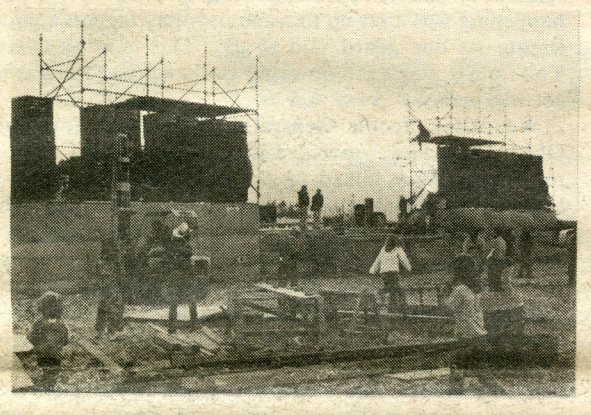
it's about time
August 1979
abalone alliance newsletter

40,000 Say "STOP DIABLO"

A FEW VOLUNTEERS



photos by Barbara Bowman

Jessica Collett

and their friends

Hour after hour the people flowed into the old airfield set among the golden hills of the Central California countryside. In a massive outpouring of public concern 40,000 people gathered in San Luis Obispo on June 30 to express their opposition to the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. About 20,000 came to the Abalone Alliance rally from the towns and communities throughout the local area, probably close to 30% of the entire population within 25 miles of Diablo Canyon! About 20,000 more travelled from other areas, most of them making a 450 mile round trip from the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas in the midst of soaring gasoline prices and service station shut-downs.

San Luis Obispo had become the village square of California and the mandate was unmistakeable. As is the nature of public demonstrations, for every person who made the journey to attend the rally, many more at home were supportive of the cause. Together with recent polls, the June 30 rally showed that not only most of San Luis Obispo, but most of California's people do not want Diablo Canyon to operate.

Knowledgeable observers commented that the turnout of 40,000 people in San Luis Obispo was even more politically significant than 100,000 people in Washington, D.C. on May 6. In the local area near Diablo, public concern has become a torrent of opposition to the plant, coming from virtually every sector (nurses, small business people, teachers, physicians, etc.) of the community in recent months.

Many thousands of people at the rally listened attentively to the speakers and musicians who eloquently conveyed information and insights to the crowd. There were powerful presentations about uranium mining on Native American land in the Black Hills of South Dakota and in the hills of San Luis Obispo County; about the Karen Silkwood case and the recent court victory; about the enormous potentials of solar energy; about the health effects of low level radiation; about the vast shadow of nuclear weapons and the military-industrial power structure and mentality behind them about Diablo Canyon itself and the plans for a massive nonviolent blockade if it is licensed; and on the potential for nonviolent grass roots movements to transform society and bring about a decent, liveable future.

The messages from the many musicians were equally powerful, and people in the audience often sang with them, until by the end of the rally almost everyone there joined in singing the closing songs. The music floated on the afternoon wind from the sea, carrying the depths of fear and hope, of outrage and peace, of sadness and joy that the rally brought out. Perhaps the chilrens' presentation from the stage summed it up the best with their singing of "Simple Gifts" and their plea to the crowd and the adults of the planet, "Give us a future that we can believe in, give us a future that we can believe in..."

Many thousands also went to the Alternative Energy Fair at the rally, where there were exhibits of solar collectors, windmills for electric power generation spinning rapidly in the breeze, and informational displays on biomass energy.

Looking over the 40,000 people singing arm in arm, hearing their thunderous applause and their voices raised in support of the struggle against nuclear madness, in support of the Abalone Alliance and the struggle against Diablo Canyon, in support of safe and renewable energy from the Sun and the Earth, in support of the blockade of Diablo, and in support of the nonviolent movement for a just and humane world, the often repeated phrases came alive with a new strength we, the people, *do* have the power; together we *can* stop the madness at Diablo Canyon; and if we choose, we *can* give the children a future they can believe in.

—Peter Lumsdaine
Diablo Project Office

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SERVICE COMMITTEE
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San Francisco, CA 94121

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Inside...

LETTERS

MORE ON MONEY

I'm writing in reply to Bob van Scoy's thoughts on money.

I agree that many small-scale fund raisers would be a more solid financial base for our groups.

There seems to be some widely shared feelings about money which get in the way of these happening. Most of us who weren't born into wealthy families have been taught that money is scarce, and that we don't deserve it. Both, of course, are false. Money, in this country, is plentiful (it just doesn't circulate in the right ways). And we all deserve to get what we need.

Believing money to be scarce, we don't try fund raising. Or we do try it, and feel alienated, because other people spend the money we raise. There are a few things we can try to counteract these feelings. We can raise funds for a specific purpose, preferably one we feel connected to. Or we can take a portion of what we raise, for example, a 10% commission.

A personal example: it looks like I will be responsible for raising about $500 in conjunction with the June 30th rally. I didn't start out raising money. I started out wanting money. I thought of what I knew to do that could make money, and came up with the idea of designing and distributing a button. I borrowed money from two friends, one of whom would never have thought of loaning money to the AA. But he would to me. He'll get it back, I'll make some money, and the groups which sell the buttons will have $500 they wouldn't have had otherwise. I'm not suggesting everyone design buttons. But everybody has some skill that could go towards fund raising. Growing and selling flowers, baking cookies, giving massages, etc. etc. The important thing is to nurture ourselves as we nurture the movement, and not to separate ourselves from it. We are it.

—Christy Lanzl

THANKS FOR FIRST AID

Thanks to everyone who helped with first-aid at the June 30 rally. We've received a lot of positive feedback on our coordination and organization. Your help was very necessary and appreciated.

Peace,
Karen Green
Coordinator of first-aid

CHANGED HIS MIND

Enclosed please find my personal check in the amount of $20.30. I want you to use the money to help in the fight against nuclear power plants. I am retired and on reduced income so the amount is much smaller than desired. The figure represents my PG&E bill for May.

I used to think of the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. as a responsible part of our community, and find it hard to believe they are now creating centers of possible death and destruction by use of dangerous radioactive materials.

I wish you every success at the upcoming gathering down South, and will be with you in spirit although not in person.

Sincerely yours,
T.L., Sr.

(copies to PG&E)

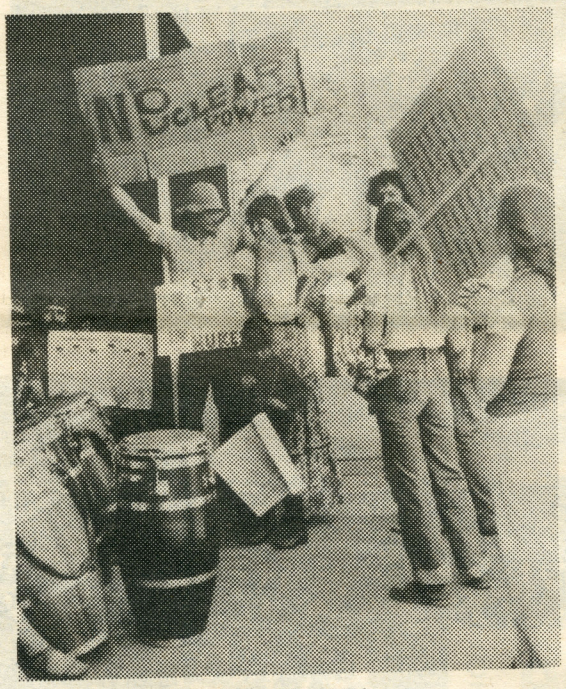
NEWS FROM GARBERVILLE

Enclosed is some local media coverage concerning the demonstration of May 25 called at the Garberville PG&E by the "Acorn Alliance." A small notice in advance in the local monthly and 12 or 15 posters were about all the organization necessary to bring together over 100 people during a five hour demonstration, leafletting, and vigil.

We had enough people for at least 3 separate marches through 2 block long Garberville. At high noon and the height of festivities we had something like 50 people, 5 conga drums, two guitars and singers and dancers to go with them. The PG&E workers inside the besieged office were quoted by the weekly paper as "enjoying the music" if not finding the lyrics illuminating. Thanks to our sibling Redwood Alliance out of Arcata there was a showing of "Lovejoy's Nuclear War" immediately after the demo ended. They also supplied us with a good leaflet of their own.

The most hopeful thing arising out of the event were the many positive confirmations made between the participants. With Humboldt Bay Nuke 60 miles north of us, we have to keep acting "anti-radioactively."

yours for appropriate energy & economics,
Paul Encimer for
"The Acorn Alliance"



Garberville, CA -- May 25, 1979.

NONVIOLENCE TRAINING DRAWS IRE

Dear Abalone Alliance,

As a lesbian and a person involved in the anti-nuclear struggle, I was appalled to see the Abalone Alliance participate in the police plan to "monitor" Castro Street during Harvey Milk's birthday party.

The history and tradition of nonviolence is one of resistance to the state. Contrary to that, the Abalone Alliance came into the gay community supporting a reactionary program of cooperating with the police and squelching our anger instead of providing leadership around how to resist police violence or helping us to organize against the police.

The Abalone Alliance has lost credibility in the eyes of progressive lesbians and gay men. You owe us a public self-criticism for your actions and I feel you should refrain from any organizing until you can provide responsible political leadership.

—Donna
Lesbians Against Police Violence

An Open Letter
to the Gay and Lesbian Community:

As an active member of the Abalone Alliance and one of the people that gave nonviolence training to monitors the night of the Harvey Milk birthday party, I feel an apology and explanation are in order.

There are two aspects of our participation that I would like to clarify. First is that we went to the training session in support of the lesbian and gay community and it was not until we arrived that we were informed of our role as nonviolence trainers. It all happened very quickly and unfortunately, we didn't stop to ask any questions.

Which brings me to the second point. Our assumption was that monitors were being trained, at least in part, to assure that the police would stay completely away from the area. We had *no* knowledge of police participation, with the exception of squad cars stationed several blocks away in case of serious violence.

The Abalone Alliance has always tried to maintain an open, honest relationship with the police as individuals, mindful of their role as agents of repression. The fundamental assumption is that every person can, potentially be reached, can learn to live in this world and break the cycles of destruction and oppression. It is an important concept in our vision of a better society, but can also blind us to the realities of consistent and legitimized police brutality to the socially and economically disenfranchised.

A good friend approached me the night of the birthday party to say he'd decided that nonviolence was for the white middle class who could afford to do it the easy way. I have no quick answers, except my belief that violence begets violence. Far from wanting to deny people's anger, I want instead to see it sustained and channelled in creative, nonviolent ways. The political system can very readily handle our "days of rage" knowing we will limp home exhausted and beaten. Our anger, like our love, can be used to build rather than destroy.

So my apology is followed by gratitude for the dialogue already begun and hope that we will continue to challenge each other and struggle together for a world where we all are free.

---Susan Mesner

FEAR AND LOATHING IN THE SLO JAIL

On Monday, May 14th at 5PM my friend Will and I began our 15 day jail sentence for trespassing at Diablo Canyon. We were placed in separate cells and as far as I know we were the only Diablo defendants in the jail. After 5 days of unofficially sanctioned violence we were released.

The level of brutality in the place was a real shock, beginning with the guard who was fingerprinting me repeatedly threatening to break my hand because I was not relaxed enough. What I experienced in the cell was 1½ days of escalating verbal and physical abuse and humiliation culminating in a sexual assault which ended when I screamed for the guard at the threat of my life. The guard came a half hour later and did not ask anything and I was too threatened to say anything. I was terrified enough to do pretty much as demanded by the other inmates but not enough to be submissive sexually, so the next morning I was told to ask a guard to be transferred to another cell. Apparently I was not of any further interest.

Then began three days of games we have all experienced with the sheriff's department—being told one thing, what happens is something else, and the explanation making no sense at all. Fortunately Will was let out of his cell at the same time I was to make a phone call for help and I was able to talk to him. My paranoid reality of what was happening is that everything happening was a set up to teach us hippy faggots a good lesson. As one guard said to us; "This is not a game. You're in a man's jail now and you are going to have to act like men."

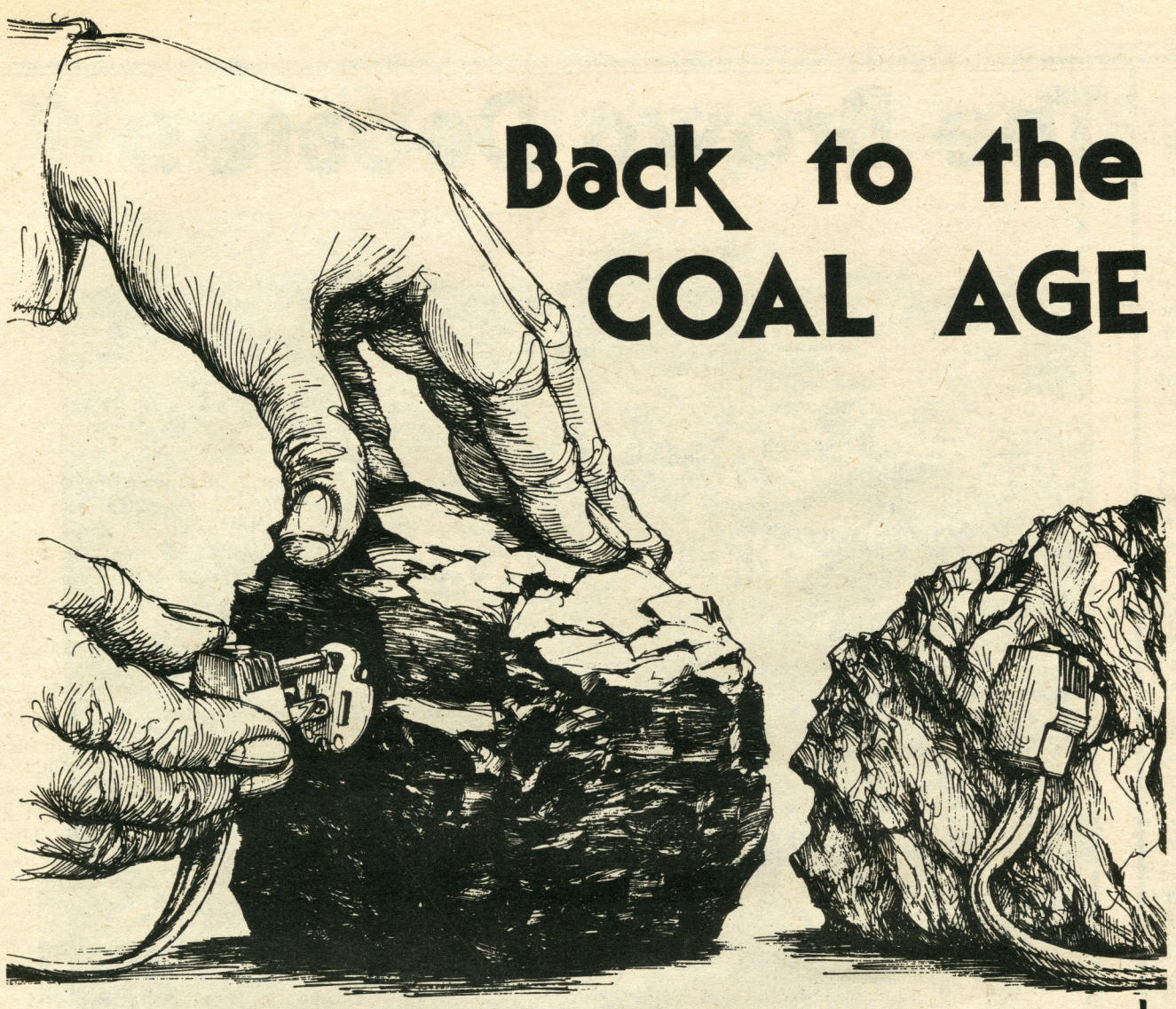
We called People Generating Energy in San Luis Obispo and they supported our attempt to get out on probation. They talked to the court and contacted a lawyer who came out and visited us that evening. But the judge denied us probation. Meanwhile I was transferred into Will's cell and we were able to collaborate from then on to try to decipher the games the prison staff were playing. Throughout the next 3½ days we were told many different stories of what was being done for us (to us). But when they transferred one of the inmates from my original cell into our cell my paranoia about the covert prison policy of terrorism against us was confirmed. I walked out of the cell before the door was closed and demanded protective custody, which the lawyer assured me I could have. That night Will and I were put in an isolated cell and the following day a judge approved our release on sheriff's parole (a 10 day parole with no probation requirements). Our suspicion is we were too much trouble for the sheriff's department and they just wanted to quiet everything.

I was repeatedly encouraged (pressured) to file charges against the people who assaulted me. (This may have resulted in a sentence to a state prison which would have pleased both parties—the county jail would have been rid of some troublemakers and the inmates would be in a freer and more corrupt state jail, which they spoke highly of.) Various prison officials were rather direct in their private talks with me about their personal dislike (hatred) of gay people but assured me they were thoroughly professional and fair in their work—which I took as coded messages not to trust anyone.

There are several points I feel Abaloners should be aware of and discuss: (1) Organizers should be aware that the simple presence of out, political gay people can invoke violent response. In an anti-nuke rally in Washington, D.C., gay men marching with a sign saying "Gay Men Against Nukes" were assaulted by onlookers, (2) If requested, Abalone and other groups should facilitate gay people networking and supporting each other, (3) Doing jail time for most gay people is an impossibility without a better support system, (4) It is possible that violence against progressive political protesters by jail inmates in unofficially fostered and condoned by prison officials, (5) We learn as we proceed and should now make sure training for CD participants includes jail preparation, (6) Abalone should follow this up with an effort to collect any other reports of jail violence and to assess if any serious problem exists.

The final point I would like to make is that I perceive no difference between the violence directed towards me as a faggot and the violence against the earth that nuclear power expresses. The violence stems from thousands of years of a patriarchal culture based on terror and exploitation. This culture defines anything (or anyone) feminine as an object, devoid of its own life and feelings and therefore subject to abuse and exploitation. As the anti-war movement had to confront the essentially imperialistic nature of our economic system, perhaps the anti-nuke movement will have to confront the deeper economic and cultural basis that produces such overwhelmingly destructive anti-life technology. Nuclear power is but one head of a multi-headed hydra that will continue to grow new heads in its desperate struggle to survive. This for me has been one result of the jail sentence—a reevaluation of who and what I am struggling against.

—Fawn Usha



Back to the COAL AGE

Plundering the Public on the Nuclear Model

Over the past few months, the people who brought you nuclear power have begun to sell another energy wonder: coal. In magazine ads reminiscent of 60's nuclear propaganda, coal has been magically transformed from the dirtiest and most polluting of fossil fuels to a clean, limitless source of the country's future energy. As with nuclear promotion, extremely serious health, environmental, and economic problems never seem to get mentioned in spreads featuring full-color rainbows over hunks of the marvel fuel. In the new enthusiasm, prominent politicians have jumped on the bandwagon and endorsed increased use of coal and coal-based liquid and gaseous fuels.

The anti-nuclear movement, understandably preoccupied with immediate nuclear threats, has largely ignored this trend. But taking an attitude of "anything but nukes" will allow the energy corporations to maintain control of our energy supply and substitute other hazardous, centralized, and expensive energy technologies for the failing nuclear power program. Unless we want to be climbing coal plant fences in the 1990's, we must begin to actively influence energy choices at the outset, rather than always reacting to decisions already made and implemented. I would like to share some thoughts on coal as a starting point for discussion.

The Useful "Energy Crisis"

Advertising is not the only way the energy corporations are promoting coal. A far more effective (and profitable) means is the present gasoline shortage, which has many beneficial effects for the industry besides increased profits. The shortage-induced gasoline lines help to convince the public that oil supplies will soon run out, so nuclear and coal "alternatives" are absolutely necessary. The suddenness of the "crisis" eliminates opportunities for rational political discussion of energy supply, and forces politicians to promise development of "all sources" of energy—meaning in reality those which are centralized and profitable. (In Carter's recent energy plan, for example, less than 3% of the $137 billion will go for solar development, and most of the money will go to develop and implement centralized "synthetic fuels" technologies.) The creation of a mood of wartime crisis, if successful, will enable the widespread gutting of environmental legislation. Finally, the panic sets the stage for the greatest swindle of all: the creation of public "energy development corporations" to fund development of extremely expensive technologies (such as conversion of coal to liquid fuels) out of the public treasury. The billions of dollars spent on this work go largely to private industry in the guise of government research contracts. When (and if) these technologies become operational, the gods of "free enterprise" are invoked and the profits from commercial operation go into corporate pockets. Sound familiar?

A Few Minor Problems With Coal

Despite corporate advertising, many of coal's most serious problems remain unsolved. The use of coal in any form releases vast amounts of carbon dioxide (CO_2) into the atmosphere—16 tons per *minute* for a typical large power plant. For each unit of energy generated, coal produces much more carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels. The consequences of increasing the earth's CO_2 burden may include global warming, leading to flooding and famine (See article by Ronald Rudolph in the June issue of *Not Man Apart).*

In order to meet expanded coal demand, massive new stripmines would have to be developed in the western states. Processing this coal would require vast amounts of water, already scarce in the West. Direct burning of the coal, as for electricity generation, would cause serious air pollution *even with pollution control equipment.* Present emission control methods also produce large amounts of toxic chemical wastes, which must be disposed of somehow. As with nuclear wastes, this problem seems to be regarded as one to be solved later.

The conversion of coal to liquid or gaseous fuels is an even worse idea than direct burning. In the first place,

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California Gets Burned

When the discussion turns to alternative energy sources, it's usually not coal that's on people's minds.

But Governor Brown came out officially for coal last May, lending credence to the idea that coal was somehow the wave of the future. As Jim Cannon of Citizens for a Better Environment tells it, "Californians found out we're pro-coal, scratched their heads and said, "Gee, isn't coal that dirty stuff we moved out West to get away from? Before they had a chance to think about that, Jerry Brown's bandwagon was running through town talking about how great coal is."

In the logic of Stephanie Bradfield of the state Energy Commission, "There are no coal plants in California. So that makes it an alternative fuel."

These semantic acrobatics may be propelling the Bay Area and eventually the rest of California right back to the Coal Age. Having bestowed upon us a nuclear reactor on an earthquake fault, PG&E has now applied for permission to build California's first coal-fired plants at the Suisun Marsh across the Sacramento River from Pittsburg.

The site is near the one where Dow tried and failed to put its petrochemical plant and raises many of the same issues for environmental groups like the Sierra Club and the Save The Bay Organization. They have gone to bat to protect the marsh, which constitutes the largest remaining wetland on the Pacific Coast, and have questioned the effect of heated saline discharge water on the Sacramento River. The coal plants—officially called Fossil I & II—will also daily produce hundreds of tons of limestone sludge and fly ash that will threaten nearby surface waters with contamination.

As for air pollution, the California Air Resources Board has promised that state-of-the-art emissions controls will make the installation "the cleanest of its type in the world." Still, the plants will discharge over 7,000 pounds of nitrous oxide, sulphur dioxide and assorted particulates every hour.

So the ARB and PG&E have struck one of those "innovative" deals that's supposed to protect our air, our health and the proper pocketbooks too: PG&E has agreed to "offset" the pollutants produced by the coal plants with reductions at some of their other facilities in the Bay Area.

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A display at the alternative energy fair, June 30 rally, San Luis Obispo.

Jon Katz

The Brown Debate:

Introduction

Governor Jerry Brown made an appearance at the June 30th rally to speak out against Diablo. Five members of the Rally Collective met with him to review his speech before deciding to allow him to speak.

The crowd was on their feet as Jerry approached the microphone. "I've just decided to join your effort to deny a license to the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. I personally intend to pursue every avenue of appeal if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ignores the will of this community."

It was the first time Brown had spoken in clear opposition to Diablo. Jerry's appearance has created a controversy in political circles throughout the state and within the Abalone Alliance. Major newspapers in the state were quick to respond to Brown's action. The *Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle,* and *San Francisco Examiner* all carried editorials criticizing Brown for meeting with members of Abalone Alliance.

Carrying the headline "See the Governor Grovel" the *Times* chastized Brown for allowing "Alliance officials" to "censor" his speech. "Lining up with the Abalone Alliance is risky for a Governor."

Readers were informed the Alliance will "play rough" if the plant is licensed. "If PG&E tries to run the blockade... the scene could get nasty, and there might be no way in which the governor could stay out of it."

Apparently the *Times* doesn't believe politicians should follow the will of the citizenry.

PG&E Chairman of the Board, Frederick W. Mielke Jr., was also bothered by Brown's statement and requested his own urgent meeting with the Governor. "Without (Diablo), millions of Californians face a costly and seriously deteriorating electric energy supply situation in 1980 and beyond because Diablo Canyon is the only major power plant we can bring on line in time to ease the worsening energy situation."

The Abalone was not without its own feelings. Some people felt Brown's appearance was a political victory, while others felt letting him on stage was a tactical error.

The question still remains, how actively will the Governor be involved in stopping Diablo?

—Mark Evanoff

Jessica Collett

How It Happened: Negotiators Report

Several weeks before the rally, the Rally Collective came to consensus on a process for deciding whether speakers and artists who were not on the program would be allowed to appear on stage. It was agreed that at least five of the ten (later 12) designated members of the Rally Collective would have to meet and come to consensus to allow the person onto the program. This process would apply to any person wishing to appear on stage, whether that person was Helen Caldicott or Bob Dylan, Joan Baez or Jimmy Carter, John Doe or Jerry Brown.

Two days before the rally a telephone message came in from Tom Campbell of Pacific Alliance, saying that Governor Brown wanted to meet with people from local groups in San Luis Obispo opposing Diablo Canyon (People Generating Energy, Mothers for Peace, Concerned Citizens of San Luis Obispo). A special emergency meeting of People Generating Energy was called for that night. Consensus was reached that PGE would be willing to meet with Brown on Friday, but not on Saturday (largely because of not wanting the meeting to draw people away from the rally where they would be needed). Raye Fleming was agreed upon as the PGE contact person for the expected call from Brown's office (via Jacques Barzaghi and Tom Campbell). Late Friday night Brown's aide Gray Davis called Raye at home to inform her that Brown would be coming to the rally the next day. Shortly thereafter (past midnight by that time) Raye received a telephone call from Governor Brown. They talked for half an hour to 45 minutes, and discussed the arguments against Diablo and nuclear power in general, the growth of opposition to Diablo, and related matters. The subject of whether or not he would speak at the rally was not discussed.

Governor Brown arrived at the rally site early Saturday afternoon and was brought into the backstage area (without a backstage pass) by Tom Campbell and several state security people.

Several members of the Rally Collective became aware of Brown's arrival, and gathered to talk with him. Brown wanted to talk with a newsperson who had to leave, but the Rally Collective members wished to meet with the Governor first. As the meeting began in one of the backstage trailers. Brown said that the rally was an important occurrence, that he had come to show his support, and indicated that he would like to speak if that was allright with the Rally Collective reps. Collective members asked the Governor what he would say if he were allowed to speak, and he replied by reading a handwritten statement from a piece of paper in his pocket. (The Rally Collective members present at the meeting with Brown were Sandy Downey, Raye Fleming, Peter Lumsdaine, Agnes Mansfield, Tony Metcalf, and John Rosenthal. Agnes left about halfway through the meeting and Sandy came in at about the same time.)

Brown Arrives

After Brown read his prepared speech, there was a considerable period of discussion, questions and answers. Supervisor Dick Krejsa came in and joined the discussion for a while. Brown said that he had read the lengthy letters and documents in regard to Diablo, which Krejsa had sent him, and indicated that he was impressed by them. The Governor was questioned on various matters by Collective members, and explained his stand to them. Since Brown's statement clearly opposed the licensing of Diablo, much of the questioning and discussion revolved around what he would do if the NRC did license the plant. He said that he would pursue all available avenues to appeal the decision if the NRC granted a license, and that he was willing to put this in his speech (as, in fact, he did). However, Brown also said that he was not ready to say (privately or publicly) that he would invoke the emergency powers of the Governor to safeguard the life and health of the people in the state against severe danger from a nuclear facility if Diablo were licensed. He was not sure if he actually had the power to order that Diablo stay unopened. But he would continue to look into the possibility. It was pointed out to Brown that while his use of the emergency powers laws might result in a court case about their constitutionality, this was no reason not to use the laws in question, which legally remain valid unless they have actually been overturned by the courts. Brown agreed that Diablo Canyon is an especially severe case among nuclear plants because of the Hosgri fault.

Other issues raised at the meeting included the Governor's stand on nuclear power in general (that there should be a moratorium on construction but existing plants should be 'considered on a case by case basis'), and his failure to mention Diablo when he spoke at the May 6 rally in Washington D.C. Brown said that he didn't mention Diablo on May 6 because he didn't think it was a national focus, and the Collective members strongly emphasized to him why it is. The mixed political impact of Brown speaking, both on Brown and the Alliance was mentioned. Before the end of the meeting both the Collective members and Brown agreed that communication between Brown and the AA should definitely continue.

The Collective Decides

Before Brown left to let the Collective decide, he re-read his proposed speech including his intention to appeal the NRC decision if the plant is licensed. When Brown was gone, the five members of the Rally Collective carefully reviewed what Brown had said and discussed whether or not he should be allowed to speak to the people at the rally from the stage. Both the seriousness of the decision and the pressure from outside the trailer to come to a decision made it a tense meeting. The press had been waiting for nearly an hour for some indication about what would happen with Brown, and because of this many of them were ignoring what was happening at the rally itself.

The main points discussed with regard to whether or not Brown should be allowed to speak to the rally were: the effect on the Alliance, (internal disagreements, ongoing organizing, and how the Alliance appears to the public); the effect on the rally, (its success and its power to stop Diablo); the effect on the AA's credibility both locally and statewide; the Emergency Powers Act and Brown's stand on using it; Brown's intention to appeal the decision if the NRC licensed the plant; the 'negativity' that a refusal would project, especially locally; the way in which the media would handle the rally if Brown spoke, and the prominence it would give him in the coverage; concern about strictly limiting Brown's time on stage; Brown's stand on nuclear power in general; and the effect on Brown's political career.

Consensus was reached on letting Brown give his statement. Two Rally Collective members stood aside, one with extremely strong objections.

—Peter Lumsdaine
Diablo Project Office

Work with Brown... But How Much?

There have been strong feelings over whether it was wise to allow Governor Brown to speak at our rally in San Luis Obispo. As a person who has worked since last fall to try to get Governor Brown to take a strong stand against the licensing of Diablo Canyon, I am delighted that Jerry has finally made a strong public statement that he will do everything within his power to keep Diablo from ever going into operation. The Abalone Alliance certainly needs to take credit for attracting Governor Brown to our rally, and encouraging him to come out strongly opposing Diablo.

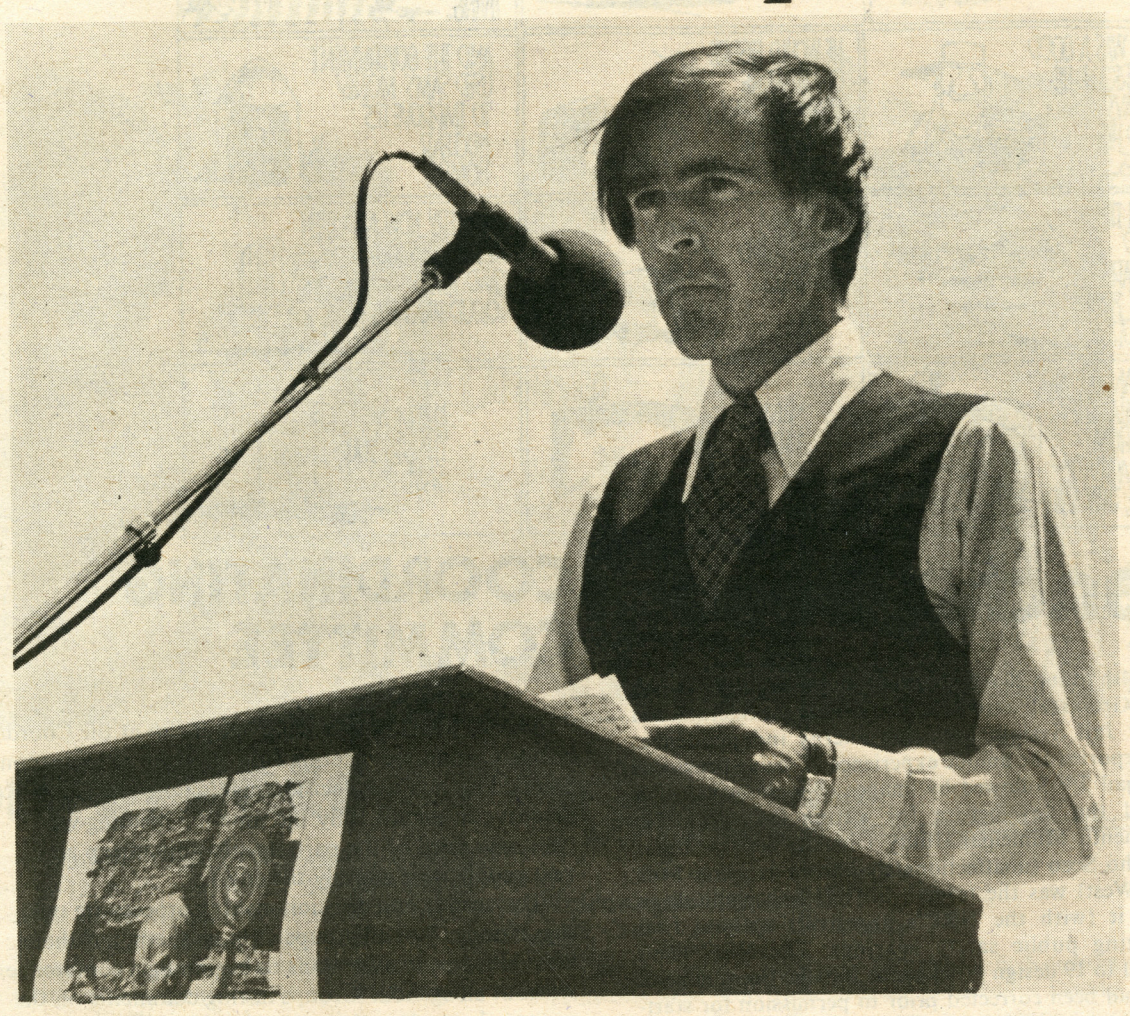
In building a sane energy movement such as ours, it is important to build a broad base of support for our position. We need to have some clear minimum criteria for people joining our movement, participating in our actions or speaking at our rallies—such as clear opposition to nuclear power and commitment to use nonviolent means to achieve that objective. Beyond that, it is not helpful to ask people to pass a litmus test before allowing them to join in our struggle. Otherwise, we stifle the growth of our movement. Thus I feel we should welcome representatives of labor, third world communities, the religious communities, the unemployed, Campaign for Economic Democracy, as well as Governor Brown and other political leaders.

Part of the job ahead is *to keep the heat on Governor Brown* about the specific things we would like to see him do to help stop Diablo (e.g. the five points made in our memorandum to Brown). However, good politics *require* that we *not* put all our faith in Jerry Brown. That would be politically naive as well as contrary to our ultimate faith in people's power. I feel the Abalone would be prudent to continue to put 5-10% of our energy into working with Governor Brown and other traditional channels to try to see that they never allow Diablo to go into operation.

Ninety percent of our energy should continue to go into building the strongest nonviolent blockade possible at Diablo, in case our and others' efforts to stop licensing of Diablo fail. Much more important than Brown coming to our rally was the fact that about 20,000 people from S.L.O. County came to the rally; and that about 2,000 people signed up for nonviolent training for the blockade. With that kind of strong local opposition, the type of sustained nonviolent resistance which happened in Wyhl, Germany where local people continued the nonviolent occupation of the proposed site for a nuclear reactor for eight months, becomes possible at Diablo Canyon. We still have a lot of organizing work ahead of us but now, more than ever before, with Governor Brown on our side, with local community coming out strongly against Diablo and the thousands of people signing up for nonviolent training to join the blockade, chances are strongly in our favor that *WE CAN STOP DIABLO!*

by David Hartsough

Were We Jerry-mandered?



Jessica Collett

Did the Governor Grovel ...or Abalone Crawl?

Jerry Brown is a sleazy opportunist. Even many of those who supported his appearance at the June 30 rally would agree with that. But my argument with the decision to allow Brown to speak is based not on his politics (or lack of them) but on ours (or our lack of them).

The Abalone Alliance was formed as a direct action organization. It is based, as I understand it, on the acknowldegement that the forces which support nuclear power have enough of a stranglehold on the rest of economic and political life to protect their interests against challenges that confine themselves to the electoral, judiciary or regulatory arenas. Direct action is organized actively that confronts the interests of the ruling class outside of the manipulable forms of false democracy. Providing platforms for candidates for elective office is antithetical to its spirit.

I am not suggesting that we have the luxury to ignore Brown and others of his ilk. Direct action is not a moral imperative but a strategy for creating a new society, and its relation to bourgeois democracy is complicated. In the case of the anti-nuclear movement, for example, our growing numbers, coherence and determination (and the growing realization by some sectors of the ruling class that nuclear power *is* dangerous, unreliable, and ridiculously expensive) have forced politicians like Brown to stick their toes into anti-nuclear waters. Brown's appearance on June 30 can be seen as a sign of our strength.

Ensuring A World Worth Winning

We can win certain battles "within the system". We must defend our health, our standards of living and our planet; we must stop nuclear power if we are to be left with a world worth winning. So it comes down to weighing the benefits against the drawbacks when we evaluate something like letting Brown speak at a rally. But what we put on the scales depends on whether we see the struggle to stop nukes as the be-all and end-all of our activity or as an act of self-defense and a prelude to creating a society where both nukes and Jerry Browns would be impossibilities.

I won't repeat Liv's arguments (also in this issue.) But here are a few other considerations:

Liv points out that although letting Brown on stage may legitimize the Abalone Alliance in the eyes of some, it has the opposite effect on many segments of the population. I often hear the anti-nuclear movement chastised (by others and by itself) for not attracting the poor and people of color. Yet it is precisely these people who are disgusted not just with Brown and his New Age austerity, but with electoral politics in general. In the last national election, only 35% of the eligible population voted, and studies show that both minorities and young people were under-represented among this percentage.

If Brown finds it politically expedient to come out against Diablo, he'll do it with or without our rally. And when he wants to make his statement, he can call a press conference and be assured of national coverage. For the Abalone Alliance to draw national media attention, however, it takes all the work that goes into bringing 40,000 people to an out-of-the-way airstrip. When Brown made his entrance backstage, it immediately became his show. Every reporter in the place stopped listening to the speakers, stopped talking to people in the crowd, lost all interest in Abalone spokes. For over an hour, 40,000 people became invisible to them as they huddled around the press conference table waiting for the governor to emerge from his negotiations with the five San Luis Obispo Abalones who made the decision to let him speak.

In some ways it is unfortunate that what is said from the stage at our rallies has much influence on people. We should be wary of encouraging passivity, if only by bringing people to an event where they are merely consumers of information and ideas. But by setting up such a situation and then handing the stage over to the Jerry Browns, we are telling people to plug back into the traditional deals and compromises; that the only way to get anything done is to rely on our "leaders" to do it; that politicians are the only rightful decision-makers in society. The 40,000 people at Camp San Luis didn't know until they read it in the newspapers that the Abalone Alliance was in any way critical of Brown, or that there was substantial dissension in the Alliance about letting him speak at all. (Fortunately, the media played up that angle for their own purposes.)

And what does Brown have to say about stopping nukes? Nothing about using his emergency powers (though he said at a press conference that he would "consider looking into" that.) Instead, he tells a crowd that issues like nuclear power and "natural systems" should be above politics. By implicitly endorsing this kind of ahistorical mysticism, the Abalone Alliance makes it harder for people to understand the implications of nuclear power and less likely that we will be able to enlarge our horizons.

The most stringent criticism of Brown at the rally was made by Daniel Ellsberg, who warned that "trust is not the appropriate attitude for a democratic citizen to have towards a politician." He recommended instead "vigilance and skepticism." But even this is misleading, since it assumes that there *should* be a separation between those who make the decisions (the politicians, the planners, the executives) and those who execute them (the vast majority of the population who does the nitty-gritty work of society.) In the Abalone Alliance we are experimenting with ways to overcome that separation by our commitment to non-hierarchical forms of organization. We make our decisions by consensus; we do not permit media-created superstars to be our "leaders;" the delegates we send to decision-making bodies are mandated to carry out the wishes of their group and are not supposed to go off on their own.

Transforming Society... While We Stop Nukes

Of course, there's a lot to be done before we can generalize such ways of running things to society at large. Our work against nuclear power has made it quite clear that there are real conflicts in this society. Ultimately, the crucial conflict is not with bad leaders (as Ellsberg sometimes implies) or with incompetent planners or even with greedy corporate executives. Instead, it is with a system that has grown so obsolete that it must protect itself against technological innovations like renewable energy sources; a system that must pour the social wealth that we create into bombs and missiles that may destroy us all; a system that can only produce the things we need (as well as so much that we don't need or want) by forcing most of us to sell our time and energy for a wage, with which we are counseled to buy our pleasure in the market place. That system of social relations is called capitalism, and it exists in one form or another all over the world today. Without understanding it and eventually overcoming it, it is unlikely that we will ever be able to live in harmony with nature. We will certainly never be able to live in harmony with others or ourselves.

The problem of nuclear power is symptomatic of the problem of society. In addition, nukes are a kind of "social analyzer"—they make it quite clear who controls this world, what the logic of the system is, and what the consequences of our inaction would be. Since Three Mile Island, more and more people are listening to us and thinking about what we say. The anti-nuclear movement gives us the chance to communicate our vision of a world beyond the domination of nature and the domination of human by human—while we stop nuclear power.

—by Marcy Darnovsky

Toward a Policy

Is Brown On Our Side?

Brown has increasingly come out against new nuclear power plants. In 1977 he lent some influence to stopping the proposed Sundesert nuclear plant. In his 1978 campaign he opposed future plant construction in California. In a letter written after the Three Mile Island accident, he asked the NRC to temporarily close Rancho Seco and to delay licensing Diablo Canyon pending an investigation into safety problems. At the June 30 rally he promised to use every avenue of appeal to stop Diablo.

But he hasn't come out for permanently closing existing nuclear plants; he hasn't pledged to try his emergency powers in court on Diablo. He hasn't urged Americans to join the blockade or otherwise used his influence to aid and encourage citizen involvement. Until the eve of the June 30 rally he avoided even meeting with us.

If we look closely at what he's done, given what he could be doing, we find mostly style, image-building, rhetoric and little actions. The man with the power to close Rancho Seco merely wrote a letter to the NRC!

Brown seems to playing his cards slowly, hoping to use the anti-nuclear movement as part of a springboard to the Presidency. We must view his statements as campaign promises and be on our guard against opportunism. As a candidate Carter pledged that nuclear power would be a "last resort", but six months later unveiled a nuclear-based energy program. Brown is no more trustworthy than Carter, because he behaves according to his perception of the political winds. Case in point: until Proposition 13 was clearly going to win Brown was strongly against it; after it passed he suddenly caught Jarvis fever, setting limits on the state budget that Prop. 13 never even called for.

Do We Gain More Than We Lose By Working With Brown?

There may be good reasons to work with Brown, (by letting him speak at a rally, for example) even if we don't trust him. Brown may help make nukes an issue in the elections. We get more legitimacy, and are taken more seriously by those who like Brown; conversely we may alienate them by snubbing him. We get more media coverage. We may even convince him it's politically expedient to use his emergency powers.

But there are limits to what we get. We lose favor with public employees and minority people who are becoming increasingly disenchanted with Brown because of his austerity programs. The legitimacy we do gain is superficial, subject to Brown's whims and not yet the lasting kind that's won from the minds of thinking citizens by hard facts and sound arguments. The media coverage we get tends to focus on Brown instead of the issues. And ultimately Brown will make his decision about using his emergency powers according to how he perceives the pulse of the voting public, not how nice we are to him.

There are also two dangers to working with Brown since *we* also lend him *our* legitimacy.

First we might inadvertently help him get elected to an office. He's so bad on other issues from cutting back child care programs to the way he implemented Prop. 13 that we shouldn't support him *even if he were to stop Diablo* unless he also radically changes his views on other issues.

Second, we face the danger of being co-opted — the movement we're trying to build is one where people get involved and don't just leave running the world to the corporate executives and politicians. While I think it's possible for a candidate to supplement and facilitate such a movement (Commoner for President, maybe), Brown may end up being viewed by many people as a substitute for activism.

How Can We Avoid These Pitfalls?

We need more debate on whether we gain more than we lose, but if we continue to work with Brown we should minimize the above two dangers by educating people about the limits of the "alliance."

Imagine if instead of introducing Brown at the June 30 rally as a pleasant "surprise" who had "taken time from a busy schedule to speak to us", we had introduced him as the man we are asking to specifically pledge to use his emergency powers to stop Diablo. People might have heard his words differently when he pledged to "pursue every avenue of appeal." Fewer people would be inclined to rely on Brown instead of becoming activists.

If he had refused to speak if introduced that way, well we didn't censor or snub him; the media coverage would have been fantastic.

That scenario is meant to illustrate my main point and proposal for the bottom line of our Brown policy; if we're going to work with Brown we have to make it clear to the public that we do so critically.

by liv

LABOR TASK FORCE

The labor task force has grown in both numbers and insight since our founding at the October 1978 Abalone conference.

We formed this task force as one way to broaden the base of the anti-nuclear movement, which we feel needs to include more union members, as well as more minority and poor people. Any serious movement for social change will have to win over major sections of labor.

We began by educating ourselves about the labor movement in preparation for doing outreach to unions. The day of Labor Education for Anti-Nuclear Activists we sponsored in mid-March not only gave us insights — it also gave us contacts with leaders and rank and file members of several unions.

The Harrisburg accident and the April 7 rally brought us more contacts and led to some union members joining the task force. We got a few requests for speakers at union meetings from rank and file union activists, but except for once we were unprepared to send them.

Another problem was travelling to meetings — we had members from Monterey to Sonoma, but people from both ends of the range stopped coming to meetings. We decided to set up local committees and to meet less frequently statewide. This increases the importance of a clear and effective statewide structure if we are to retain the benefits of exchanging ideas, experiences, and of cooperating to avoid redundant work. We are slowly evolving this communication and decision-making structure.

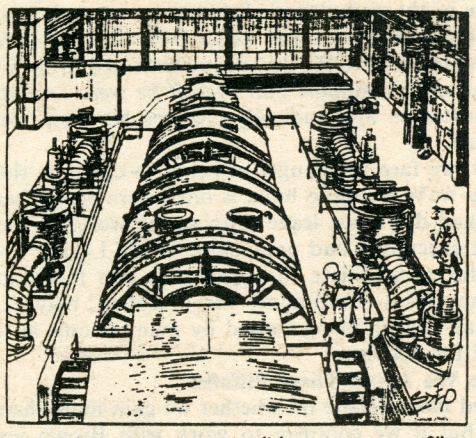
Our goals are to do outreach to labor unions about nuclear power and to educate each other and the rest of Abalone about labor's concerns. We want to do solidarity work — for example, strike support — not out of a desire for reciprocation from unions but because we see it as in our own interests as working people.

We haven't been able to develop a strategy because we lack experience in doing labor outreach.

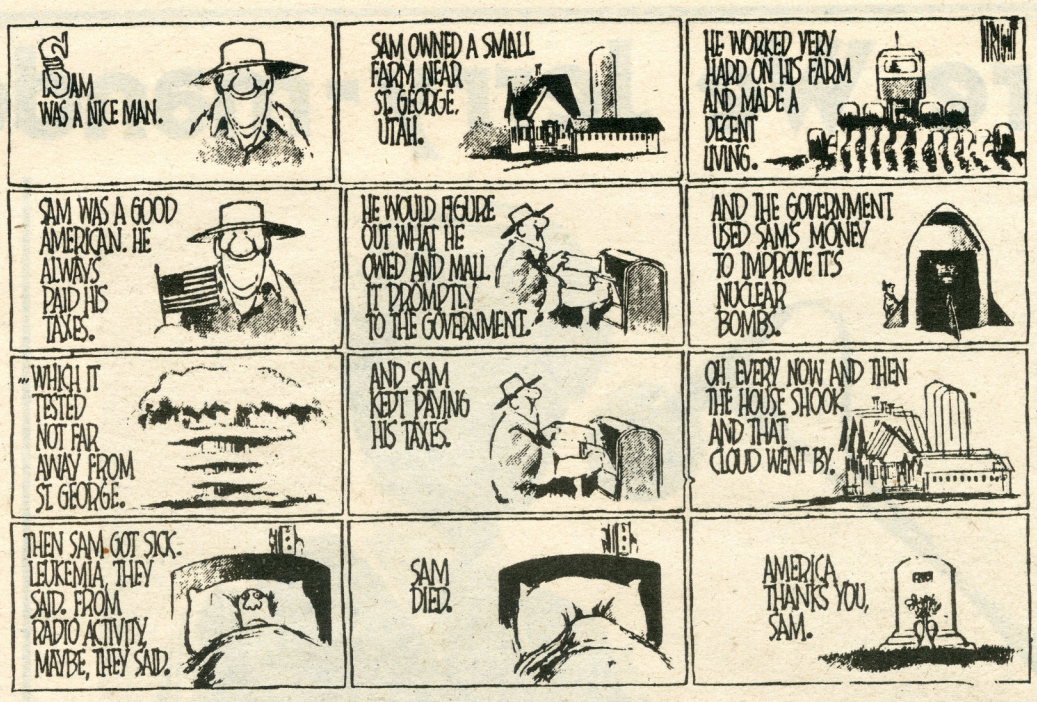
Some of the still unresolved issues that have come up include whether to do outreach to unorganized workers as well as the organized labor movement; whether to side with the rank and file within unions when conflicts with the leadership exist, or to remain neutral; whether we think the blockade does more harm than good by symbolically confronting workers instead of the management; and what does it mean that we are evolving a network of locals and a statewide body within a task force — in part paralleling the Abalone structure.

We wrote a pamphlet for the May 25 PG&E action called "Workers on the Line." We publicized the June 30 rally to unionists. Currently we're working on a model union resolution opposing Diablo, a book, a slide show, a conference with unionists for the fall, and getting speakers for union meetings. We also plan to contribute an article to "It's About Times" each month on various subjects.

Contacts: East Bay — liv (415) 845-8128; San Francisco — Tommy Rinaldo (415) 664-6003; Palo Alto — Joel Yudken (415) 322-2642; Santa Cruz — Ron Pomerantz (408) 423-2293; Monterey — Louis X. Heinrich (408) 375-7794.



"I didn't say psssst . . . did you say psssst?"



Rancho Seco

July 4th found 20 members of the Rancho Seco Direct Action Group (all were Abalones) inside the Sacramento County Jail System honoring energy independence. Some reported the unique experience of seeing fireworks on the jail TV followed by images of themselves being arrested the day before for sitting in at SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Utility District) headquarters.

Rancho Seco (unaffectionately known as Three Mile Island West) was the target—SMUD was planning to reopen it (with the NRC's approval) without first conducting public safety hearings. The NRC itself admitted to 19 design problems at Rancho Seco, none of which had been corrected prior to permission for start-up.

The two Rancho Seco reactors had been closed down on along with six other Babcock Wilcox installations across the country in order to "work out some of the human and mechanical errors" that contributed to the TMI partial meltdown. Clearly, not much was done about the mechanical aspects. Efforts toward reducing human error did little to breed confidence either—25% of the Rancho Seco operators failed a physics test during the shutdown but passed a retest after a day's cramming.

Fourteen women and six men committed civil disobedience on Tuesday, July 3 after participants and supporters had

a) testified at a California Energy Commission meeting where Commissioner Ron Dockter tried and failed to get the Commission to take out a court injunction that would have stopped Rancho Seco from operating until full safety hearings could be held,

b) held a well-attended rally at the SMUD building,

c) negotiated with SMUD Manager Bill Walbridge who claimed that Rancho Seco was safe and that pubic safety hearings would be held *after* it was fully operating again, and

d) met at length with Jerry Brown's aide, Dan Richards, who insisted the governor could not use his emergency powers to keep Rancho Seco closed because his powers might then be called into question and invalidated for when "we really need them." A precedent for using emergency powers in nuclear crises was presented on Sunday, July 1 when Governor List of Nevada closed that state's borders to any more radioactive waste.

The "SMUD 20" was an extremely unified group by the time the CD action was carried out. Total jail solidarity was maintained; everyone stayed in until arraignment on Thursday, July 5, and was prepared to plead out and serve time immediately. The sentence was surprisingly light—two days with credit for time served (i.e. release upon completion of paperwork), no fine, no probation.

by Lyn Grasburg

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Twelve hours of agonizing discussion at the Coordinating Committee meeting July 21 resulted in a recommended agenda and decision-making process for the August conference. (By the time the meeting was over, one third of the participants were asleep and two people were audibly snoring.)

The agenda and decision-making process are only suggestions. Not all groups support them, but there were also strong objections to beginning a conference without an agenda. Groups having comments on the proposed agenda and process should submit them to Santa Barbara People Against Nuclear Power before the conference.

Details of the 34 proposals and a more descriptive agenda are in the C.C. minutes. *If your local group has not received the C.C. minutes by August 1, contact the A.A. office immediately.*

Only two written proposals were submitted to the meeting. Local groups are responsible for distributing their proposals for discussion at the conference before August 1.

The conference facility will hold only 250 people. Because of this space restriction, local groups are asked to send at the most 10 delegates, and preferably less. Santa Barbara will keep a count of registration. If extra space becomes available, those groups with large membership and strong objections to limiting attendance will be notified.

A team of eight facilitators will attempt to guide the process. Groups are urged to send the names of their most experienced facilitators to Santa Barbara. The team will meet Friday at noon to refine the agenda before submitting it for ratification at the beginning of the conference.

The decision-making process: 1) Discussion will take place in groups of six to ten people. 2) Decisions will be made by local groups. 3) Local groups may empower delegations under five people to speak for them and to block consensus on proposals the local group has previously discussed.

The agenda: 1) Agenda review. 2) Agree on decision-making process for the conference. 3) Clearing session: Evaluate the goals of the AA and its structure. 4) Reorganization proposals. 5) Task force reports. 6) Clearing session: Strategies, visions and energy assessment for stopping nuclear power. 7) Strategies: New and old.

-- Mark Evanoff

Call for NRC Action ..... and Dissent

There has been a lot of talk in the Abalone Alliance about focusing public attention on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in order to prevent the licensing of Diablo Canyon and to push for shut-downs of Rancho Seco and San Onofre.

We are forming the "NRC Conversion Coalition", an ad-hoc coalition of Abalone member groups and affinity groups working to stage a *vigil at the NRC office in Walnut Creek the week of August 20-25 and civil disobedience on August 22.* We also hope to organize a simultaneous action at the Washington, D.C. office. We will be demanding that the NRC revoke the licenses on Rancho Seco and San Onofre and prevent the licensing of Diablo Canyon and any future plants in California.

The NRCCC was formed on July 8 by representatives to the Blockade Collective from UCSB PANP, SO NO More Atomics, SAFE, RANE, and the Rancho Seco Direct Action Group, with a friendly observer from the Diablo Project Office present. After discussing the NRC action in the Blockade Collective meeting that day, we realized that a new ad-hoc coalition, somewhat similar to the newly formed Rancho Seco Direct Action Group, was needed.

With one month left to plan, there is not enough time to make the action an AA sponsored event. Our working spirit, however, is the same as that of the Abalone Alliance: we agree to the Non-Violent Code of Self-Discipline and the Declaration of Nuclear Resistance. We use non-sexist process, including consensus decision-making and non-hierarchical structure. Furthermore, the action will be structured using Affinity groups, to be formed either in your home area or at the vigil in Walnut Creek. All persons planning to do CD are required to have had Non-Violence Training.

We have agreed that the Action should not draw energy from the Blockade: people who are presently committed to the Blockade should not do CD unless they plan to do it again at Diablo. The legal vigil and Civil Disobedience can hopefully draw new people who do not intend to blockade. We still support the Blockade, and hope this Action will increase public awareness and provide momentum for the Diablo Canyon Blockade.

We have only a month to plan this Action, and YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED. We invite all anti-nuclear groups, affinity groups, and individuals to join us. For more information call (415) 494-0355 and ask for Lisa or any other RANEdeer. No Nukes in California!!

To members of the Abalone Alliance:

As Abalones and non-violence trainers, we have objections to the planned civil disobedience action in August at the NRC headquarters in Walnut Creek. While recognizing that this is not planned as an Abalone action, we wish to present the following concerns:

1) It would interfere with organizing and availability of affinity groups for the blockade.

2) Without enough outreach, it could damage other anti-nuclear organizing efforts in the area.

3) The action is inconsistent with previous communication between local police and officials and the NRC Action Task Force. This situation might increase distrust of anti-nuclear activists.

4) The timing is not relevant to any other issue or goal that we know of.

5) There may not be adequate preparation and support, considering the political character of Contra Costa County.

We urge reconsideration of the planned action based on discussion of these issues.

—Arleen Feng
Ricky Jacobs
Phil Clark

Jessica Collett

Conference

A summer Abalone Alliance Conference is planned for August 10-12 hosted by Santa Barbara People Against Nuclear Power. It will be a time to talk about where we are as an organization, where we want to go, and the best methods of getting there. Specific topics to be discussed include reorganizing the structure of the AA, evaluating our role in relating to other organizations and formulating new strategies. The anti-nuclear movement has altered significantly since our last conference, and we may wish to incorporate these changes into our strategies.

Saturday evening, we will join the local community for an evening of films and music. People are requested to bring their musical instruments.

The weekend of 5 vegetarian meals will cost $7.00 for adults, and $3.00 per child. Camping will cost $3.00 per site, sleeping 5-10 people.

Swimming is available in a nearby river. Special services are also available. Childcare, limited scholarships, housing for people with special needs, and transportation from Santa Barbara to the conference site can be arranged through PANP, but arrangements need to be made immediately.

People need to bring a plate, cup, eating utensils, insect repellent, sleeping bag, hat and clothing for warm weather. Temperatures during the day range between 80 and 90° and fall to 60° during the evening.

Friday evening will be a pot luck between 6:00 and 8:00. People are urged to bring a dish corresponding to their last name.

A-E Salad
F-J Vegetarian Dish
K-O Bread or Cheese
P-T Dessert or Fruit
U-Z Liquid Refreshment

Please register early. Make checks payable to Santa Barbara People Against Nuclear Power, and mail them to: Abalone Alliance Conference, c/o Gathering Place, 312-1 E. Sola St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101. (805) 969-2437, Tony 965-8019, Kerry 968-6384, Karen 966-0135.

Directions: From Hwy 101 take Hwy 154 to Paradise Rd. Proceed east 3 miles to Paradise Community Hall.

Reports

Nonviolence Training

Since the April 7 rally over 520 people in Northern California have been trained for the blockade of Diablo Canyon. Over thirty affinity groups are preparing for direct actions that may involve civil disobedience. New areas doing trainings include Fresno, Sonoma Valley, and the Redwood Alliance (Eureka).

At least 160 people have been trained in Santa Barbara-Ventura, as well as many in San Luis Obispo and L.A. Over 1,000 more are signed up for training at the June 30 rally.

Finances

As of July 21, the Abalone had $6561 in the general fund. The Statewide Finance Collective paid $4801 in bills (details from your finance rep.) $4788 in donations through Agape Foundation will be received this month, so we will start next month with about $6500.

The June 30 rally, while successful in its objectives, was expensive and will make little or no money after the bills are all paid. We must *actively fundraise* if we hope to continue. The blockade, for example, is expected to need $25,000--money we do not now have.

Diablo Conversion Study

The research arm of the East Bay Anti-Nuclear Group is conducting a study on the possibility of using an alternative power source at Diablo Canyon.

Anyone knowing of existing studies or other pertinent information, or wishing to help on the project, please contact Gary Farber, 1945 Berkeley Way, No. 218, Berkeley 94704. Ph: 981-3800, 845-5769 (eve.)

BLOCKADE SUPPORT

The amount of support work we can muster for the Diablo blockade will affect its outcome substantially. In fact, the support function is as important to the success of the blockade as the civil disobedience act.

Within each affinity group, support workers are responsible to their own group's demonstrators. Their tasks include fundraising and keeping track of each blockader's needs during the action and while they're in jail.

But support for a direct action is more than that. Once the action has begun, the supporters keep track of its progress, facilitate communications, and make ongoing decisions regarding support activities. To accomplish these functions, supporters have to work on three levels of organization: affinity groups, regional support centers, and "core" support.

Santa Barbara will perform the function of core support for the Diablo blockade. Its major responsibilities include staffing the support headquarters office and maintaining a continuous flow of information to and from the regional support centers, and the legal and media centers.

Regional support centers will coordinate communication between affinity groups. Ten regional centers will be set up in SLO during the blockade, each staffed by support people 24 hours a day. The regions are: (1) Los Angeles and south, (2) Santa Barbara, Ventura and Ojai, (3) San Luis Obispo County and Santa Maria, (4) Santa Cruz, (5) Bay Peninsula, (6) San Francisco, (7) East Bay, (8) Davis, Sacramento and Fresno, (9) Sonoma and north, (10) Out of State.

Santa Barbara region, San Luis (SLO) county, and Sonoma are represented in the Statewide Support Collective, but where are the rest of you folks? We need to know how Support is being organized in your region and you need to know about the decisions made in the Statewide Support Collective Meetings. Please send us the name, address and phone number of *at least* one Support spoke from your region who could attend our meetings and spread the information we sent. The next Collective meeting will be held on Sunday, July 29, at 8:30 am at the PG&E office in SLO (452 Higuera St. (805) 543-8402 or 543-6614). All regional support group spokes and affinity group representatives are asked to attend. If your region doesn't have a Support coordinator or rep, *please* send someone anyhow.

For further information on Support and for the dates of future Statewide Support Collective meetings, please contact: Core Support, c/o The Gathering Place, 312 E. Sola No. 1, Santa Barbara, CA 93102.

—Judy Lutz
Statewide Support Collective

NOTICES

Reprints

For a copy of a debate between Jeff Pector and Marcy Darnovsky on the politics of the anti-nuclear movement (from the May - June issue of *Socialist Review)* send $.50 for xerox and mailing to Marcy Darnovsky, 2729 Derby St., Berkeley, CA 94705.

IAT Needs Computer Aid

It's About Times needs access to a SF area computer system for its mailing list. We can program if needed. Please contact Bob or Mark at the Abalone Office,= 543-3910.

Calendar

August 5

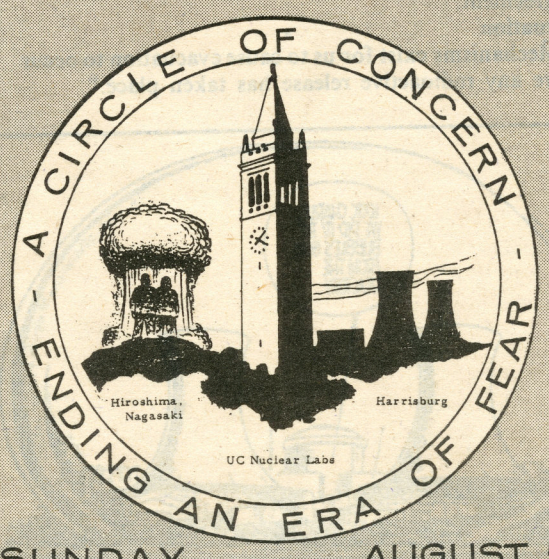
Thirty-fourth observance of Hiroshima-Nagasaki atom bombings, on West Lawn of UC Berkeley campus (Oxford & University Ave.) "A Circle of Concern -- Ending an Era of Fear." Gather for encirclement of campus, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.; silent encirclement from 1:30 - 2:30; Ceremony of Commitment from 3:00 - 4:30 with speakers including Mayor Gus Newport and peace activist Barbara Reynolds; music by Gary Lapow and others; poetry and mime. Sponsored by Berkeley Friends Meeting, Berkeley Area Interfaith Council and Northern California Alliance for Survival. For more information call 848-8055 or 843-2584.

August 8

Film showing, *Danger: Radioactive Waste,* 7:30 Park Branch Library, 1833 Page, San Francisco. Produced by NBC News, this film was too controversial to be aired. Discussion will follow the screening. Contact: PANP (415) 781-5342.

August 10 - 12

Abalone Alliance State-Wide Conference, near Santa Barbara. $7.00 for five vegetarian meals, plus $3.00 per camp site. Contact: Santa Barbara PANP, 312-1 East Sola St., 93101, (805) 966-4565.



SUNDAY AUGUST 5

August 18

West Coast-meeting in Walnut Creek of anti-nuclear weapons and power groups to consider and plan staging a West coast action to coincide with the April 26, 1980 March on Washington. The focus of both actions will be 1) stop nuclear power, 2) zero nuclear weapons, 3) safe energy, 4) full employment. Local groups should limit the number attending. Contact: Gary Dobson, 1860 Sharpe Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

August 19

Poetry Reading, Benefit for People Against Nuclear Power and Women for A Nuclear Free Future. Featuring Diane DiPrima, Susan Griffin, Deirdre Shorett, Michael Koch, David Fisher. Women's Building, 3541 18th St., SF, 2 p.m. Tickets $3.00, available from PANP, Modern Times Bookstore, Small Press Traffic.

Sept. 7 - 8

Health Effects of Low Level Radiation Conference will be held at Fort Mason Center, Bldg. 312. Sponsored by the Coalition for Medical Rights for Women focusing on the uses and abuses of ionizing radiation within the medical industry. Additional presentations include politics, physics and the history of nuclear energy and weapons. The Conference fee is $10, and $20 for CE credit. Limited scholarships are available For more information call (415) 621-8030.

Alameda Supes Take On Livermore

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors recently held hearings on the safety of the Lawrence Livermore Lab. Under pressure from the UC Labs Conversion Project, Friends of the Earth, and EBANG, Supervisor John George introduced a resolution requesting the Department of Energy to remove the plutonium from the lab site. Five Bay Area Congress members endorsed the resolution.

The Board was reluctant to hold hearings on the proposal, but was persuaded to do so when two Board members threatened to hold informal hearings anyway. A major Government institution ended up confronting public interest groups. Basic issues debated were the toxicity of plutonium, and the ability of Building 322, where the plutonium is housed, to survive an earthquake.

Lab officials attempted to explain that if an accident did occur, plutonium would not be dispersed, and even if it was, it was not toxic. Several facts were ignored. A draft Environmental Impact Report prepared by the Lab admits emissions cannot always be controlled. Lab records list 20 accidents involving radioactive materials since 1960 that "either had off-site impact or the potential for such impact." In two of the accidents, radioactive substances ended up in Livermore's dump and sewage system. Several of the accidents involved plutonium.

John Gofman, biomedical director of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, testified the escape into the atmosphere of one part in 10,000 of plutonium oxide particles would lead to an expectancy of 139,000 additional lung cancers per year in the U.S.

Lab officials admitted the possibility of an earthquake happening on the site, but also claimed Building 322, where the plutonium is housed, could survive an earthquake. Several active earthquake faults crisscross the area around the lab site. A map showing a fault running through the site, drawn by lab employees, was recently revised showing the fault line ending at the lab boundary line.

Building 322 was constructed to be able to withstand a ground motion of .5 g. Dr. James N. Brune, professor of geophysics at the University of California San Diego believes that earthquake faults near the lab can generate ground motion of up to 2.0 g, or nearly 4 times the ground motion the building was designed to withstand. A lab earthquake expert testified at a recent state hearing that the area could be hit by an earthquake of .8 g. In any case, the building won't survive.

John Rutherford, an engineer from San Francisco, claims building 322 lacks earthquake-proofing steel braces along the walls, and fails to meet state requirements for hospitals and schools. "No building can be designed to withstand fault rupture beneath the building. Most earthquake damage is not from structural failure itself, but from fires, flood or loss of support services."

After listening to the 4 hours of heated testimony, the Board admitted a "raging controversy" existed. The decision on requesting the plutonium to be removed from the lab was delayed. The Board did ask the County Building Department to check alleged structural defects at Building 322, authorized the county Health Department to review studies on the lab, and authorized the sheriff's department to evaluate the lab's disaster plan for any necessary changes. Lab Conversion Project activists question the county's ability to implement these studies.

Not all of the Lab's projects requests were addressed, but the issue of plutonium and public safety was brought before the public. Organizer Ken Miller commented, "The Board's duty is not to make a decision on what side of the argument is correct, but to determine in their own mind if there is reasonable risk to the public by operation of the lab, either through normal operation or accident. If they decide risk is involved steps must be taken to protect the public safety."

—Mark Evanoff

"Ban Nukes" Say Supes

Official Sonoma County is at the front of the battle to Manhattanize the entire Bay Area; it has never been known as a radical enclave. Yet on June 12, its five Supervisors, with five different philosophies and motivations, had little trouble agreeing that nuclear power is a valid concern of the Board and that this so-called energy form should be removed from California "as soon as possible."

When Supervisor Eric Koenigshofer sprung a "Resolution Urging Closure of Nuclear Plants in California" on a surprised Board in April, he failed to get a second. The first week's response to the Board's request for public comment on the issue was a flood of pro-nuclear letters that were later traced to the Russian River Chamber of Commerce and PG&E. SO-NO-More Atomics, a county-wide affiliate of the Abalone Alliance, finally moved on the issue. By mid-May, the Board had received more letters on this than on any previous issue.

But it takes more than letters to pass such a measure. On two separate occasions when SO-NO-More Atomics put out the word to fill the Board's chambers, the item never made it onto the agenda. A month and a half after the resolution was introduced, SO-NO-More decided to contact the supervisors directly.

Personal appointments with the aides of two supervisors brought out technical questions and political concerns. This provided insight on how to present the issue as a lobbyist: understand the political pressures that are operating (in this case a supervisor's desire for liberal support as a Congressional candidate) and make sure you've done your homework. Also, persistence pays off.

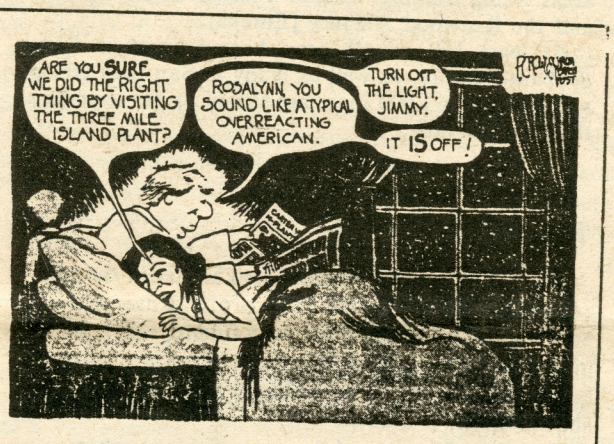
On June 5, a presentation was made to the full Board of Supervisors. The gist of the argument was that nuclear power is an unconscionable financial rip-off that leaves hundreds of thousands of years of high-level radioactive wastes and that proven alternatives that are safe, clean and profitable are known to exist.

The chairperson requested written copies of our report for all the Board members. Delegations from SO-NO-More Atomics met privately the next day with the resolution's sponsor, and another group met with the Congressional hopeful the day after that.

During the last four days before the Board's vote, further efforts to contact the other Supervisors were made. On the last day, we called the Bay Area media so everyone would be expecting something.

On the morning of June 12 we heard the Board unanimously declare their feeling that the continued development of nuclear power in this state was harmful, and that communities affected by such development and/or the transportation of nuclear garbage should have the right to a binding vote. Then the Board also voted to urge the shut-down and decommissioning of the existing nuclear plants in the state. At first the liberal hoping for Congress held the vote up; the conservative businessman was ready to vote in support of the resolution.

Over lunch, the Energy Commission assured the concerned liberal Supervisor that such a shut-down would cause little adverse impact in the state. The Board then adopted a Closure Resolution unanimously, to the applause of SO-NO-More Atomics. Breaking out some champagne, we returned to the business of the upcoming weekend's rally and Community Dinner. That too, was eminently successful.



REVIEW

The Politics of Energy
By Barry Commoner
New York: Alfred A. Knoph, 1979
$4.95, 101pp.

President Carter's energy plans aren't practical. Barry Commoner presents a thorough analysis of Carter's old energy plan, its erroneous assumptions and numerous contradicitons, and then explains why it won't work. Carter's "new" energy plan outlined July 15th isn't significantly different from the old one, and it too is doomed for failure. Mass centralization of energy sources won't solve the nation's problems.

Carter claimed that conservation was the cornerstone of his plan and it would relieve dependence on foreign oil. Commoner's investigation reveals that Carter's plan will actually increase energy production in the form of nuclear and coal fired power plants. The White House erroneously predicted an increase in dependence on foreign oil by purposely altering the computation used to predict future energy needs. Creating a scare would justify the development of unsafe, centralized sources of energy.

The creation of a coal and nuclear society will create numerous social problems along with environmental devastation. The price of energy will become increasingly high for low-income families. Inflation will continue. Unemployment will not end.

Commoner outlines safe technologies that are working, socially safe, and only need financial commitment from the government to become commercially viable. An apartment complex in New York City meets all of its needs with natural gas and cogeneration provides all of its electrical needs. A dairy farmer runs his entire farm on methane. We learn that an investment of only $450 million by the Department of Defense in photovoltaic cells would bring the cost of manufacturing down to 10¢ a KWH, a price competitive with commercially generated electricity. The military could help create the decentralized solar society.

A commitment to decentralized solar will lead to the demise of the utilities, and that is why Carter has chosen not to invest. As the price of photocells comes down, electrical consumption will go down as people switch to solar. Utilities then raise their rates to compensate for the lost income, which causes more people to go solar, and the cycle continues. It will be cheaper for Third World countries to install solar cells than to build transmission lines to remote areas.

Solar, cogeneration, biomass, methane and alcohol will become the main energy sources in the solar society. Natural gas will play an important role during the transition period. Commoner stresses that the energy supply should not be disrupted during the transition period. The poor must not be forced to lower their living standard.

Unfortunately Commoner doesn't spend enough time discussing how to politically achieve the transition. That is the central problem, not the lack of technologies. The book is quick reading, well documented, and is an excellent reference book on alternatives to nuclear power.

—Mark Evanoff

And So Was The Titanic ...

While 40,000 people were gathering the morning of June 30th to stop Diablo, PG&E was holding a press conference at its Nuclear Information Center in San Luis Obispo. Eight PG&E "expert" representatives and a young Nuclear Power Engineer on loan from Westinghouse assured the press that "Diablo Canyon is safe. It is economic. It is also needed to eliminate near-term energy shortages that could cripple business, industry and agriculture, slow the economy, cost thousands of jobs, and, in many ways affect the living standard and well being of 9 million people."

The "question, answer, next reporter's question," press conference format eliminated any opportunity to dispute PG&E's claims. Reporters well informed about Diablo and other nuclear issues asked direct, pertinent questions. PG&E provided quick silly answers.

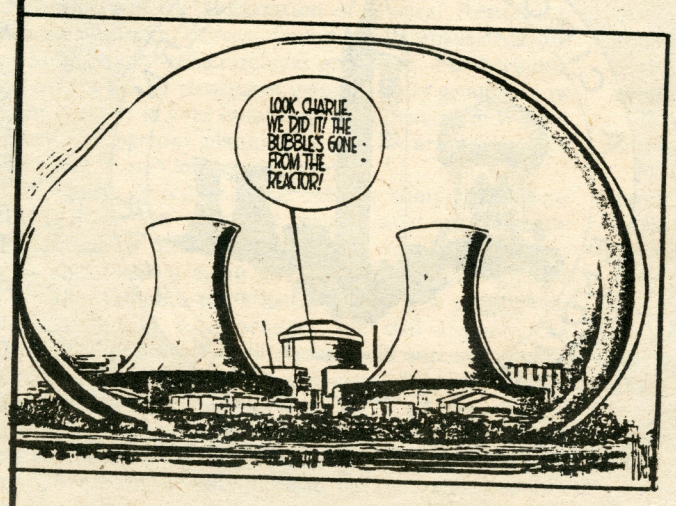
On the Hosgri Fault

This is "surface faulting." Only the USGS takes a position that its potential magnitude is 7.5 on the Richter scale. "The informal view of the NRC is that it is a 6.5 earthquake factor."

A second expert quickly took the podium to add that "among people in the scientific community with both experience and design in seismic matters, there is no disagreement."

Evacuation

"Mechanisms exist for us to cause evacuation to occur before any radioactive release has taken place."



Radiation Releases

"The physical design of the plant will assure that releases that occur rapidly, I mean that *could* occur rapidly, are of a much lower hazardous potential."

PG&E's Radiobiologist added, "The releases do not have the hazardous potential that some have attributed to them. The hypothetically hazardous chemicals are of very small mass. The likelihood is essentially zero of it entering the food chain."

Conversion

The emcee called an expert to the podium to state, "Diablo Canyon cannot be converted." The expert sat back down.

Uranium Cartel

"There is enough uranium for 40 to 50 years." This statement was followed by a lengthy explanation that implied breeder reactors would solve fuel problems after that time.

Safe Disposal

"PG&E will do whatever the government decides. The technology is available." Quoting Winston Churchill, "The worse enemy of a good solution is a better solution." The representatives urged us to force our bureaucrats to make decisions on waste disposal and allow PG&E to do its job.

Plutonium for Breakfast

"Plutonium on your breakfast cereal is safer than air pollution on it."

Price-Anderson

"The people at Three Mile Island were happy with Price-Anderson—they had the money in their hands before they returned home."

Public Opinion Turning Anti-Nuke

"I'm more concerned about 9 million customers who didn't come to the demonstration than 10 or 15 thousand demonstrators coming today."

PG&E's most manipulative tactic was the use of Bruce Wood (manager of cost estimating and control for water reactor divisions of Westinghouse) as one of their representatives. This young man, clad in blue jeans, wireframe glasses and beard told the press how he "struggled" with the issue of nuclear power, and finally came to a pro-nuclear position due to his social and humanitarian concerns. Without nuclear power, you see, we'd have hospital generators shutting off, and fire alarms and traffic lights that don't function.

Same freezing in the dark tune, new lyrics.

—Maureen Hogan

Short Circuits

Mark Evanoff

FUN AND GAMES IN NUCLEARLAND

While the Three Mile Island accident has focused increasing attention on nuclear operator training and certification, no solution seems in sight for one of the greatest causes of operator error—operator boredom. Designed to function on a largely automatic basis, reactors seldom require more from their operators than hour upon hour of tedious instrument monitoring. The result is often work crews searching for amusement while billion dollar investments are left to their own mechanical devices.

At Portland General Electric (PG&E's) Trojan nuclear plant, for example, on-duty workers have been accused of sleeping, playing games, tying flies, working on study courses, and completing crossword puzzles while the reactor was in operation. In one case, according to the accusations, a control room supervisor was listening to a piped in broadcast of a basketball game when a surge of radioactive water spilled over the top of a tank, flooding the plant's auxiliary building.

Government investigators have also confirmed rumors that plant workers at a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant near Idaho Falls were busy watching the World Series on a smuggled television when an accident caused an unexpected chain reaction, the release of radioactive gas, and an emergency evacuation.

—Groundswell

A RAPID DEFLAGRATION

Meanwhile, some thoughtful engineers at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have found some peace in the pages of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. One of the recent Inspection and Enforcement reports on the Three Mile Island accident describes the hydrogen explosion on the seond day of the accident as — are you ready? —a "rapid deflagration."

—Not Man Apart

SUNDESERT NOT DEAD

The Sundesert Nuclear Power Plant proposal, put temporarily to rest just a year ago, has been relocated to Arizona. The Arizona project is Palo Verde 4 & 5, 2400 megawatts of nuclear capacity slated to be built west of Phoenix. Palo Verde Units 1, 2, and 3 are now under construction. California utilities are minor participants in units 1-2 and major shareholders in units 4 and 5. Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas and Electric, and various municipal utilities have contracted for over half of the output of 4 and 5, and without their participation the project would likely not go forward.

The California utilities involved in Palo Verde (except the municipal utilities) must secure the approval of the Public Utilities Commission prior to construction. The PUC will be preparing an environmental impact report and opening proceedings on Palo Verde 4 and 5 soon. The Sierra Club intends to intervene at the PUC in opposition to the projects.

—Energy Clearinghouse

UTILITIES OVERBUILDING HIKES RATES

The Environmental Action Foundation reports that utility companies nationwide may soon be hiking their rates—not because people are using more energy, but because they are using less.

According to Zodiac News Service, the foundation has reported that the industry-wide generating capacity last summer surpassed by 37 percent the energy actually needed. The foundation has calculated that the utility industry has about one hundred more power plants that are needed to provide adequate services, and that the industry is now experiencing "vast amounts of idle generating capacity." It attributed the surplus, in part, to a new high in energy conservation.

Foundation spokesperson Richard Morgan said that he fears that many utilities may seek rate hikes to recover their lost revenues. He estimated that excess generating capacity will cost consumers about $1 billion annually in higher electric bills. "The power companies want to boost our rates," he said, "to pay for all those power plants that we don't need."

—New Age Journal

NO LUCK FOR PUC

A bill to abolish the California Energy Commission has recently been killed in committee, effectively tabling the issue for two years. State Senator Barry Keene's SB 778 would have abolished the existing Energy Commission and transferred all of its power plant certification powers to the Public Utilities Commission. This would have given the state pre-emption powers over any local or regional jurisdiction and seriously impaired what limited power the public now enjoys in formulating energy policies in the state.

In short, SB 778 would have given responsibility for energy planning back to the profit-motivated utility corporations. Let's see to it that the bill stays dead.

—from an article by Kevin Armstrong

FAULTY FUEL RODS SCHEDULED FOR USE

The recent jury verdict in the Karen Silkwood trial in Oklahoma Federal District Court awarding $10 million punitive damages against plutonium fabricator Kerr-McGee Corporation (KM) vindicates Karen's charges of health, safety and quality control violations at the KM Cimarron plant.

During the course of the ten-week trial, several workers testified that during 1974 fuel rods were being shipped even when they had failed earlier inspections. Faulty fuel rods could lead to accidental releases of radioactive gases or, under certain circumstances, to a core meltdown leading to the deaths of thousands. The fuel rods produced at the KM Cimarron plant are destined for use in the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) at the government owned Hanford Reservation in Washington state near the Oregon border. The FFTF is scheduled for start-up in August, 1979.

NEW SOLAR CELL

Texas Instruments has redesigned the photovoltaic cell. Instead of using flat silicon wafers, as do most photovoltaic systems, the new cell uses tiny spheres attached to a base, much as sand is applied to sandpaper. Production costs are reduced because defects in the spheres will not be as detrimental as defects in a flat wafer system.

The silicon collectors are bathed in an electolyte such as hydrogen iodide. Electric current is produced to split the liquid into its constituent parts including hydrogen. The resulting liquid can then be used to charge a fuel cell to produce electricity. Modest amounts of heat can also be extracted for useful purposes.

—Energy Clearinghouse

WHY BUILD NUCLEAR PLANTS?

The Governor's office appears to be admitting that new conventional power plants need not be built in the future. On June 6 Brown released a report showing that renewable energy sources such as cogeneration, wind, solar and conservation could provide 53,000 megawatts of electricity by 1998, compared to 43,000 megawatts in conventional power plants that the utilities plan to build by the turn of the century.

CLAM CHARGES DROPPED

Charges were dropped July 3 against 709 of the 1414 protesters arrested during the 1977 occupation of the Seabrook nuclear power plant. The other 705 cases had previously been dropped or adjudicated.

IRAN NIXES NUKE

Iran has abandoned construction of 2 nuclear power plants being built at Bushehr on the Persian Gulf. Over $2.87 billion has been spent on the 1200 MW boiling water reactors. Massive new expenditures and foreign technicians would still be needed to complete the plant. The new head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization cited safety problems made evident by Three Mile Island as reasons for canceling the plants.

—Not Man Apart

NRC OFFICIAL'S SAFETY WARNINGS

A senior Nuclear Regulatory Commission official has warned Chairman Joseph Hendrie by private letter that "incompetence, irresponsibility and indifference" among senior nuclear commission managers stifle responsible debate and threaten an accident more serious than Three Mile Island. In a strongly worded statement, dated April 23, and recently obtained by Friends of the Earth, Ronald A. Brightsen, technical advisor to the director of the Division of Safeguards, told Hendrie that it is a "way of life" for senior staff managers to suppress sensitive policy issues to advance personal career goals.

Brightsen's original criticisms of the commission centered around their approach to the safeguards program. NRC offices with safeguard responsibilities have different approaches to safeguard regulations. He attempted to warn senior officials about these conditions 22 months ago by issuing a memorandum. Brightsen cited the wide dispersion of responsiblity and authority within the safeguards program and the low priority given to problem solving.

The inconsistent approach to safety problems results in a situation where major safety problems are not addressed or identified. Dissension on plant safety from staff members is not passed on to the commissioners. When problems are not identified, commissioners make policy decisions on unresolved technical issues.

Brightsen attributes these attitudes to "perceived self-interest, fear, lack of confidence, peer pressure, incompetence, irresponsibility and indifference. Managers perceive that their own career interests are best served by 'not rocking the boat' and by being careful not to bring the boss difficult problems."

"Their instincts are no doubt reinforced by observing how careers of those who do speak out on such issues are effectively brought to a dead-end." Responsibilities are transferred, and denials are issued about the accusations raised.

RADIATION LEAKAGE FROM SMOKE DETECTORS?

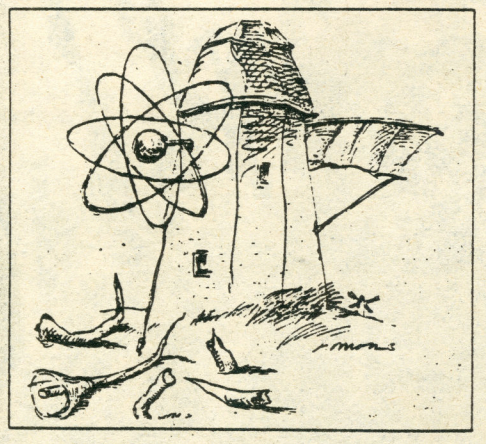
Should consumers be able to purchase from retail store shelves lethal doses of high level nuclear reactor by-products? They can do so today.

Representative Ted Weiss (D-NY) introduced HR-10688 in the U.S. Congress on February 1, 1978 which would ban the manufacture and transportation in interstate commerce of ionization-type smoke detectors containing radioactive isotopes. Most of the smoke detectors currently being sold are ionization devices containing americium-241, a radioactive by-product material with a half life of 458 years. It is created by neutron bombardment of plutonium.

Inside a smoke detector, americium-241 is contained within a very thin gold and silver plated wafer. Careless handling, attempts at home repair, and normal disposal practices can rupture the thin protective gold plating and disperse the americium. Most ionization-type devices contain a warning in very fine print, to return the detector to the manufacturer for repair or disposal. Few people ever read the warning, and there are no provisions for enforcement, nor any penalties for non-compliance.

"There is no danger to the public," said Dr. John Goffman, "as long as the americium-241 stays in the wafer. But it is a very, very bad idea to put americium into people's homes. It is inevitable that it will finally find its way into lungs."

Photo-cell smoke detectors are a safe and effective alternative. For more information contact Chico Consumer Protection Agency, 345-7088 (Chico).



Coal (continued from page 1)

In the public haggling over the plants' site and the allowable levels of filfth, the basic questions of whether California needs more electricity and whether coal is the best way to produce it have been lost.

The fact that the Energy Commission has aided the anti-nuclear cause has made many environmentalists timid about questioning its judgment. And having played so tough on nukes, others feel that they just have to give in on something. (Ironically, the pro-nuclear interests have continually warned about the environmental dangers of generating electricity with coal. Last yer, **Fortune** called it "the deadliest form of energy.")

At the Energy Commission, the fear of the naysayer (and anti-business) image is especially strong. And for good reason: the state's electric utilities, with support from the nuclear industry, have launched a campaign in the Legislature to abolish or seriously weaken the Commission.

Jim Cannon attributes the Energy Commission's favorable disposition towards coal in part to their need to the "California means business" line. "Engineers that a year ago were working on solar technologies are now pushing around statistics about how much fly ash can be controlled at a burner temperature of something or other," he said. "Practically everything coming out of the Energy Commission is an advertisement for coal."

Cannon thinks that another major reason for the turnabout has to do with the national aspirations of our governor-of-many-turnabouts. "He's trying to be the person who's out-coaled Jimmy Carter, because it's Carter's policy that says we're going to shift from oil and natural gas to coal in a big way and double coal production by 1985."

For the Energy Commission, Bradfield cited the federal decision articulated by Carter a year and a half ago and passed by Congress in November that precludes the burning of oil and natural gas for electricity. "And the Energy Commission is committed to diversifying the sources we depend on," she said.

According to Cannon and many others, the investment and talent to accomplish diversification need not be sunk into coal. Cannon is not against coal absolutely, but he feels it makes no sense at all for California.

"Usually it's the environmentalists who are touting what are called the far out solutions," he said. "Here the tables are turned. Solar energy is the endogenous industry here in California. It's the one that's readily available. It's the one that's supporting a booming industry that's doubled in size every year for the last half-decade. It's coal that we have to take the crash course to learn all about and coal in which we'll have to invest billions before we even burn a lump of it. But still, in people's minds, it's solar that's exotic."

—Marcy Darnovsky

The long-awaited RESTRUCTURING PROPOSAL

Dear Abalonies,

Greetings from the Restructuring Collective! At the January conference in Sonoma, the Alliance reached consensus to form this collective. Its purpose was to evaluate the structure of the Alliance and come forth with proposals to be considered at a future conference.

After months of discussion, delay and hard work, a proposal is ready to be considered at the August conference. In order to make it easier for groups to consider it before and during the conference, we have divided the proposal into five parts: decision making, membership, office(s), resources and conferences.

We in the Abalone Alliance have a lot to feel good about. Since January, the number of affiliate groups has swelled from about 20 to almost 35. We have recently sponsored three successful actions (April 7, May 25, June 30). Interest in the nuclear issue and peoples' involvement is continuously growing.

During the past few months, we feel it has become very apparent that our present statewide structure does not work. This proposal, *if* consensus is reached, would substantially change the structure of the Alliance. It would eliminate our need for so many Alliance-wide meetings and the numerous existing collectives, which are lacking in a broad representation from local groups. It would also eliminate the general feeling among a number of groups that they are being swamped by Alliance-wide issues, information and decision which take away from focusing on work in their respective communities. By stressing "regional clustering", more local groups would be able to participate in Abalone Alliance activities when we come together. This proposal would also help strengthen our commitment to decentralization.

We hope groups will take a critical look at this proposal so it can be considered at the conference. Thanks to the many folks who have given their input and feedback on our work. We welcome that from all of you and can be reached through the A.A. office.

—The Restructuring Collective
Mark Evanoff
Sharon Mooney
Dan Hubbard
Steve Leeds

I. MEMBERSHIP

All groups who are affiliates of the Abalone Alliance must:

A. Adhere to the AA declaration of nuclear resistance.
B. Use non-violence in their work.
C. Commit themselves to the use of the consensus decision making process at conferences and in their relating to regional groups.
D. Have a willingness to work with other AA groups in their community.
E. Actively participate in their regional group.
F. Fill out an AA membership form.

II. DECISION MAKING

A. Local groups shall decide their local decision making process.
B. State-wide decisions will only be made at state-wide conferences.
C. Decisions at conferences will be made by local/regional groups, not individuals.
D. Each local and/or regional grouping must be composed of five people when decisions are made.
E. In order to block consensus, a local group must have consensus and send five people to the conference.
F. If a substantial number of local and/or regional groups stand aside because of lack of agreement or disagreement during the consensus process, we strongly recommend caution in proceeding with the proposal. When this situation occurs, we strongly urge groups to share their specific reasons for not proceeding with the proposal.

III. ACTIONS

Local and regional groups are encouraged to organize and finance actions and events in their own communities. Those groups sponsoring the action may identify themselves as affiliates of the A.A., however the event cannot be advertised as an Abalone Alliance sponsored event unless there was consensus to do so at a state-wide conference.

Proposals for state-wide, Abalone Alliance endorsed actions will be made by local and/or regional groups and presented for endorsement at the bi-yearly Abalone state-wide conference. The regional groups will be responsible for all aspects of the organizing including fundraising and media. All action proposals must adhere to the A.A. declaration of nuclear resistance, contain a complete budget, and fundraising must be included in the organizational time line. Copies of the proposal should be distributed to all groups and the state-wide office at least three weeks before the conference. Participation and soliciting of funds from other regional groups is strongly encouraged.

An evaluation of an action should be held within two weeks by the sponsoring groups. Written results of the evaluation should be distributed to all local groups and to the state-wide office for use as a resource in planning future actions.

A complete financial accounting should be included with the evaluation report. Any profits made on the action will be used at the discretion of the sponsoring groups. It is recommended that some money be returned to the state-wide office, or given to other groups to help finance their actions.

IV. CONFERENCES

There will be two state-wide decision making conferences, and one skills-sharing conference a year. Regional groups are encouraged to have their own local conferences for strategizing, and for preparing proposals for state-wide conferences.

A local/regional group will be responsible for the logistics of a statewide conference. Conference locations will be held in various parts of the state. Only proposals submitted three weeks in advance to the planning group, and to all local groups, will be addressed at the conference. The local group will prepare the agenda in advance based on the written proposals that are submitted to it. A final agenda planning meeting composed of interested people will be held the evening before the conference.

Written reports of staff performance will be presented at decision making conferences by the office staff and the advisory committee. A new advisory committee will be established, and the goals and budget for the next six months will be approved.

The next conference date and location will be set at the end of the conference.

It's very important to hold at least one skills-sharing conference a year. This would give us an opportunity to learn new skills, and do more together than just strategize. It could also be a time to evaluate what we are doing as an organization.

Possible workshops could be held in media, fundraising, writing and preparation of leaflets, community organizing, facilitation, non-violence training, public speaking, and political and philosophical discussions. We encourage holding a variety of workshops.

V. STATEWIDE OFFICE

A) Fundraiser—Responsible for raising funds to state-wide office which includes 4 salaried positions, one of which is the fundraiser. The budget for the office will be approved at the bi-yearly conferences. Funds raised beyond the budget will be distributed to the local groups.

The fundraising coordinator will also serve as a facilitator and resource person to local groups and advise them on effective methods of fundraising.

B) Media Coordinator—Serves as the Abalone Alliance liason with the media. Coordinates the media collective, and serves as a media resource person for action collectives throughout the state. The office staff, media collective, and interested persons would work closely with the media coordinator to prepare statements to the media on different actions, and Abalone responses to world events.

The media coordinator will hold workshops throughout the state to help local groups learn media techniques.

C) Office Staff

1) Office Administrator—Staffs office 5 days a week, answers correspondence, administers the books, serves as liason with non A.A. groups, and operates the office as a communication and information center for the entire Abalone Alliance.

2) Statewide Organizer—Works with local and regional groups as a resource person. Helps new groups organize, and helps older groups work out any problems they may encounter. The state-wide organizer must be well versed in the entire perspective of grass roots organizing. Time will be spent traveling around the state working with local groups. She or he should be able to give resource advice on fundraising, media, community organizing, referral, etc. Local groups hopefully feed and house the organizer and finance his/her traveling expenses.

D) Resource Coordinator—Facilitates the publication of *It's About Times* and *Radioactive Times*. The position will also be responsible for developing "easy to read" leaflets on different issues of nuclear power and alternatives. She or he will serve as an advisor to local groups to help them develop their own leaflets.

The A.A. will not be expected to fund the salary for this position, but will provide funds for printing literature. Attempts will be made to fund *It's About Times* through subscriptions and donations from local groups. Literature will be sold to local groups above cost to enable new groups to receive literature for free or below cost.

E) Funding—Each staff member will be responsible for developing a budget area for their area of responsibility. These budgets will be integrated into a comprehensive office proposal for ratification at state-wide conferences. There will be no bailout for staff members who go over budget because there will be no extra money around to spend.

F) Office Accountability—All staff members are accountable to the Abalone Alliance. An advisory committee will be formed by members of the regional group in which the office is located. The advisory committee will meet regularly with the staff to offer support and to work out any problems that may arise. Both the staff and the advisory committee will not prepare office reports to the conference. The advisory committee will not dictate what the staff will do, but will seek to help the staff accomplish goals that are ratified at statewide conferences.

Who Profits?

Nuclear power is not an insane accident. Nor is it a mistake. Its development in the U.S. results from two forces. The first is the interest of the Federal government in promoting nuclear energy, both to legitimize nuclear weapons and to produce weapons-grade plutonium. These considerations led to incredible subsidies for nuclear development, which brought in the second force: the profit needs of private business.

The order is important. There is no way that nuclear energy could be profitable without the massive intervention of the federal government. As Rudy Perkins points out in an article in THE FIFTH ESTATE:

Though state and capital form a unity, it is a unity of somewhat independent interests. Just as the corporations direct the state to protect their interests, so too, the state has occasion to marshall corporate energies to achieve its own ends. In the initial years of American nuclear power, politics predominated over economics.

It wasn't until the early fifties (years after the atomic bomb was developed) that the Atomic Energy Commission began seriously pursuing commercial nuclear energy. Even then, all the early programs were first judged by the criterion: "What can it do for our weapons program?" Thus, in 1947 the "Daniels Pile" (a proposed test reactor) was cancelled because it would not "breed" plutonium for weapons. The other proposal, the "Intermediate Power Breeder Reactor" was converted in 1950 to a prototype of the reactor for the SEA WOLF (the second atomic sub).

The first commercially-proposed nuclear energy plant followed the same pattern. It was to be a "dual purpose" plant—producing both electricity and weapons-grade plutonium that would then be sold to the government. Monsanto, the corporation that proposed it, felt that only with these two products could commercial nuclear energy prove profitable.

The AEC liked the idea. As a July 1953 *Fortune* article pointed out; "The AEC's original reason for wanting to bring industry into the world of nuclear fission was to provide a large stand-by capacity for weapons-grade plutonium." Not surprisingly, the first reactor to generate electricity was the "Experimental Breeder Reactor" primarily designed to investigate breeding plutonium.

But finally, military pressure led by Captain Hyman Rickover, who wanted reactors for naval vessels, and the ideological pressures of Soviet advances in nuclear energy led the U.S. to leap into a race with the Soviet Union for the first on-line nuclear reactor generating commercial energy. We lost.

The Shippingport Pennsylvania plant went on line three years after the Soviet plant at Obinsk. The Shippingport reactor was basically the design for a nuclear aircraft carrier power plant. Admiral Rickover just transferred the essentials over to the land-based system. Private capital paid only one-third of the Shippingport's construction costs, and nothing of the fuel preparation, disposal, and research costs. It was hardly a "commercial" reactor.

In the late fifties and the sixties, private industry took a growing role in the development of nuclear energy. Buttressed by massive government subsidies in research and uranium processing, protected from liability by the Price-Anderson insurance limitation act, there was money to be made in commercial reactors. But it is important for us to remember that the early development was not at the behest of profit-hungry private corporations, so much as it was in the interests of the federal government, militarily first of all, ideologically second.

Even as early as 1953, 10% of all the power in the U.S. was being consumed in the weapons program, and nuclear weapons productions was the U.S.'s largest industrial enterprise. The close, mutually beneficent, interaction of the government and large corporations in the areas of nuclear weapons and energy is at the heart of both the arms race and the proliferation of nuclear power plants.

Nuclear Mega-Bucks

A look at the corporations involved in the nuclear weapons/energy cycle produces a family portrait of the military/industrial complex. Especially important are the oil companies. Ten large oil companies control half of the U.S.'s uranium reserves and 40% of the milling capacity that turns ore into yellowcake. Not accidentally, uranium prices have quadrupled in the last eight years, just as oil prices have skyrocketed. Both cartels are dominated by the big oil companies such as Gulf, Exxon, Mobil, Continental, Getty and Union Oil.

Other key companies include the world's largest chemical corporation, duPont, which is also a major Department of Defense contractor for conventional weapons, as are General Electric, Westinghouse, Goodyear, Bendix, Monsanto and Rockwell International. These companies are big fish, bigger than many countries, in fact, (in terms of GNP). Exxon ranks second on Fortune magazine's list of biggest U.S. corporations, Mobil is 4, Gulf 7, GE 8, duPont 16, Union Carbide 21, Goodyear 22, Allied Chemical 84, and Kerr-McGee 142.

Their political influence has therefore always loomed large on the national scene. Kerr-McGee, for example, has always had at least one Senator from Oklahoma in Washington. High officials move between these companies and various government institutions with fluid ease.

The struggle against nuclear weapons/energy clearly must be a struggle against our social/political system as well. The nuclear industry is state capitalism itself.

by Chris, Roses Against a Nuclear Environment

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Plunder

(continued from page 1)

the proposed conversion plants are probably the least practical energy scheme since nuclear power. Present estimates place development and construction times at a minimum of 10-15 years, and construction costs as high as $3 billion—for a plant supplying less than 1% of U.S. liquid fuel needs. Prices of fuels from these plants are now estimated to be at least 50% higher than current OPEC oil. Those familiar with the history of nuclear plant estimates may suspect that the actual costs will be much greater still.

From a public health standpoint, coal conversion may be as bad as nuclear power. Many products and wastes of conversion processes will be carcinogenic, and will inevitably be released into the environment. As with low-level radiation, "acceptable" release standards will no doubt be set. As with radiation, the question remains "acceptable to whom?"

A Transitional Technology?

Several "soft energy" advocates, including Amory Lovins, have suggested the adoption of carefully mined and cleanly burned coal as a "bridge" between the present oil based economy and a future powered by renewable energy sources. I believe it is unwise for us to advocate this position, since it may often be interpreted as support for coal development in general. There is little risk that coal will be underdeveloped. By opposing coal as a general principle, we may be able to block the worst projects while making exceptions for the few which seem small-scale and transitional. Since even these projects will have a 20-40 year life, however, we should refuse to accept them unless they are strongly linked to a program of renewable resource development capable of replacing them at the end of their lifetime. One approach would be to insist that two dollars be spent on renewable, decentralized, and democratically controlled "soft energy" stystems for each dollar spent on coal development. Otherwise, the transition to renewable sources may never occur.

—by Bob Van Scoy

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WE CAN STOP DIABLO CANYON

After long and careful consideration, the Abalone Alliance is calling for people across the nation to join in blockading the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. The nonviolent blockade will take place if and when the plant is licensed for operation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Diablo Canyon is a test case for the atomic industry, a national symbol of the struggle between nuclear power and human life. Diablo is only two and a half miles away from the Hosgri fault, which is capable of an earthquake ten times stronger than the plant was designed to withstand. Such a quake could trigger a major nuclear accident, which could kill thousands of people. An accident could also permanently reduce America's food supply by contaminating a large area of fertile central California with radioactivity.

The operation of Diablo Canyon would encourage still more nuclear construction—but if the $1.4 billion plant is prevented from operating, new investment in domestic nuclear power would almost certainly be halted. The NRC's own internal memos show a reluctance to deny Diablo an operating license "*because of the large financial loss involved and the severe impact such action would have on the nuclear industry.*" Because of rising public opposition, the nuclear industry is in trouble. Harrisburg has awakened the nation. At Diablo Canyon we have the opportunity to stop nuclear power in its tracks.

For 10 years concerned people have worked to stop the Diablo plant through legislative action, public education, demonstrations, and legal intervention in the licensing hearings. These efforts have delayed Diablo's licensing and greatly increased public awareness of its dangers, but at every turn vital concerns about public health and safety have been overruled by the wealth and influence of powerful corporations. These corporations and the federal government have suppressed the facts and arrogantly ignored grassroots public opposition. THE ESTABLISHED CHANNELS HAVE BEEN CLOSED AND LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE.

We are continuing to oppose the plant by legal means, including a suit against PG&E and an extensive program of public education. We are also urging Governor Brown to intervene to prevent Diablo's operation. However, we must now prepare to blockade the plant if it is licensed. We are setting up an alert system to contact people through their local groups when the plant is licensed. We expect the license will be granted sometime this summer.

The blockade is not merely symbolic, but is intended to prevent PG&E from loading the reactor's fuel core and to obstruct the operation of the plant. All plant entrances will be blockaded, and some people may choose to land by boat at the plant site. Others may place themselves in front of the plant's water intakes to prevent its operation.

A nonviolent occupation by 26,000 people stopped construction of a nuclear plant in Whyl, Germany. As at Whyl, we have the power to make the Government and PG&E decide never to operate Diablo Canyon.

Participants in this action must have nonviolence training. Trainings are now underway throughout the state. For further information, mail the coupon to

Abalone Alliance
DIABLO PROJECT OFFICE
452 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 543-6614

◯ I would like to join the blockade. Please inform me of nonviolence trainings in my area.

◯ Please send more information on the blockade.

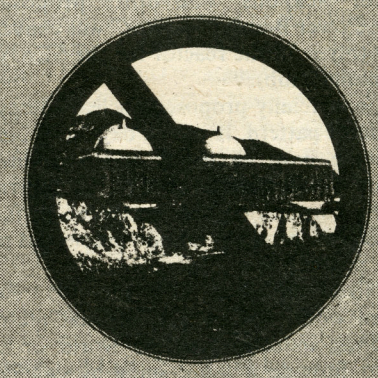
◯ I cannot join the blockade, but would like to help provide support services for those who can.

name

address

city

zip



Nonviolence Is Our Strength

JOIN THE BLOCKADE

Science Marches On Dept.

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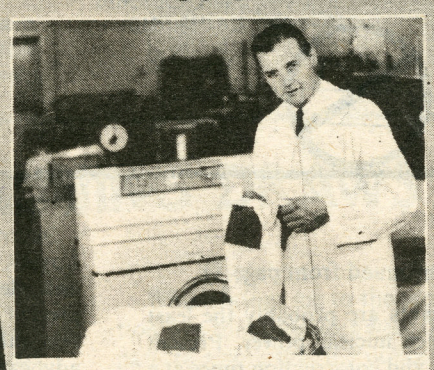

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ATOMIC PROOF : IMPROVED BENDIX TUMBLE-ACTION WASHES CLOTHES CLEANER

until next month ...

This issue was produced by: Marcy Darnovsky, Mark Evanoff, JoAnn Evind, Maureen Hogan, Ken Lans, Becky Rees, and Bob Van Scoy. Special thanks to Cindy Cornell for typesetting the copy. Deadline for the next issue is August 10. Please submit copy typed, double spaced and on time. Thanks for making our job easier. Copy should be sent to It's About Times, c/o Abalone Alliance, 944 Market Room 307, San Francisco, CA 94102.