-sharing should be ended to free funds for Pentagon use.

Cranston said his call for an end to federal revenue-sharing was prompted by events in Iran and Afghanistan. Cranston said repeatedly that the U.S. must make it clear that it will pay a high price to stop Soviet aggression and that the U.S. stands ready to use military force to stop future invasions, such as in Afghanistan.

Such tough military talk was unusual coming from Cranston, who has in the past advocated decreases in military spending as a means to balance the federal budget.

Cranston made his statements in favor of increased defense spending as he toured through California in early January campaigning for his own reelection.

—KPFA

CANCER RESEARCHER THREATENED

On October 3, radiation expert Dr. Rosalie Bertell was forced off a New York expressway as she drove from addressing a physician's meeting in Rochester. A heavy metal object was thrown from a car which pulled in front of her, damaging a wheel and forcing her to pull off the road. A few minutes later a car marked "sheriff" pulled up and the plainclothes occupant said he would call local police. Dr. Bertell found out later that local police received no call and the "sheriff's" car was probably phony.

—Wise

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WASTES

For the second time the Pacific Fisher delivered a cargo of Japanese nuclear waste to the port of Cherbourg, France. The response was tougher this time with workers and scholars joining the activists: sabotaging a crane, dislocating a railroad track, and attacking a convoy of trucks. But finally nothing could stop the waste from being stored in the cooling ponds near the international dump site at La Hague.

On October 10 the Pacific Fisher was welcomed at the port of Cherbourg by police forces. The ship carried seven containers containing spent fuel bundles, weighing 72 tons each. The unloading was retarded because a crane was sabotaged during the previous night. The containers were placed on flat wagons which finally left the port of Cherbourg, accompanied by police. But outside the port activists blocked a railway crossing and dislocated the rails. The waste containers had to be transferred to trucks.

Organizers had called for a meeting in the evening, but about a hundred students ignored the meeting and attacked the convoy of trucks with stones. The next day activists occupied the head office of Electricite de France (EDF) in Rouen.

Contact: Comité contre la pollution atomique dans La Hague, B.P. 156, 50104 Cherbourg Cedex, France.

—WISE

OH, WOW, THE MELTDOWN

Eleven Burns security guards at the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant in Oregon were arrested in early November on drug charges stemming from the sale and furnishing of cocaine, amphetamines, marijuana, and LSD.

—Not Man Apart

A TRUE STORY

The Standard Oil Company of California, in an effort to justify why gasoline price increases are always necessary, has placed a special order with the San Francisco Public Library for a copy of Jefferson D. Bates' book, *Writing With Precision: How to Write So That You Cannot Possibly Be Misunderstood*. The copy that was supposed to be available for their use (through the Business Library in the San Francisco Financial District) was ripped off by another corporation.

—R. Sources



Army Medical Examiner: "At last a perfect soldier!"

ROBERT MINOR

July, 1916

PLUTONIUM WORKERS CONTAMINATED

Fifteen workers were exposed to an unknown quantity of plutonium oxide during an accident November 16, 1979, at Babcock and Wilcox's fuel fabrication firm in Apollo, Pa. The accident occurred when a specially designed handling box broke open and contaminated the air in a room where workers were employed. The contaminated air was not released into the atmosphere, the company says, due to filters which purportedly removed the radioactivity from vented gas. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Babcock and Wilcox are independently investigating the degree of exposure to the plutonium.

—Critical Mass Journal

HEY, BUDDY! WANT TO BUY SOME HOT TOOLS?

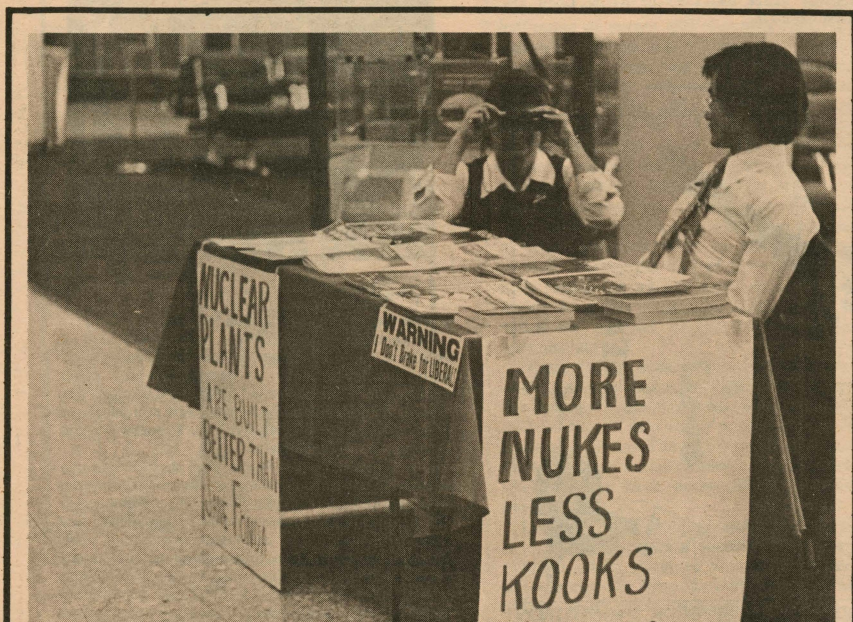
Thousands of radioactively contaminated items were stolen from a Nevada nuclear waste dump, according to NRC inspector Frank Wenslavski. Wenslavski told a hearing by the Nevada Board of Health that the thefts were "by far" the most serious he had ever encountered. Items stolen from the Beatty, Nevada dump from the late 60's through early 70's ranged from plywood crates to a cement mixer once used to mix wastes. A town resident used the "hot" mixer to build a large concrete patio, which was ordered torn up and buried by the state because it was radioactive.

The hearing was prompted by Nevada governor Bob List's request that the health board revoke the license of Nuclear Engineering Company, operators of the dump. It is one of three such dumps in the nation.

Richard McClain, a former dump employee, told the hearings that practices at the dump included the illegal dumping of liquid wastes into open trenches. He said he personally drove a 2,800-gallon tanker truck, which was full of waste from the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, up to one of the trenches and "pulled the plug."

Nuclear Engineering officials now in authority claim they are not responsible for actions of former company officials. The company faces a 13-count complaint from the state Human Resources Department.

—San Francisco Chronicle, 11/28/79



A U.S. Labor Party table at the Oakland Airport. They tried to take our picture, too, but forgot the flashbulb. These pro-nuke people never were too good at technology.

photo by Barbara Bowman

REVIEW

The Anti-Nuclear Handbook, by Stephen Croall.
Illustrations by Kaianders. Pantheon Books, \$2.95.

Despite an unappealing (and inappropriate) title, this little book is a gem. Done in comic-book form, it is less a handbook than a quick tour through the causes and history of nuclear development.

The cartooning, although rough, is imaginative and funny, and manages to make serious points with visual wit rather than lengthy arguments. The book has a refreshingly international perspective, and touches on a wide range of nuclear-related problems, including nuclear hazards, worker safety, government repression, and corporate exploitation of the Third World. The myth of the "peaceful atom" is especially well treated, with numerous reminders that "civilian" nuclear power and weapons production are one technology, promoted and supported by many of the same institutions.

Explanations of nuclear and alternative technologies are scattered throughout and are generally accurate, although simplified to an extent that make purists cringe. Disappointingly, however, conservation — the cheapest and least damaging future energy source — is generally overlooked. What mention there is of it focuses on voluntary avoidance of uneeded goods, rather than improved energy efficiency, reinforcing the false notion that less energy use means a lower standard of living. But this is one omission in an otherwise excellent overview.

Croall's main argument is that nuclear power is only one result of allowing a small class of people to make decision that affect everyone. And he insists that merely replacing nuclear power with renewable energy technologies simply shapes these energy sources into centralized and profitable forms like solar satellites. This point is often missed by "soft energy" advocates who have a naive (and dangerous) faith that anything as "natural" as renewable energy can only be developed in socially benign ways. It would be wonderful if there was a quick technological road to social justice, but solar energy *per se* has no more chance of changing societal power relations than did electricity or the automobile.

Croall recognizes this, and he advocates that ecologists, workers, and white-collar professionals join together to find common interests and alternative means of production and consumption. He suggests a planned, socialist economy — a democratic one, not an authoritarian bureaucracy on the Soviet model. But the final section of the book becomes "preachy," almost as if he were afraid the reader would miss the point.

Minor annoyances aside, the *Handbook* is consistently informative and entertaining. Well worth the hour's reading time.

—Bob Van Scoy

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

On January 10, a drive began to qualify an "environmental bill of rights" for the California ballot. The initiative, backed by fifty environmental and public-interest groups, must gather 700,000 signatures to make the November ballot. It would give the public constitutional rights to a safe environment and better living conditions, including "productive" jobs, affordable housing, renewable energy, efficient transportation, and open space.

Backers concede that the initiative, in itself, won't guarantee a safe environment. But they say it will hobble bad legislation, encourage stronger safeguards, and improve the legal standing of victims.

But in helping to launch the bill, David Brower, chair of Friends of the Earth, gave up one important protection. One right included in the bill is freedom from "involuntary" exposure to toxic chemicals. Brower was asked how this would affect workers exposed to chemicals on their jobs. Is this exposure "voluntary" even if a worker must choose between health and a job? Brower seemed to think so. He stated that "if they want to live in that hostile working place, that is their choice."

—Bob Van Scoy
from KPFA sources

INDUSTRY WINS DOUBLESPEAK AWARD

At its annual conference in Los Angeles, the National Council of Teachers of English gave the entire nuclear industry its 1979 Doublespeak Award. The award is presented each year to the person or persons who the group feels has most misused the English language to the detriment of the public welfare. In giving the "honor," the group cited the industry's description of a hydrogen explosion as a "rapid disassembly," of a fire as "rapid oxidation," and several other examples. So don't worry about plutonium contamination, folks; according to the industry, it has merely "taken up residence" in your area.

—Critical Mass Journal

SHORT DELAY FOR PG&E COAL PLANT

According to PG&E, an application to build a coal-fired generating plant in Solano County has been delayed for three months because of smog reduction costs. But the utility says it still has "full intention" to build the huge 1,600 megawatt plant, scheduled for completion in 1986. The company claims that compliance with the state's air pollution regulations could cost \$1 billion, but the state Air Resources Board estimates the cost at less than half that figure.

—KPFA

NUKE WORKER TELLS OF 'HUSH-UP'

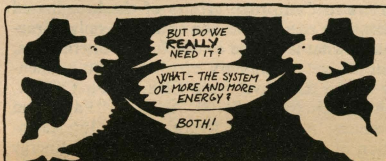
On November 27, a House Government Operations Subcommittee began hearings on construction practices at the Marble Hill Nuclear Power Plant near Madison, Indiana. Construction on the plant was halted in August after an NRC investigation confirmed a plant worker's charges of defects in the concrete containment structure of the plant.

Charles Cutshall of Austin, Indiana testified that he told supervisors about 19 flaws but was told "not to say anything." NRC inspectors verified 18 of the flaws after Cutshall pointed them out to them. He testified that he was told to mix concrete to patch the holes in one proportion but to say that another, stronger proportion had been used. Cutshall also said he watched a supervisor tell another laborer to "cover up" one section of improperly packed concrete. He said he was pro-nuclear when he started the job, but "after I started working and saw how the construction was handled, I changed my views."

—San Francisco Chronicle, 11/28/79

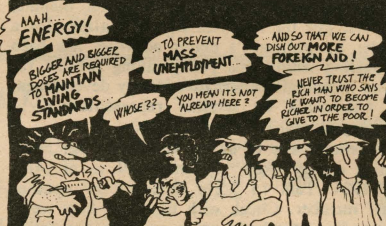
Some Excerpts From The Anti-Nuclear Handbook

IT'S A SYSTEM THAT DEMANDS MORE & MORE ENERGY...



The official line in the industrialized countries is that demand for energy will continue to soar...and that around 1990 it'll outstrip supplies of fossil fuels...creating an ENERGY GAP that only the nuke can fill...

IN FACT, THEY SAY, WITHOUT NUCLEAR ELECTRICITY OUR LIVES WILL BE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN BY THE END OF THE CENTURY...



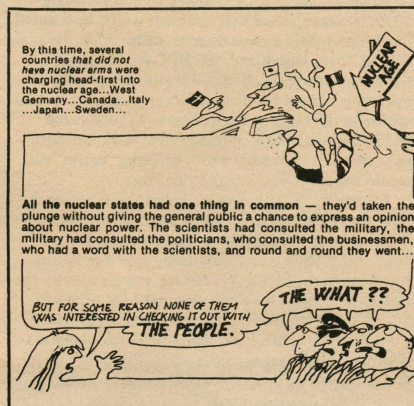
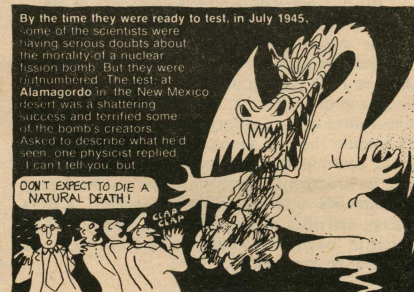
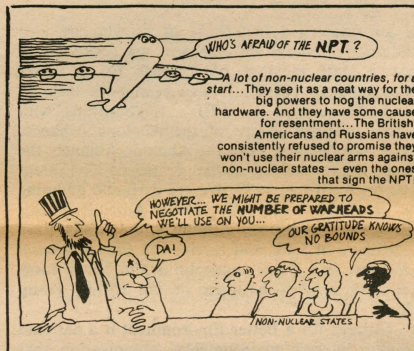
THEY ALSO GENERATE PLUTONIUM FOR US.

YAY YAY.

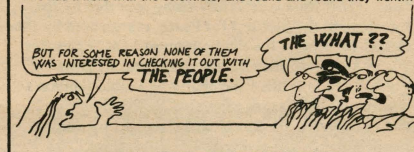
...AND MANY MISSED THE POINT...



SO IT WASN'T STRANGE THAT MUCH OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT DISMISSED THE ENVIRONMENT MOVEMENT AS AN ASSEMBLY OF MIDDLE-CLASS CRAZIES OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE FACTS OF WORKING LIFE...



All the nuclear states had one thing in common — they'd taken the plunge without giving the general public a chance to express an opinion about nuclear power. The scientists had consulted the military, the military had consulted the politicians, who consulted the businessmen, who had a word with the scientists, and round and round they went...



February 1: Plutonium Players and Darryl Henriques (Joe Carcinagini) perform an evening of anti-nuke and environmental comedy. 8:00 p.m. at La Pena, Berkeley. Call Gail, 436-7345.

February 1: Benefit potluck for the Legal Defense Fund of Dennis Banks, Russ Redner, Kamouk Banks and Kenneth Loud Hawk. Entertainment, Indian Drums. Bolinas Community Center. Admission, \$3.00

February 1 and 8: Film showing, "The Medical Implications of Nuclear Energy," starring Dr. Helen Caldicott. Sponsored by the people sitting in at Governor Brown's office. 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. State Bldg., Rm. 1194, 455 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco.

February 2: Agenda Planning meeting for the March Abalone conference. Summaries of all proposals earmarked for consideration at the conference must be submitted to this meeting. Contingency plans will be made to extend the meeting into February 3 if needed. Noon, Santa Barbara. Contact either S.B. group for more information.

February 6 and 7: "Medical Implications of Nuclear Energy," 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., State Building, Rm. 1138, 107 S. Broadway, Los Angeles.

February 9: Deadline to mail out all proposals to be discussed at the March conference. For more information, see article on December conference.

February 9: Energy I Conference - an education about natural energy resources geared toward youth. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Alternative Energy Collective, Yosemite Institute, Point Bonita YMCA. Location: Golden Gate Natural Recreation Area, Fort Cronkite.

Calendar



Thanks

Thanks to everyone who helped put out this issue, especially our volunteer typesetters, William Meyers and Cindy Cornell.

February 9: Hearings of the State Office of Emergency Services on Rancho Seco, to evaluate the plant's safety and the adequacy of evacuation plans. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. State Resources Building, 1416 9th St., Sacramento. Contact People United Against Rancho Seco, 916-448-5071.

February 11: Applications for Abalone Alliance staff positions due. Contact Abalone Alliance, 944 Market St., Rm. 307, San Francisco 94102, 415-543-3910.

February 22 - 24: Organizers' Workshop for the anti-nuclear movement in Northern California, sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. These workshops are for those people wishing further training in organizing and who are willing to hold workshops for their own local groups. Each local group is asked to send 2 - 4 individuals to participate. Contact David Hartough, AFXC, 2160 Lake St., SF 94121, 415-752-7766.

February 29 - March 2: Organizers' Workshop for the anti-nuclear movement in Southern California. Contact Tony Mitchell, SB-PANP, 312-1 Sola St., Santa Barbara 93101, 805-966-4565.

March 1 - 3: Nuclear Free Pacific Days. A public march and civil disobedience actions emphasizing the illegality of nuclear weapons under international law will take place at Santa Cruz's Lockheed facility. Contact Scott Kennedy, 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95063. 408-425-1275 or George Rodkey, 415-849-2360.

January - December 1980: It's Election Year - Cast Your Vote At The Pentagon. Year-long vigil to protest the increased attention being paid to first-strike weapons. People are asked to participate for at least one week. Housing facilities are provided. Contact Jonah House, 1933 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21217.

Coordinate with CBE

I am concerned that those of us who are into alternative energy development get coordinated. As a staff member of Citizens for a Better Environment (CBE), I have been both inspired and discouraged by CBE's relationships with other member groups of the Abalone Alliance. We co-sponsored, with the Abalone Alliance, the mass demonstration at San Francisco Civic Center on April 7th, 1979. We are currently planning a conference with the whole Alliance. Many prominent, long-time activists in the Alliance are members of CBE and receive the *Environmental Review*. But closer connections and better coordination need to be made on the affinity group level.

Citizens for a Better Environment is a national public interest environmental organization that does research, government watchdogging, and legal action. It is involved in a wide range of industrial air and water pollution, toxic substances, and energy issues.

CBE has more resources in the areas of staff, research, law and canvassing than other groups in the Abalone Alliance. Because we have a national perspective, we see that the fight against massive proliferation of nuclear power plants has been won in California, and feel that CBE should direct most of its California energy activities into 1) holding the line against coal, the other large-scale, centralized power source with major health and environmental problems, and 2) developing a statewide alternative energy policy. CBE's energy activities and research can keep all of us better in touch with what's going on in state and national governments.

Here in California, efforts of the broadbased alternative energy coalition so far are only a fraction of what is needed to develop the alternatives. You can get a summary of what's been happening at the state level from CBE, 88 First Street, San Francisco, CA 94100. Ask for, "Paper and Promises: A Progress Report on the Implementation of Energy Conservation and Solar Energy Measures in California."

The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Energy Commission have as much influence on our energy destiny as the legislature. Utilities must discuss how they are going to meet the demand for electrical energy with the Energy Commission. The policymaking process where energy destiny gets formed is called the Biennial Report. For the last year one of Citizens for a Better Environment's major activities has been struggling within this policymaking process for more meaningful alternative energy development in California by sending representatives to Sacramento.

Whenever any of us has the energy for alternative energy work you may call us at (415) 777-1984. Talk to Steve Dreistadt or another staff member. Check with us about how we're responding to what's going on with alternative energy development and conservation in San Francisco, with county ordinances around the state, with the Energy Commission and PUC. Or ask us what the latest CBE ENERGY ALERT is about and how you can help.

—Linda Steingold

Quick Consensus on Abalone Structure

After one full year of concentrated effort, the Abalone Alliance has succeeded in developing and reaching consensus on a new structure. The historic passage occurred at the December 15 statewide conference in San Luis Obispo. At the smallest conference in the Abalone's three year existence, thirteen member groups reached consensus within the first fifteen minutes, with Alliance for Survival (Topanga Canyon) standing aside. The rest of the weekend was spent making minor revisions.

Adoption of the new structure should free the Alliance to work on planning new activities. Throughout the state, groups are developing actions around Diablo Canyon, Rancho Seco, San Onofre, decommissioning Humboldt Bay, Trident, a proposed Liquefied Natural Gas terminal at Point Conception, and a utility rate strike. Two strategy conferences will be held each year to agree on statewide actions. The first will be held March 15 and 16 in Northern California.

Consensus is still the central theme of the new structure, but the method of presenting proposals for decision making has been altered. Plans for activities must contain a budget and a fundraising scenario. The structure is involved and too lengthy to print fully here, so individuals should contact their local group for a copy. **A Summary**

- Three methods of decision making exist; a mail process, spokes councils, and conferences.

- Proposals to be decided on at state conferences must be sponsored by four member groups, and mailed out to all Abalone groups five weeks before the meeting. No decisions can be made on proposals not following this process. *Proposals to be decided on at the March Conference must be mailed out to all Abalone Alliance groups by February 9.*

- A finance spokes council will meet twice a year to prepare a budget defining financial priorities and goals to be consensed at state conferences.

- A finance collective will meet monthly to coordinate fundraising activities and administer the budget. It will not be a decision making body.

- All collectives and offices are responsible for sending updated reports covering activities and expenses to all AA groups and to conferences, and operating within their established guidelines.

- Proposals for all actions must contain a complete budget, and fundraising strategy.

- In the spirit of nonviolence, "conflict resolution" may be used in cases of disagreements or severe misunderstandings involving member groups and collectives. A resource packet for use in conflict resolution will be available through the office.

Other Decision Made

- The role of the media service was defined, and guidelines were established for use of the Abalone Alliance name. The service will be self funding, and is free to seek grants in the name of the Abalone Alliance Media Service.

- The state wide office will continue to be funded with two full-time paid positions, not necessarily limited to two individuals. The office will remain in San Francisco for at least six months.

- The Diablo Project Office will continue to receive funding until the conference, with one full time paid position.

—Mark Evanoff

Diablo Blockade Update

Dear Friends,

When the hearings on Diablo ended in February 1979, it was expected that the plant would be licensed to operate within two or three months. After the accident at Three Mile Island, the NRC staff initiated a temporary freeze on all new construction permits and operating licenses for nuclear power plants. In response to the findings of the Kemeny Commission and an increasing lack of public credibility, the NRC announced in November a new licensing "pause" that would last for five months to two years.

Currently, PG&E's license application is before the NRC for consideration of three broad safety issues:

- The risks due to seismic activity from the Hosgri fault. (This issue is currently being appealed by the Intervenor, the Mothers for Peace, represented by the Center for Law in the Public Interest. On September 27, 1979, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of the NRC had certified the ability of Diablo Canyon to withstand earthquakes generated by the Hosgri fault and overruled contrary evidence brought forward in the hearings of December 1978 - February 1979.)

- The relevance to the Diablo facility of new data derived from analysis of the Three Mile Island accident.

- The adequacy of the emergency response plan that PG&E has developed to deal with potential accidents at the Diablo plant.

Before Diablo can be licensed, the NRC must issue a supplement to the plant's Safety Evaluation Report (SER.) The SER Supplement would include technical recommendations of the NRC staff task forces to prevent the chain of events which occurred at TMI. This will not be ready until January 1980 at the earliest, according to the NRC, and the Intervenor will then be allowed to comment on it. Furthermore, it appears likely that the NRC hearings pertaining to the licensing of Diablo will reopen to consider emergency preparedness issues. Governor Brown and the State of California will be joining the Intervenor on this issue. The hearings themselves would not begin until spring 1980 at the earliest.

Taking all this into consideration, it appears that an operating license will not be granted before summer, 1980.

— Diablo Project Office

Transport Risks

Greenpeace, along with a coalition of other anti-nuclear groups, is actively organizing against the transportation of radioactive materials in the United States. The Radioactive Materials Transportation Project (RMTP) involves: tracing shipments, non-violent direct action, education and working to pass ordinances restricting radioactive shipments.

The research for RMTP has revealed a number of areas for concern. One of these is the use of cost/benefit analysis by the nuclear industry. Such analyses often have the appearance of impartial, scientific objectivity; in fact, the industry is using this form of analysis to advocate their cause, and to obscure the risks of nuclear energy.

The industry uses cost/benefit analysis for several important reasons. First, this type of analysis appears to create certainty out of uncertainty. By converting the factor of risk into a numerical probability equation, the analysts attempt to lure us into believing that no uncertainty exists at all. For example, a recent Department of Energy publication assures us that, "we have enough facts and figures on the hazards (of high level radioactive waste transportation) to allow a more objective evaluation of risk acceptability than we might derive solely from 'gut' feelings." Such a statement suggests that "facts and figures" render hazards harmless; of course, they do not.

Another reason that the industry relies on cost/benefit analysis is that this technique appears to quantify the unquantifiable. By reducing all factors to the common denominator of cost comparison, money, the analysis can express immeasurable harms such as environmental contamination, injury, mass hysteria, and even death, in dollar-and-cents figures. Thus, a NRC document discusses a transportation alternative: "This alternative is clearly not cost effective since there is a saving of \$15,000,000 associated with the decreased radiological impact, but a cost of \$33,000,000 associated with the additional (transportation) distance." What is obscured by this analysis is the fact that the \$15,000,000 figure is being used to represent about 24,000 person-rem of radiation exposure and at least four annual cancer deaths.

Once the uncertain is made to look certain, and the unpurchasable given a price tag, nuclear advocates make the final step in the cost/benefit analysis. The now-quantified costs (risks) are compared to the benefits of nuclear energy; not surprisingly, the costs are made to look minute and "socially acceptable." A NRC document concludes: "... an individual is 100,000 times as likely to be killed as a result of being struck by lightning as he is to die from radiological causes within one year following a transportation accident involving a shipment of radioactive materials. ... The propaganda process is complete: the risks have been reduced to numbers, and the numbers have been made to look attractive.

The nuclear industry would have a perfect panacea in the form of cost/benefit analysis were it not for one problem: *when applied to nuclear safety, cost/benefit analysis is fallacious.* The point cannot be stressed too much. A number of factors show the hollowness of nuclear cost/benefit analysis. First, such analyses ignore the fact that, while the present generation will choose among energy alternatives and reap their benefits, it will

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photo by Barbara Bowman

be future generations who will bear the costs if we choose nuclear energy. Second, cost/benefit analyses equate such factors as lives and profits by assigning a dollar figure to both. As University of California research sociologist Dr. Ida Hoos points out: "... converting the nebulous costs into the more or less hard currency of the marketplace is an act of sheer hubris. What value should be placed on human life, illness, or suffering? How should such values be determined, and by whom?" Finally, cost/benefit analyses are too often based upon inadequate data. In the area of radioactive materials transportation, for example, cost/benefit analyses are based on data such as human error rates for transportation accidents involving radioactive materials. These rates typically are extrapolated from the DOT's and NRC's accident reports. These reports, however, are an unacceptable data base; they only include those accidents which are reported, which may be only a fraction of the total; they are a small sample, due to the relatively short period of time nuclear power has been used; they typically "under-report" the severity of accidents. Thus, cost/benefit analyses claim objectivity, impartiality, and validity, while obscuring the uncertainty, biases, and vested interests of the analysts.

The problem of nuclear energy can be approached only with a recognition that it involves moral decisions, not mathematical equations. It is not a question of "benefit dollars" and "risk dollars", and finding a balance. It is a question of dollars and life, and there can be no balance.

Contact: Greenpeace, Fort Mason, San Francisco 94123. 415-474-6767.

Rancho Seco Retrial Abandoned

On January 8, the prosecution dropped all charges in the retrial of nine persons arrested for trespassing at the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant near Sacramento last March 31. In their first trial, the defendants successfully presented a "defense of necessity," arguing their actions were justified by the grave dangers of nuclear power. That trial ended last August in a deadlocked jury.

In announcing dismissal of charges, Deputy District Attorney Patrick Marlette claimed the prosecution had made its point that "that kind of behavior is unacceptable." But he acknowledged that the prosecution probably couldn't have gotten a conviction in the second trial. And Judge Raoul Ramirez indicated he would have allowed the necessity defense to be presented again, saying not to do so would be a travesty of justice. Judge Ramirez also noted that the trial has cost local taxpayers \$30,000 already, and a retrial would have brought the bill to \$70,000.

—Bob Van Scoy
from KPFA news sources

Safe Energy Groups

ABALONE ALLIANCE OF MARIN*

1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
San Anselmo, CA 94961
415-472-4007 or 472-4047

ABALONE ALLIANCE CLUB

WEST VALLEY COLLEGE
1400 Fruitvale Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070
408-867-1096 or 374-6459

ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL

944 Market St. Room 808
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-982-6988

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE

COMMITTEE
2160 Lake St.
San Francisco, CA 94121
415-752-7766

BOLINAS AGAINST NUCLEAR

DESTRUCTION
P.O. Box 708
Bolinas, CA 94924
415-868-1401

ALLIANCE AGAINST NUCLEAR

POWER
c/o Carroll Child
University of California Medical Center
N319X
San Francisco, CA 94143
415-681-1028 (h) or 666-1435 (UC)

ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL*

712 S. Grand View St.
Los Angeles, CA 90057
213-738-1041

GROUP OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR

ENERGY
300 South 10th St.
San Jose, CA 95112
408-297-2299

CITIZENS ALLIANCE FOR

SAFE ENERGY
Box 887
Mendocino, CA 95460

CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES

TO NUCLEAR ENERGY
424 Lytton
Palo Alto, CA 94301
415-325-6049

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER

ENVIRONMENT
88 First St. Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

CAMARILLO COALITION

FOR SAFE ENERGY
1759 Marco
Camarillo, CA 93010
805-482-7321

COMMUNITY NETWORK FOR

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY
709 Davis St.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-528-6543

COASTSIDERS FOR A

NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE
P.O. Box 1401
El Granada, CA 94018
415-728-7406

COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION

NETWORK
P.O. Box 33686
San Diego, CA 92103
714-236-1684 or 295-2084

CHICO PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR

FREE FUTURE
708 Cherry St.
Chico, CA 95926
916-891-6424

DOWNWIND ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 183
Covelo, CA 95428
707-983-9969

EAST BAY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP*

585 Alcatraz, Suite A
Oakland, CA 94609
415-655-1715

CONTRA COSTANS AGAINST

NUCLEAR POWER
c/o Carol John
195 Grover
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
415-938-3062 or 934-5249

LOMPOC SAFE ENERGY

COALITION
238 South J St.
Lompoc, CA 93436
805-736-1897

ABALONE ALLIANCE OFFICE: 944 Market St., Rm. 307, San Francisco, CA 94102 415-543-3910

DIABLO PROJECT OFFICE: 452 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, 805-543-6614

*Denotes that several community/neighborhood groups and affinity groups are working in the vicinity.

SACRAMENTANS FOR A

NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE
c/o Dan Eichelberger
3430 E. Street, Apt. 72
North Highlands, CA 95660

MID-PENINSULA CITIZENS

FOR SAFE ENERGY
75 Ladato Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403
415-574-3245

MOTHERS FOR PEACE

114 Del Norte
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

MOUNTAIN PEOPLE FOR

NUCLEAR FREE LIFE
1121 Scenic
Felton, CA 95018

NAPA VALLEY

ENERGY ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 97
Napa, CA 94558
707-255-7493

NEVADA COUNTY PEOPLE

FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE
P.O. Box 457
Nevada City, CA 95959
916-272-4848

PELICAN ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 596
Pt. Reyes, CA 94937
415-663-8483

PEOPLE'S ANTI-NUCLEAR

COLLECTIVE
U.C. Berkeley
607 Eshelman Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720
415-642-6912

PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR

POWER
U.C. Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 14006
Santa Barbara, CA 93107
805-968-4238 or 968-2886

SANTA BARBARA PEOPLE

AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER
312 East Solis St. #1
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-966-4565

PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR

POWER*
944 Market St., Room 808
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-781-5342

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR

FREE FUTURE
433 Russell
Davis, CA 95616
916-758-6810

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR

FREE FUTURE
515 Broadway
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
408-425-1275

PEOPLE GENERATING ENERGY

452 Higuera
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805-543-8402

PEOPLE FOR SAFE ENERGY

c/o Grant Marcus
2069 E. Harvey
Fresno, CA 93701
209-268-3109

REDWOOD ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 293
Arcata, CA 95521
707-822-7884

RIVERSIDE ALLIANCE FOR

SURVIVAL
c/o 3150 Redwood Dr.
Riverside, CA 92501
714-748-0047

ROSES AGAINST A NUCLEAR

ENVIRONMENT
P.O. Box 8842
Stanford, CA 94305
415-322-2759

SONOMA ALTERNATIVES FOR ENERGY

P.O. Box 452
Sonoma, CA 95476
707-996 5123

SHASTANS FOR ALTERNATIVES

TO NUCLEAR ENERGY
1620 Fig Ave.
Redding, CA 96001

SO NO MORE ATOMICS*

883-E Sonoma Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-526-7220

STANISLAUS SAFE ENERGY

COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 134
Modesto, CA 93354
209-529-5750

STOP URANIUM NOW

P.O. Box 772
Ojai, CA 93023
805-646-3832

SOCIETY UNITING FOR

NON-NUCLEAR YEARS
580 Lighthouse Ave.
Monterey, CA 93940
408-375-7794

TEHAMA'S AGAINST NUCLEAR

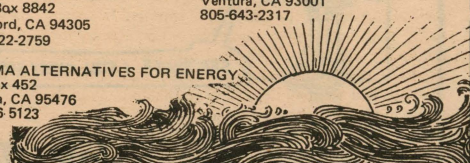
POWER
905 Jackson No. 2
Red Bluff, CA 96080
916-527-8054

UPPER NAPA VALLEY

ENERGY ALLIANCE
1513 Madrona Ave.
St. Helena, CA 94574
707-963-7835

VENTURA SAFE ENERGY ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 1966
Ventura, CA 93001
805-643-2317



CORPORATE LIES DEPARTMENT

(from December 17 *Time*)

Britain Plans Nuclear Energy Increase

The Washington Post

Spain Set To Construct 2 Nuclear Power Plants

Wall Street Journal

French Are Accelerating Nuclear Power Program

New York Times

Germany Sells Nuclear Know-How To Argentina

Nuclear Power. Because America Needs Energy

America's Electric Energy Companies. Department H, Post Office Box 470, Rensselaer Manor, New York 10800.

Remember when you were a kid, and your parents wouldn't let you stay up late? "Everyone else's folks let *them* do it," you whined. That wasn't true, was it? Well, the nuclear industry is now trying to sell us the same line you tried on your parents. This ad paints a world busily replacing oil with nuclear power, while only America risks its future by listening to the anti-nuclear kooks. "Headlines" from respected newspapers seem to support this imaginative tale.

But in reality, opposition to nuclear power is far more developed (and effective) in Europe than it is here. Take West Germany, for example. In 1974, the German government planned to have 47 nuclear plants running by 1985. But intense public resistance has now reduced this number to between 10 and 18. Only one new reactor order has been placed in four years, and five existing orders are blocked in the courts or by local opposition. Late last March, over 100,000 people marched on Hannover to protest nuclear power and the proposed Gorleben reprocessing plant. The German magazine *Der Spiegel* reported, "[The Three Mile Island accident] awakened new doubts about the blessings of the growth-based economy, whose symbol nuclear power has become. Energy-thirsty America is hardly ready for deep self-examination, but in Europe atomic power is being reconsidered."

The ad implies that some countries have already "decided" their energy future. Only one country has actually asked the people. In November, 1978, Austria held its first national referendum since World War II and the first national nuclear referendum anywhere. Despite massive campaign spending by pronuclear forces, operation of the fully completed Zwentendorf nuclear plant was rejected (along with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, who had linked his political fate to its acceptance).

The advertisement's most dishonest part, however, is the implication that nuclear power can replace foreign oil. Imported oil now provides about 25% of our energy. But nuclear provides only 2%—a contribution that ranks with firewood. In order to replace all that imported oil by 1990, we would have to build *eight hundred* new nuclear plants—or one every *four days* for the next 10 years. This modest plan would consume nearly one *trillion* dollars, or about \$15,000 from every American family. Building the plants would use great quantities of the very oil we are trying to conserve. We would be faced with the cost of converting major portions of U.S. industry from oil to electricity—if they could be converted at all. And the health costs of fueling and operating hundreds of hastily constructed nuclear plants are incalculable.

But if it could be done, and if we were willing to pay these costs, would we be "energy independent"? Hardly. Even the Atomic Industrial Forum admits that the reactors already on order will use up all known domestic uranium supplies. So we would have to buy from the international uranium cartel, which has already driven up prices from \$6 a pound in 1972 to over \$50 today. The nuclear industry would have us spend a trillion dollars just to deal with "UPEFC" instead of OPEC.

The energy corporations, of course, could care less about energy independence. In fact, OPEC has been the perfect excuse to jack up their take at the gas pumps. The ad's bottom line *should* read:

“Nuclear Power. Because Corporations Need Profits.”

(we just heard)

JIMMY'S COMING TO TOWN



st. francis hotel s.f.
fri. feb. 8



Jimmy Carter will be at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco on February 8. As *It's About Times* goes to press, plans for a rally are being drawn up. For more information, call People Against Nuclear Power, 415-781-5342.

SEE THAT? I STILL CARRY SOME NUCLEAR MUSCLE.

info, 781-5342

HELP US SURVIVE

Please (Re)Subscribe!

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Cartoon by Bill Oetinger.