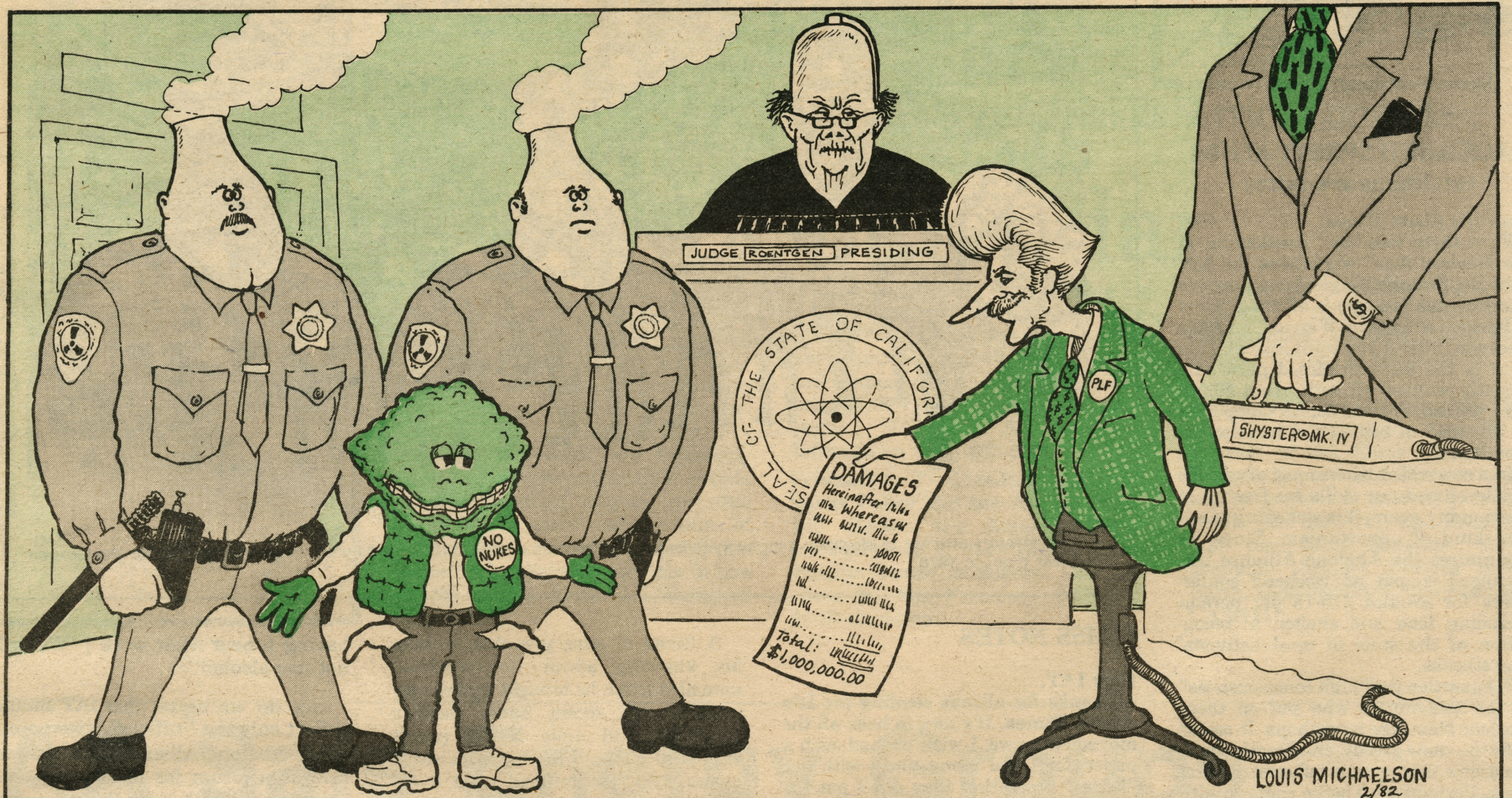


It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

February 1982



Abalone sued for \$1 million

A few days after the Abalone Alliance began its blockade of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in September, it was hit with a lawsuit -- for a cool million dollars. The resulting legal battle is now heating up in San Luis Obispo Superior Court.

In addition to the Abalone Alliance, the suit also names as defendants the Alliance for Survival, Greenpeace, Mothers for Peace, and several other groups and individuals. It was filed by the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), a non-profit law firm heavily connected to California corporate interests, which is suing the Abalone on behalf of groups including the California Association of Utility Shareholders, the San Luis Obispo Countywide Coalition for Less Government, and Santa Barbarans for a Rational Energy Policy. Members of these groups, the suit claims, have been injured by the blockade's obstruction of PG&E's business and by the costs to taxpayers of arresting the blockaders.

It is hardly clear, however, that making these claims gives PLF the legal right to sue, and the issue will be argued by PLF and Abalone lawyers on February 8 in San Luis Obispo Superior Court. If PLF wins this round, it may be able to get a court order forcing the Abalone to

turn over detailed information on how the blockade was organized. PLF says that it needs Abalone membership lists and financial statements to find out who the organizers of the blockade were. It then intends to name those people in the suit.

The organization is also seeking a permanent injunction against future blockades of Diablo because, it says, "the Alliance's highly organized structure is dedicated, by its own repeated admissions, to actually preventing Diablo Canyon's operation...Rapid mobilization of a new attack is both possible and probable...Certainly a series of ploys could be orchestrated which would throw plaintiffs off balance and necessitate plaintiffs obtaining one restraining order after another." In other words, PLF's farfetched argument is that the Abalone would set up a series of fake blockades just to keep them tied up in court trying to get restraining orders.

Despite the comedy of some of the PLF's arguments, the suit is costing the Abalone both time and money -- an effect no doubt intended by those who brought it. The Abalone's lawyers are volunteers, but other legal costs may add up to as much as \$20,000. As Raye Fleming of the Diablo Project

Office points out, "This is not a case we took on. We're being forced to defend ourselves."

Although the PLF may be a new irritant to Diablo opponents, it is a typical of the conservative "public interest" law firms that have sprouted around the country over the past few years. The Pacific Legal Foundation, like the Mountain States Legal Foundation from which US Interior Secretary James Watt came, is actually a right-wing, business-supported advocate for corporate interests.

PLF sees its proper role as fighting for the "free enterprise system," private property rights, and what it calls "balanced" environmental policies. According to a November 20, 1977 article in the *San Diego Union*, the Foundation aspires to be the first in a new line of "anti-Nader Raiders," defending the "other side" against the onslaught from below.

PLF boasts an impressive track record defending the nuclear industry. In 1981 it temporarily succeeded in overturning the California Nuclear Safeguard Laws, though they have since been upheld on

appeal. In a 1977 case known as *Seacost Antipollution League v. Costle*, PLF supported the construction of the Seabrook nuclear power plant. It participated as a "friend of the court" in the 1978 Supreme Court ruling that upheld the constitutionality of the notorious Price-Anderson Act, which limits the liability of the nuclear industry in case of a disaster.

More recently PLF has taken the offensive against nuclear protesters. In September 1980 it went to court with the Long Island Lighting Company and successfully argued for a restraining order against blockaders of the Shoreham nuclear power plant in New York. PLF also takes credit for preventing the blockade of the Trident submarine base in Bangor, Washington.

PLF's board of trustees carefully targets its legal guns on cases that will set far-reaching precedents. In PLF's 1977 annual report, its president Ronald Zumbrun explained succinctly that "every case is a test case."

PLF's success rate is about 80%. In 1981 it participated in more than

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Letters



PACKAGED SPIRITUALISM (or, linens are extra)

Dear It's About Times:

First there was the "Awakening in the Nuclear Age" workshops for \$55. Now Sat Sintokh Singh (Jerry Garcia's questionable protege) is offering "How to Become a Spiritual Warrior" for \$90 a weekend (\$108 if you want linens). This man is the self-proclaimed guru who recently waltzed off with about \$6,000 from a Grateful Dead concert supposedly intended to benefit the antinuclear movement.

In a movement where most of us have gladly shared our skills for free for lo these many years, it is sickening to see this kind of opportunism. Since its beginnings the Abalone Alliance has managed to put on weekend conferences for around \$10-15 per person including food and shelter, in recognition of the state of most activists' pocketbooks.

We question the "high consciousness" of the individuals who put on these Nuclear New Age workshops. It seems to be the same greedy, chasing-the-buck syndrome that gave us nukes in the first place. Perhaps we'd better come up with a "How to Protect the Movement from Phony Charlatans" workshop. Naturally, we'd charge large fee so people would feel they are getting something worthwhile. That seems to be the philosophy of the individuals who package and sell spiritualism (at least est doesn't claim to be political).

It's all rather insulting to those of us who managed to wake up to the nuclear age all by ourselves. If we truly have something to share with each other than let's do exactly that.

Sincerely,
Mary Moore
SoNoMore Atomics



The spiritual warrior

THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT

Dear IAT staff,

I really enjoyed the coverage of the Diablo blockade in the October-November edition. I subscribe to It's About Times for the purpose of keeping in touch with what's going on. Most of the volunteer work, films and meetings go on in San Francisco. Since I am only fifteen, I have no transportation and complications with work and school. I wanted you to know that we are out there, watching and waiting for our chance to speak. Keep up the good work!

An antinuker,
Beth Hughes
San Diego, CA



Demonstrators attempt to blockade a highway in Basel, Switzerland over which fuel rods were to be transported for the Gosgen nuclear plant in 1978.

photo by Klaus Rozsa

SWISS NOTES

Dear IAT,

Thanks for always sending me It's About Times. It's nice to hear all the movement news. I wish we had such a paper, for I feel many times with our "leftist" press that they don't put too much effort on the research, but sell their morals.

In Switzerland we are still waiting for the government's decision on the Kaiseraugst nuclear plant (which has been postponed after the successful occupation in '75). Opposition is strong and the government is having a hard time (the decision was expected last spring), although they say Switzerland needs one more nuclear power plant. So the movement activities are rather low.

An American TV team was in Switzerland to do a film for "60 Minutes." I wonder what they showed. At one point the team was captured by people from the movement for an autonomous youth center in Zurich who didn't want to be filmed and analyzed by the media. Such are the new forms of political action (and thinking) since the youth woke up in the summer of '80: often violent, rejecting all so-called decent social manners, very spontaneous and lots of times quite creative, but at others helplessly self-destructive in the clinch with the authorities.

—Susan Muhlethale
Switzerland

OFFENDED

Dear People,

It's painful to see such a good paper as It's About Times (and Radioactive Times as well) blatantly and repeatedly violate the first part of the Non-violence code as expressed in the Blockade handbook. That Code states that "Our attitude will be one of openness, friendliness, and respect towards all people we encounter." Yet in this latest issue, I see a picture of, presumably, the Queen of England, with the caption, "She ain't no human being," and with a giant safety pin piercing her lips.

Prior to the blockade, I had felt offended by derogatory "cheap shot" depictions of Ronald Reagan in both IAT and RT. I drew up a letter to send, and took it to my affinity group for feedback. There was near consensus agreement in support, with one person blocking. In the confusion of blockade preparations, I misplaced and forgot about the letter.

A friend of mine says that, without his knowing about my previous, unmailed letter, he brought up this very issue at the recent Santa Barbara gathering, and quite a few people expressed support for his criticism. I assumed that the staff had heard; to my chagrin when I saw this blockade recap issue, such was not the case.

Would you please not denigrate any political leader or other person in your pages, regardless of how despicable their policies may be, as long as we retain our current Code of Non-violence?

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Billy Ray Boyd
(Rainbow Warriors AG)
San Francisco, CA

The editors reply:

Dear Billy,

The nonviolence code is an agreement among participants in Abalone actions, as the handbook states, and is intended to maximize people's safety and political effectiveness in those often tense situations. But we don't consider its six points a new ten commandments prohibiting members from tearing up their junk mail ("We will not damage property"), jogging ("We will not run"), or

having a beer after work ("We will not use alcohol").

Nor do we agree that IAT should reflect only the "official" viewpoints of the Abalone Alliance. We see our role as a forum for discussion. We rarely agree with everything printed in an issue and we'd be surprised if our readers did either.

We agree that we sometimes publish "cheap shots", but we are a low-budget operation and we simply can't afford expensive shots. As for the derogatory depiction of Reagan, we assume you are referring to the front page photo of our fearless leader brandishing a torch (IAT mid-December — January 1981.) This was intended to point out the belligerence of a foreign policy based on threats of nuclear annihilation. Politicians like Reagan are not just ordinary people who happen to have "despicable" policies. Though the system ultimately rules them they are the architects and promoters of those policies and cannot escape personal responsibility for them.

Ridicule and satire are traditional and effective means of political criticism. A reverent attitude toward authority reinforces submission to it. It's time to stop "questioning authority" like a well-behaved child and begin the task of abolishing it.

It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

It's About Times is the newspaper of the Abalone Alliance, a California antinuclear/safe energy organization consisting of over 50 member groups (see page 11). The opinions expressed in IAT are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Abalone Alliance.

It's About Times is a project of the American Friends Service Committee. IAT is published ten times a year. The annual subscription rate is \$8.00.

IAT welcomes letters, articles, photos and artwork, but reserves the right to edit them.

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San Onofre license near

A nuclear reactor with problems as serious as those at Diablo Canyon has moved a step closer to operation. On January 11, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) recommended that a low power test permit be issued for San Onofre Unit Two, an 1100-megawatt reactor located on the California coast midway between Los Angeles and San Diego.

Although a permit would normally have been issued within 10 days of the ASLB's recommendation, NRC official Harold Denton isn't expected to grant it until February due to a lack of qualified operators and disputes over the plant's seismic design. The NRC Commissioners have agreed to decide on full power licensing for Unit Two in May and the adjacent Unit Three in August.

Outside of San Diego and Orange counties, little media attention has been given to the reactors despite the remarkable similarity of their problems to those at Diablo. Embarrassing construction errors have been found at both plants, and both Diablo and San Onofre are built near offshore earthquake faults that may produce earthquake intensities higher than the plants were designed to withstand. At both sites, planning for an evacuation following such an earthquake has been declared unnecessary by the NRC.

In the case of San Onofre, the ASLB concluded the plant was seismically safe despite the presence four miles away of the "Offshore Zone of Deformation" which

includes the Newport-Inglewood fault. San Onofre 2 and 3 were originally designed to withstand an earthquake of 6.5 on the Richter scale, but the ASLB itself has stated that the fault system could produce a 7.0 quake, several times stronger. To remedy this discrepancy, San Onofre owners Southern California Edison (SCE) and San Diego Gas and Electric set their engineers to recalculating the plants' strength. Conveniently enough, they discovered the reactors could withstand a 7.0 jolt after all. The ASLB accepted these after-the-fact reassurances and didn't order any structural modifications. General Atomic, best known for promoting breeder reactors, was hired by the two utilities to verify San Onofre's "safe design."

The United States Geological Survey concluded that the fault is capable of a 7.5 quake, ten times stronger than the original design of San Onofre. This viewpoint is shared by NRC staffer Dr. David Slemmons. Last November, a series of small quakes shook the area near the plant. Intervenor against the nuke say they originated along a fault that SCE says is inactive.

Despite its expressed confidence in San Onofre's seismic design, the ASLB did finally require the utilities to come up with an evacuation plan allowing for an earthquake that simultaneously knocked out transportation and communication systems and caused a radiation release.

continued on page 4



The cover of a CEAN and Alliance for Survival tabloid sent in January to 150,000 residents living in the evacuation zone around San Onofre.

The nuke that wouldn't die

Why PG&E won't decommission Humboldt

In 1976, when the Humboldt Bay nuclear plant was shut down for refueling, the Atomic Energy Commission told PG&E it could not be reopened until it was made seismically safe. Since then the reactor has sat idle. PG&E is not allowed to operate it and is unwilling to bear the expense of decommissioning it.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, representing intervenors against the plant, has appealed to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) to revoke PG&E's license and order the plant decommissioned. The ASLB acknowledges the utility's refusal to make the plant safe, but

the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has said that the ASLB does not have the authority to revoke PG&E's license.

Last July the ASLB did order PG&E to submit either a definitive schedule for upgrading the plant, or a decommissioning plan. PG&E refused to comply, offering instead to file status reports on its plans every six months. The utility insists that it cannot determine the economic feasibility of upgrading the plant versus decommissioning it until the NRC has completed post-TMI safety regulations.

The ASLB has done nothing since. Michael Sherwood, attorney for the intervenors, has complained that "by taking no action the Board allows the unsatisfactory *status quo* to continue, which is precisely what PG&E desires. This, however, is precisely what is contrary to the public interest. [It means] that the Board has sanctioned a *de facto*, but unlicensed, interim nuclear waste storage license."

Members of the Redwood Alliance argue that PG&E won't make the plant safe because of the expense and won't decommission it because of the publicity, the last thing the utility wants while it is trying to license Diablo Canyon.

No commercial reactor has yet been fully decommissioned. Besides the significant technical difficulties involved, the question of who will pay and how has remained unanswered. The California Public Utilities Commission, concerned that utilities won't have money available when their nuclear plants are ready to be decommissioned, held hearings in January to explore different financing schemes. The Redwood Alliance criticized the proposed plans, none of which specify how much decommissioning will cost, and all of which stick the ratepayer with the bill.

Prepayment requires the utility to set aside money in a time account with the hope that enough interest will be accumulated to finance decommissioning. The utility would retain control of the funds.

The *external fund* plan requires that the utility regularly place money in an investment account that it doesn't manage and to which it would not have access until decommissioning.

The scheme favored by the utilities is an *internal fund* plan whereby money will be accumulated on the books, but not set aside. The utility would invest this money in itself -- in trucks, pipes, other nuclear plants, or whatever it wished. This plan offers no guarantee that money for decommissioning will be available when it is needed.

The final proposal is for *premature decommissioning insurance*. This would guarantee funds in the event of a utility bankruptcy or a plant, such as Humboldt, that has to be decommissioned before its expected useful life is over.

The Redwood Alliance favors a combination of the external fund and the decommissioning insurance. It told the PUC that ratepayers should be expected to pay for only a percentage of the decommissioning, based on how long the plant actually operated in relation to its designed life. Humboldt, for example, ran for only 43% of its designed life, so the ratepayers should pay that percentage of the total decommissioning costs. The utility's stockholders, the Redwood Alliance believes, should pay the rest.

Mark Evanoff
IAT staff

Thanks to Redwood Alliance for providing background material.

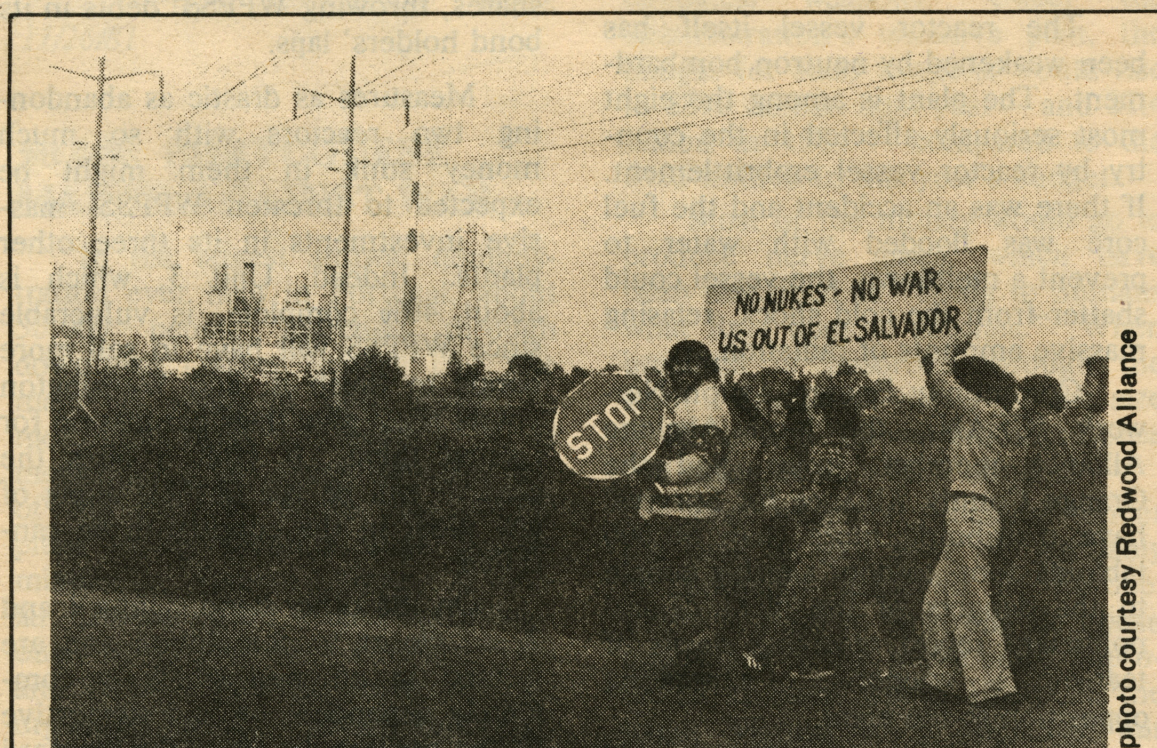


photo courtesy Redwood Alliance

After an all-night vigil January 16 at the Eureka office of PG&E, marchers from more than 10 safe-energy and Abalone groups walk the five miles to PG&E's Humboldt Bay reactor.

Electricity too expensive to meter

Washington junks two reactors

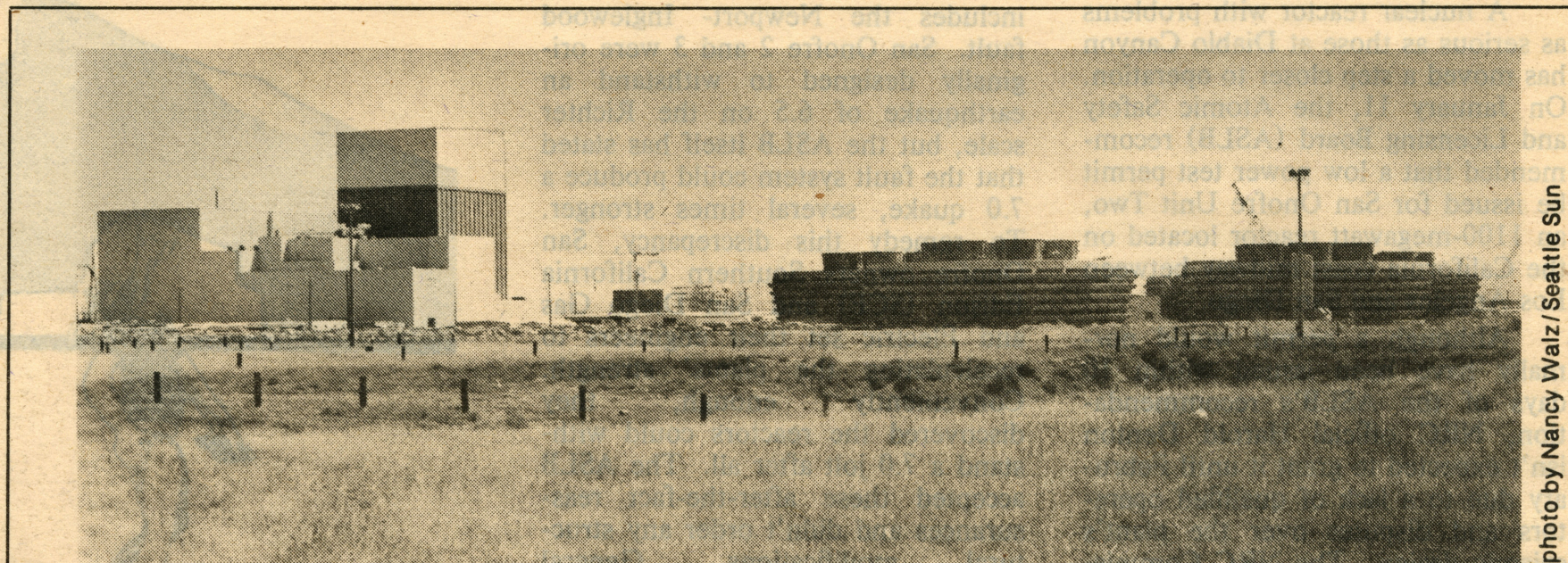
Snarled in stratospheric costs, the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS -- pronounced "whoops") decided January 23 to junk two of its five partially built nuclear power plants. Tight-lipped WPPSS executives sat stonily while an antinuclear group known as the Light Brigade popped champagne corks in the boardroom.

WPPSS Managing Director Robert Ferguson was left hoping that the reactors, one 22% and the other 14% complete, could be sold intact and "not cannibalized for parts." Whatever the fate of the plants, it is likely that WPPSS ratepayers will be charged \$6 billion for electricity they never received.

So goes the unraveling of the nuclear industry's most grandiose construction scheme to date -- a plan to build five nuclear plants that would have wound up costing \$24 billion. WPPSS' \$20 billion cost overrun, an amount larger than the GNP of many countries, has become the archetypal example of errors and mismanagement in the nuclear industry. (See *It's About Times*, December 81-January 82.)

The cancellations make it unlikely that other nuclear planners in the region, like Portland General Electric and Puget Power, will get their way in the near future. "No one is going to start construction with a couple of corpses lying in the road," commented a longtime observer.

WPPSS will probably have trouble raising funds to complete its other reactors (Units 1, 2 and 3)



WPPSS Unit #2 has cost over \$3 billion so far. According to a participant in the American Nuclear Society's recent convention in San Francisco, "If you think Diablo Canyon has got problems, you should see this reactor up in Washington!"

since the cancellations will further depress its bond ratings. As a public utility, the system finances its projects by selling tax-exempt bonds, which are paid off through increased electricity rates.

To cover its problems over the last few years, WPPSS plastered Wall Street with so much paper that it became the largest issuer of tax-exempt bonds in the country. "Every widow and orphan has a WPPSS bond," joked Jim Lazar, an adviser to Don't Bankrupt Washington, the group which successfully sponsored last November's initiative to force WPPSS to get voter approval for bond offerings.

November was also the month in which WPPSS made a last-ditch effort to save its two plants. The

system's board of directors proposed that its 88 member utilities pay for a \$250-million mothballing plan that would postpone construction for two years. The board apparently hoped that after the hiatus enough "widows

In an earlier attempt to shore up its flagging fiscal image, WPPSS had appointed corporate luminaries, including the presidents of United Airlines and Seattle First National Bank, to an executive board. But

WPPS was looking at a \$20 billion cost overrun, an amount larger than the GNP of many countries.

and orphans" could be found to buy the bonds that would finance the resumption of construction. But the utilities balked at spending a quarter billion dollars to tread water, and WPPSS was forced to throw in the towel.

gross mismanagement continued, as did Wall Street's mistrust of investments in the system.

The \$2.2 billion already spent on the cancelled plants, along with interest on this debt, will cost \$6 billion over the next thirty years. This amount plus the cost of a proper burial for the cancelled plants will probably be charged to ratepayers in the five states served by WPPSS. However, under a provision of WPPSS' contracts with its member utilities, WPPSS bond holders rather than ratepayers could wind up liable if 25% or more of the utilities go bankrupt. It is clear that some small utilities, like rural irrigation districts, will go under because they can't sell electricity at WPPSS' rates, which are as much as ten times higher than electricity from other sources.

In addition, WPPSS faces a breach of contract lawsuit brought by several Idaho cities. If the suit succeeds, other municipal utilities, which make up 15% of WPPSS' members, would be expected to withhold funds from the system. Together, the municipals and rural districts could constitute 25% of the shares, throwing WPPSS' debts in its bond holders' laps.

Measures as drastic as abandoning two reactors with so much money sunk in them might be expected to threaten WPPSS' massive investments in its three other plants. Indeed, Unit 3, which is about 40% complete, is vulnerable since WPPSS will have to sell more bonds to finish it, and Washington voters must give their permission for issuing them. If Unit 3 bites the dust, it will be the farthest along of any plant in the country to be cancelled.

On the other hand, Units 1 and 2 are closer to completion and are located in an area which is completely dependent on and supportive of the nuclear dream -- the Hanford military complex near Richland, Washington.

San Onofre license near

continued from page 3

SCE appealed this requirement to the NRC Commissioners, arguing that since earthquakes are a generic problem faced by the entire nuclear industry, San Onofre shouldn't be singled out for special attention. The Commission agreed in a three-to-two vote. It also refuses to allow other generic problems, such as the disposal of nuclear waste, to be raised as issues in the licensing process for specific plants. As Nancy Culver of the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace puts it, "When they can't cope with a problem, they call it generic."

NRC Commissioner Peter Bradford said in his dissenting opinion, "The Commission is telling the (Atomic Safety and Licensing) Board that has had the foresight to uncover a serious safety matter that it may not inquire into the matter further, even though the Board apparently has doubts that it has 'reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency.' The result of this action could easily be an inadequacy in San Onofre emergency planning that goes unremedied for a long time."

The utility has prepared plans for an evacuation that it maintains can be completed in three hours and forty-five minutes. Colorful brochures, featuring ratepayers filing out of their homes, have been distributed to people living within a ten-mile radius of the plant. Southern California Edison's model evacuation would have nothing to do with an

earthquake, and so would take place with all communications and transportation operating normally. The perfect disaster, one might say.

According to an NRC document, a total meltdown of the reactor would contaminate 16,000 square miles and require the relocation of 8 to 10 million people for up to ten years. About 130,000 would die immediately; 300,000 cancer deaths and 600,000 birth defects would follow. (From the Draft Environmental Statement on San Onofre, US NRC NURG 0490, April 1981.)

The technicians responsible for averting such a catastrophe do not inspire confidence. Sixteen of San Onofre's eighteen senior reactor operators flunked the NRC certification exams last November. Ken Baskin, Southern California Edison manager of nuclear engineering, told the *Los Angeles Times* that the operators hadn't been properly trained. The utility has hired a special consultant, he said, to train operators in "how to take tests."

Six of the operators failed the control room examinations, which included oral run-throughs of procedures for different emergency situations. The main problem areas were the written exams on operating procedures. Operators had trouble on questions about how a reactor works and how to handle radioactive materials. Nor were they aware of federal regulations.

The company that built San Onofre, Bechtel Corporation, has run into quite a few problems. The reactor vessel for Unit Two was inadver-

tently installed backwards, a mistake that wasn't discovered for seven months. All the plant's wiring had to be reversed to compensate for the backward reactor.

Later, air pockets appeared in the containment dome. The cavities were filled with concrete and intervenors argue that this weakened the original design.

Unit One, operating since 1968, has not been a model reactor. During a recent nineteen-month period, it was running for only forty-six days. Thousands of leaking steam generator tubes had to be replaced, requiring over 1700 temporary workers. (See *IAT*, August 1981.)

The reactor vessel itself has been weakened by neutron bombardment. The plant is among the eight most seriously affected in the country by reactor vessel embrittlement. If there was an accident and the fuel core was flooded with water to prevent a meltdown, the vessel could shatter from the cold shock, releasing massive amounts of radiation.

Community Energy Action Network (CEAN), the local Abalone Alliance member group, and the Orange County Alliance for Survival have distributed more than 50,000 tabloids door-to-door alerting people to the dangers of the plant. Local politicians report receiving stacks of tear-out coupons expressing opposition to the plant.

Mark Evanoff
IAT staff

Thanks to CEAN and Orange County Alliance for Survival for providing background.

Ward Young
IAT staff

Diablo defects mushroom

Safety report secretly edited

A report on seismic safety conducted by a supposedly independent consulting firm was altered by PG&E officials to downplay newly discovered design errors at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

The report by Robert Cloud Associates has turned up error after error in the construction of Diablo despite the firm's close association with the PG&E. The utility is just as quickly claiming to have corrected the deficiencies.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has met three times in as many months to discuss the fiasco at Diablo Canyon, but still hasn't determined the scope or extent of the safety review it will require. Nor has the NRC set up any means for the results of the investigation already underway - questionable as it is - to be considered in the licensing decision. Plant intervenors angrily charge that the NRC is reneging on its promise of an independent investigation.

Even as that controversy continued, the NRC quietly concluded the final round of public hearings in San Luis Obispo on the full power operation of Diablo Canyon.

Reports Altered

Early drafts of the Cloud report were covered with PG&E's handwritten comments and corrections. Notes on a cover letter cautioned against phrasing that would "red flag" the NRC. In another instance, where the text detailed possible construction errors, a PG&E official wrote "Replace with attached text."

The "independent" report on seismic safety had been ordered by the NRC when a series of major design errors was revealed in late September. At the same time, the NRC also suspended PG&E's license to conduct low-power tests at Diablo, which it had issued only a few days earlier.

On November 3 the NRC and intervenors met with PG&E officials and representatives from Robert Cloud Associates. The utility officials assured the NRC that Cloud would have complete freedom to investigate and report on safety problems.

Harold Denton, head of reactor regulation for the NRC, asked if PG&E officials would get advance copies of the report and was assured they would not. In fact, however, the company already had a draft report that Cloud had delivered to it on

October 21.

A few weeks later the edited draft was leaked to Morris Udall of the House Interior Subcommittee on Energy and Environment. It had been scrutinized and changed by six PG&E executives, all of whom had been at the November 3 meeting. A former employee of Cloud Associates has complained to the NRC that he was pressured to "reword the thing, to make it sound better for PG&E."

Without telling the NRC, the utility revised two additional drafts of Cloud's report before finally giving it to the Commission in early December.

Embarrassed by these revelations (although they received scant attention from most newspapers until a month later), the NRC ordered an investigation into the relationship between Cloud Associates and PG&E. The utility was directed to turn over all edited versions of the report to the intervenors.

An article in the industry newsletter *Inside NRC* said the Commissioners were considering a fine against PG&E for making a "material false statement." But, it continued, they were unlikely to order Cloud fired.

Despite PG&E's attempt to edit away the seriousness of the design mistakes, Cloud's report still showed major problems. (See *IAT*, Dec. '81 - Jan. '82) *It's About Times* has learned that many new errors have been uncovered by Cloud Associates. The latest report lists 17 potential errors. It suggests that outdated seismic soil analyses which underestimate swaying effects in an earthquake appear to have been used in construction of many buildings at Diablo including one which houses vital equipment for the emergency core cooling system.

The numerous design errors uncovered so far, together with reports of falsified safety inspections reported in the *San Jose Mercury*, cast into doubt PG&E's quality assurance program for all phases of construction for the entire plant. Yet despite Diablo's problems, the NRC commissioners haven't decided how deeply to delve into them or how Cloud's review will be taken up in the licensing process. The intervenors are angry at the NRC's stalling. "We're being prejudiced by the NRC's inaction," protests Richard Hubbard of MHB Associates, a consultant for the intervenors.



photo by Bob Van Scoy

Blockade at Diablo Canyon, September, 1981.

"Cloud's review will finish, PG&E will tell the NRC, 'Look, we've done the analysis and made a good faith effort to repair the errors, now give us our license,' and everyone will consider the investigation a fait accompli."

Licensing Hearings

The NRC's final licensing hearings for Diablo went ahead even as officials lambasted PG&E for poor quality control and their role in the Cloud controversy. The hearings dealt with only a tiny subset of all the controversies in which Diablo has been embroiled. For example, the main issue of contention was emergency evacuation, and the NRC refused to consider that an earthquake would be the initiating event in an accident at the plant. According to NRC lexicon this is a generic problem that can be ignored in individual cases. "The NRC robbed us of our whole argument - that an earthquake which caused an accident at the plant would also render evacuation impossible," observed Sandy Silver, an intervenor in the hearings.

This time around the Hosgri fault did not issue any tremors unlike the previous hearings go-round. However, heavy rains in January flooded one of the two evacuation routes that plant workers would use in case of an accident. The board ruled this occurrence "irrelevant."

PG&E Gets Rate Hike

On December 30 the Public Utilities Commission awarded PG&E its biggest rate hike ever, nearly one billion dollars in increased gas and electric rates.

The Commissioners were apologetic about the increase, which they trimmed to 60% of PG&E's request. "There is nothing in the system to handle the social dislocation taking place because of these increases," said Commissioner Leonard Grimes.

The company's request for "construction work in progress" to incorporate some of Diablo's costs, accelerated depreciation and other accounting changes were denied by the PUC.

A State Board of Equalization audit to investigate PG&E's claims that the debt service for Diablo can be financed without ratepayer support was quashed in November. William Bennett, who sits on the board, had ordered the study to determine if PG&E's Diablo problems were behind its recent request for rate increases. PG&E argued against the study and its behind-the-scenes lobbying killed it, according to Bennett. But Wall Street apparently shares Bennett's suspicions. Duff and Phelps, an investment research firm, lowered PG&E's bond rating in late January with the remark that the company's "credibility is a problem because Diablo Canyon has been coming on line for a long time."

-Ward Young *IAT* staff



Photo by Steve Stallone

Blockade at Diablo Canyon, September, 1981.

The Polish workers' movement:

Just as the European Nuclear Disarmament movement has challenged US hegemony in the west, the Polish workers have called into question Soviet domination of the east. END has been attacked as "communist inspired" and the Polish workers accused of being dupes of Western imperialism, but neither charge has stuck. Both movements have shaken the superpowers' prevailing authority in global politics.

General Jaruzelski's declaration of martial law in December temporarily blocked a sixteen-month struggle by workers for more control over their lives and society. But it is unlikely that Polish workers will abandon their goals. Their recent efforts — the largest, longest and most far-reaching of their kind — were not the first.

POST-WAR POLAND

After World War II, Stalin's USSR established a bureaucratic dictatorship, conceived in its own image, to rule the new People's Republic of Poland. In this alleged "workers' state" people still had to sell their labor power for subsistence wages, but now the buyer was the government rather than a private corporation. The Party bureaucracy not only maintained a political monopoly, but controlled the economy, dictating wages, prices, and what would be produced and how.

Central planning, strict work discipline and low pay in the industrial areas, coupled with the forced collectivization of agriculture, provided the surplus funds to rebuild the war-devastated country. The USSR contributed development funds, as well as food and raw materials at low cost. But such aid hardly compensated for the factories the Soviets had looted from German territory incorporated into Poland after the war, or for the neo-imperialist payment arrangement they enforced. To this day, the East bloc nations pay for Soviet imports with hard currency, while the USSR pays its bills with rubles, good only for buying Soviet exports.

TROUBLES IN 1956

By 1956 Poland's planned economy

was a chaotic mess. Industrial productivity was sagging, and forced collectivization of agriculture was bringing declining harvests. After improvements during the early post-war years, living standards were falling again. Then a slight liberalization of the police apparatus allowed the generalized discontent to find expression — enough to show the discontented they were not alone.

In June, workers in the city of Poznan sent delegates to the Party authorities with demands for higher wages and tax cuts. When only two of the five demands were met, the workers poured into the streets. Thousands joined them. Soon the crowd was battling police, destroying police stations, seizing arms and freeing prisoners. But by evening the government's special security units controlled the streets and the insurrection was over.

In response to the Poznan uprising, a coalition within the Polish bureaucracy led by Wladyslaw Gomulka pushed for liberal reforms that they argued would restore social stability. A showdown between Gomulka's reformers and the hardliners backed by Krushchev and the USSR almost started a war between the two countries. When Gomulka threatened to arm and mobilize Polish workers, as well as the army, against the Russian tanks poised at the border, Krushchev backed down.

Gomulka consolidated his power with the support of the better-off peasants (by easing forced collectivization), the technocrats and managers (by increasing their privileges and say in decision-making) and the Church (by freeing Cardinal Wyszynski from house arrest). The working class was also temporarily placated by the new regime's recognition of the workers' councils, assemblies created by the workers themselves to organize production. But the government quickly subsumed these councils under Party and trade union groups, stripping them of all effective power.

STUDENT UPRISINGS OF THE SIXTIES

Gomulka's liberalizations did not last long. During 1963 and 1964 the few newly opened avenues for free expression were blocked. Two leading liberal publications were suppressed and the political discussion club at the University of Warsaw was closed.



People gathered daily in front of the Lenin shipyards in August, 1980 to get information.

In 1968 several students and professors who spoke out against the regime and called for its overthrow were arrested and jailed. When students at the University of Warsaw protested the repression, special militia units were sent to the campus to crush them. Outraged by the police brutality, students throughout the country held sit-ins, boycotts and rallies, and in Warsaw they battled police in the streets. The government arrested hundreds and instituted a new system of screening college applicants for political suitability.

Although many workers sympathized with the students, they held no mass actions or strikes in solidarity. Hence the authorities were able to repress the movement without granting significant concessions. But many of the student activists, such as Jacek Kuron (later leader of the KOR, or Committee for Social Self-Defense, and a major political influence on Solidarity) were to figure prominently in later years.

THE WINTER OF THEIR DISCONTENT

On December 13, 1970, in the face of a worsening economic situation, the Polish authorities announced price increases of up to 30% on basic foodstuffs. Strikes had been flaring in vital industrial areas since the preceding autumn, and the government must have known the new increases would cause trouble. It raised police salaries 20% at the same time.

Striking workers at the Gdansk shipyards elected delegates to go to Party headquarters to discuss the price hikes. Upon their arrival all the delegates were arrested. The next day the dockers marched toward the central city, breaking the windows of the press building, the Investment Bank and other centers of the Party's power.

When the army and the militia arrived, fighting began. The workers were armed with stones, bars, chains and lead pipes; the police and the army with guns and tear gas. The army, made up of draftees,

shot into the air but the police aimed directly at the workers. For two days rioting, street battles and looting racked the city.

The next morning in Gdynia, only twelve kilometers away, striking shipyard workers arrived to find the yard occupied by police and army tanks and cannons. The police opened fire and a riot ensued. The official papers reported 21 dead, but workers' publications insisted the number was ten times that.

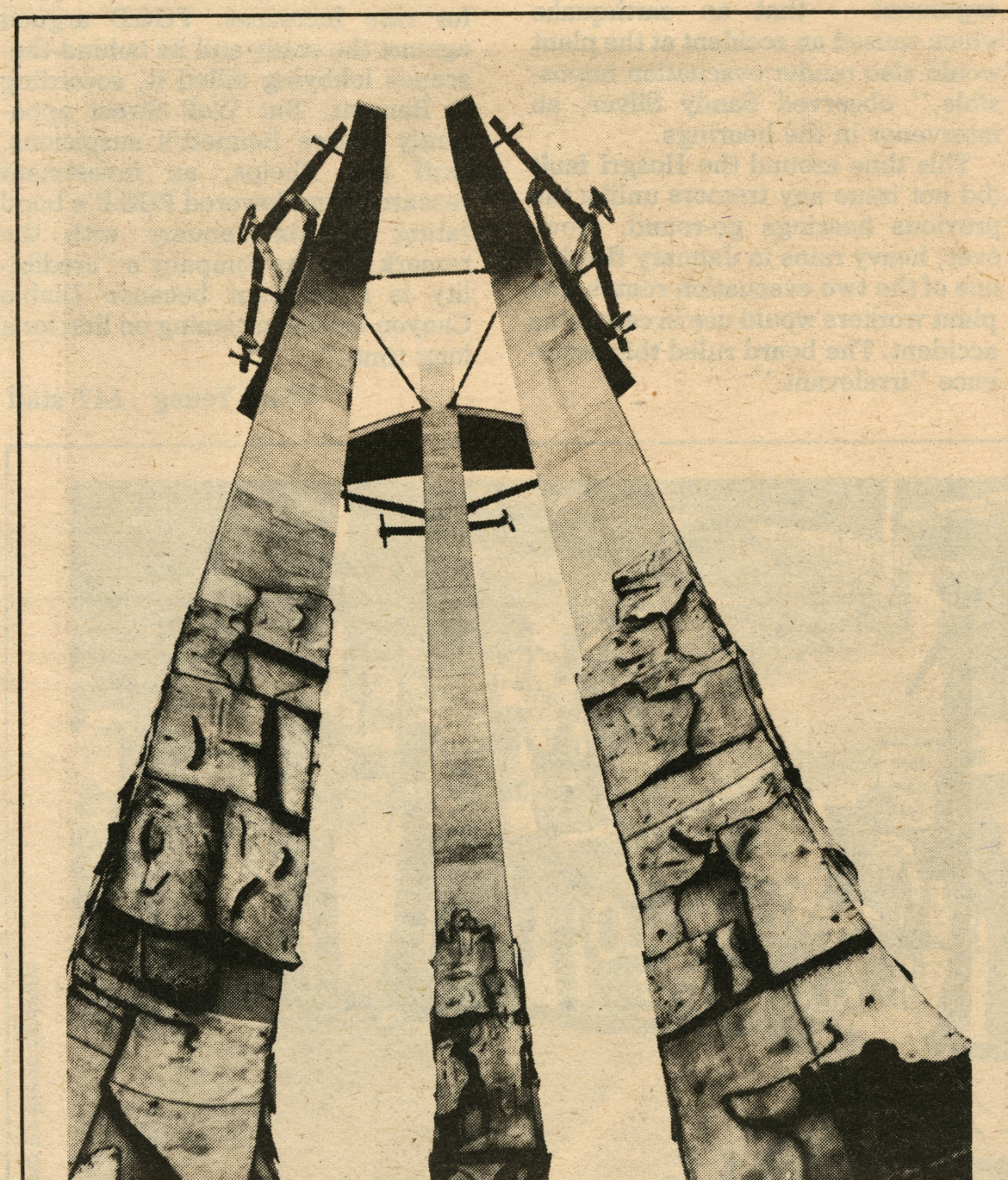
Strikes and demonstrations took place in cities all over Poland that week. In Szczecin, an important industrial city in the northwest, the organization and power of the workers most clearly foreshadowed the events of August, 1980.

After marching en masse into the city and setting fire to Party buildings, the Szczecin workers returned to occupy the shipyards and factories. They set up a central strike committee that organized transportation and food distribution. Electrical and gas workers stayed on the job but cut off utilities in areas where police and Party members lived. The strike was so effective that in a couple of days the authorities had to negotiate. Gomulka was removed from his post as Party first secretary and his replacement, Edward Gierek, came in person to the shipyard.

Despite Gierek's liberal reputation and numerous promises, the strikes continued through January. Not until women textile workers in Lodz struck in February, forcing the prime minister to come and negotiate, were the December price increases rescinded.

THE RIOTS OF 1976

Under Gierek's leadership the Party tried a new economic plan. Instead of directly attacking the workers' living standards through price increases, the government took out huge loans from Western banks. The money was to be used for more consumer goods and to reinvest in new plants and equipment to increase productivity. It was hoped that the im-



This monument, in commemoration of the workers killed in the 1970 uprisings, was built by the government under pressure from Solidarity.

decades of resistance and revolt



photo by Howard Besser

tion on the strike not available in the official media.

proved competitiveness of Polish goods on the world market would offset the costs of the loans and buy social peace.

But this scheme backfired when the international recession of the early 70's shrunk markets for Polish exports. In 1973 the USSR more than doubled the price of crude oil to Poland. As payment on the Western loans came due, the bureaucracy panicked and on June 24, 1976 it announced price increases of 60% and more on basic food items.

The next day 20,000 workers in Warsaw went on strike. Walkouts and demonstrations were held in Gdansk and other cities. In Radom workers marched to the regional Communist Party headquarters and burned it down while singing the "Internationale." Riots, looting and street battles with the police followed. Within 24 hours the government withdrew the price increases pending "consultations" with the workers.

These came a couple of days later, but there were no non-Party members in attendance and price increases were reinstituted at half their original amounts. This was followed by heavy repression. Many people were laid off, blacklisted, arrested, beaten, tried in government kangaroo courts and given prison sentences of up to ten years.

SOLIDARITY!

The workers' economic situation worsened after the '76 events. Average real wages dropped, inflation hit double digits and shortages in consumer goods became more severe. By 1980 Poland's national debt was approaching \$25 billion. In July, to raise money for payments on the loans, the government again raised food prices.

This time the strikes spread slowly but more thoroughly. The workers occupied the factories, the centers of their social power, avoiding bloody street battles. Workplace general assemblies elected strike committees, which in turn formed regional coordinating bodies. In August the Inter-Factory Strike Committee,

based in Gdansk, issued a list of demands, which besides strictly "bread-and-butter" issues (wage increases, maternity leave, earlier retirement, a five-day work week), called for guarantees of the right to strike, amnesty for people involved in the 1970 and 1976 uprisings, freedom of the press and the abolition of certain privileges for managers and police.

The strike committees consolidated themselves into the independent "trade union" Solidarity. In marked contrast to unions elsewhere, however, Solidarity retained its geographical rather than trade-based organization which helped maintain the direct democracy of the general assemblies and enabled the stronger locals to aid the weaker ones. Negotiations with government representatives were broadcast throughout the Gdansk shipyards, guaranteeing that no deals could be made without the rank-and-file's knowledge and consent.

The strike's victory unleashed a frenzy of activity and organization that could not be contained. Across the country workers went on strike to win political and economic demands. Solidarity kept pushing for more power until in November 1981 it made a sweeping proposal to take a major role in determining the national economic plan and to end the Party's monopoly in political matters.

On December 13, 1981 martial law was declared and the union was outlawed. Solidarity militants not arrested went underground and are still organizing passive resistance against the police state through work slowdowns. There is little doubt that new confrontations will begin in the spring.

ENEMIES, ENEMIES EVERYWHERE

The bureaucracy in Poland can hang onto its ruling position and attendant relative wealth only if it maintains the country's financial viability. Time and time again it has shown that it can do so

only by attacking the living standards of the workers.

The Soviet bureaucrats have long used Poland as a source of cheap agricultural and industrial goods, draining the country's wealth and workers. The Soviet Politburo, composed of survivors of the WWII German invasion, believe they need the Warsaw Pact as a buffer against NATO. They can be counted on to send the army into any Warsaw Pact country when workers' rebellions jeopardize what they perceive as the Soviet interest.

In the West the Polish workers are hailed as freedom fighters by rulers who don't hesitate to clamp down on workers' movements in their own countries. Reagan supports the Polish workers' right to strike, but fires the entire membership of PATCO over the same issue.

The main concern of western banks is that the loans be repaid. Some financial circles are suggesting that Poland join the International Monetary Fund, which is notorious for giving credit under the condition that severe austerity programs be imposed on the working class.

The US can afford a bit of ideological bluster because it has so little real economic stake in the Eastern bloc. By contrast, its West European allies, particularly West Germany, which have increasingly vital trade relations with the Warsaw Pact countries, are less outspoken.

"THE WORKING CLASS HAS NO FATHERLAND."

Solidarity was a wide-open association. Its members ranged from right-wing Catholics to extreme left Marxist revolutionaries. But the error common to almost all of them was nationalism — treating both the crisis and its solution as Polish problems.

Viewing the Polish economy as somehow separate from the world market allowed many Solidarity members to think that the country's economic crisis was primarily a matter of bad management. Blind to the structural problems of the Polish and world economies, they proposed schemes of workers' self-management within the existing system. If Solidarity had been given a role in directing the national economy, its leaders would have had no choice but to help administer an austerity program. Lech Walesa, like

Douglas Frazer of the United Auto Workers in the US, has offered to do this in return for a position of power in economic planning.

The Polish workers' nationalism also led them to place too much trust in General Jaruzelski and the army. Many thought that because Jaruzelski was known as a "patriot," and because anti-Soviet sentiment is widespread in Poland's military, the army would not be used against them. Consequently there was no attempt to create a "Soldiers' Solidarity" which might have disrupted martial law operations.

Perhaps most disastrously, nationalist attitudes prevented the Polish workers from making any major effort to forge links with their natural allies abroad. These would include first of all the workers of the other Warsaw Pact countries, especially Romania, where serious worker revolts have occurred in recent years. More broadly, they include workers and other dispossessed people around the world whose nations are in debt almost as badly as Poland, and whose governments take similar measures against them.

Many working people and "intellectuals" in the US see the situation of their Polish counterparts as regrettable but remote, alien to their experience. It will not remain so for long. Despite its flaws, Solidarity and the creativity and courage of those who composed it provide workers everywhere with an indispensable example in dealing with their rulers' attempts to make them pay for the current economic crisis.

—Steve Stallone
IAT staff and
Jack Straw

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photo by Sue Bloch

San Francisco demo against martial law in Poland on December 22, 1981.

Nukes in print

Protest and Survive

Protest and Survive, edited by E.P. Thompson and Dan Smith, Monthly Review Press, 62 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011, \$4.95.

In 1980, British newspapers reported that the government had secretly produced a publication meant to be released if it looked like Britain was about to be blown away. The classified pamphlet, a do-it-yourself program for civil defense (basement shelters, shortwave radios and don't forget the kitty litter), was called *Protect and Survive*. News of its existence set off a scandal in Britain and prompted E.P. Thompson, a Marxist historian and nuclear critic, to respond with another pamphlet, this one called *Protest and Survive*.

An anthology of the same name, edited by Thompson and Dan Smith, was published in Britain in October 1980. Now an American version, containing much of the same material, has been released by Monthly Review Press, which characterizes it as a "broadly ecumenical collection."

Protest and Survive begins to tackle the unasked questions behind the "unthinkable." The contributors offer sometimes differing explanations of the policies, the history, and the social and economic dynamics that have created nuclear weapons. More than the traditional fare of the American disarmament movement -- which consists overwhelmingly of nuclear horror stories and recitations of technical details -- this book is satisfying.

The American *Protest and Survive* is introduced by Daniel Ellsberg's "Call to Mutiny," a message no less urgent for the several years Ellsberg has spent trying to get it across to the American public, a few dozen or a few hundred at a time. The list of occasions on which American presidents have threatened the first use of nuclear weapons --

sometimes publicly, sometimes in secret, in almost every administration since the Bomb was built -- appears here with footnotes, references and anecdotes. It's a story you'll find yourself retelling, if only for shock value.

Several other essays stand out. In "Letter to America" which appeared last fall in *The Nation*, Thompson explains why Europeans don't wish to play expendable host to the superpowers' nuclear battles, NATO's rules of etiquette notwithstanding. In both "Letter" and the three-page "Appeal for European Disarmament," which Thompson initially drafted, he issues his call for a movement against nuclear war. "We must resist any attempt by the statesmen of East or West to manipulate this movement to their own advantage. . . Our objective must be. . . ultimately, to dissolve both great power alliances."

Mary Kaldor's contribution, "Disarmament: The Armament Process in Reverse," includes the most convincing argument for conversion that I've yet heard, an argument framed by the belief that "the conversion from war to peace needs to be seen *not* as the *technical* process of converting swords to ploughshares but as a *social* process of finding a new mechanism for the allocation [and, I would add, production] of resources."

Besides a few weak essays, my major disappointment with *Protest and Survive* was its skimpiness in anticipating the problems that will inevitably confront the massive peace movement for which it calls. Though many of the authors rest their hopes on such a movement, they leave important questions untouched. How, for example, should a movement that wishes to "dissolve both great power alliances" greet arms negotiations between the superpowers? What

demands should be made by an American disarmament campaign, and how can they be coordinated with the call for a nuclear-free Europe? Can we expect disarmament without major social upheaval and transformation?

These questions may have seemed premature when *Protest and Survive* was being put together, before last fall's march of millions in Europe and the "arms control" talks that they forced on the US and the USSR. Now they are pressing.

An earlier groundswell against nuclear weapons, which managed to push the US and the Soviet Union to ban atmospheric testing in 1963, foundered on just these points. The journalist I.F. Stone recounts that "what looked like the peace movement's greatest triumph proved

to be a bonanza for the military and its industrial allies."

The Test Ban Treaty left the loophole of underground testing, which the bomb designers in their ingenuity managed to fill with all the experiments they needed. In fact, one of the main selling points for the treaty in Senate hearings was the argument that the move underground, where the US already had substantial experience, would slow down the Russians. In addition, the military exacted a high price in new weapons systems for its agreement to the treaty -- so high that Senator McGovern remarked that "a casual observer might assume that we are approving this treaty so that we can accelerate the arms race and beef up the war-making facilities of our country!"

The campaign against nuclear testing, which according to Stone had been mobilized by the fear of strontium 90 from atmospheric tests turning up in baby's milk, collapsed when the Test Ban Treaty was signed. The peace movement of the day had relied too heavily on oversimplified propaganda and "hypochondria in the service of idealism."

Stone's essays on disarmament (including "Why SALT Spells Fraud," "The Test Ban Comedy," and "Disarmament: A Century of Futility") can be found in his collection *Polemics and Prophecies, 1967-1970* (Vintage Books, New York, 1972). The points he made ten years ago would have been an important addition to the arguments in *Protest and Survive*. If the movement for survival is itself to survive, it must learn to decode the wiles of the nuclear powers until it is strong enough to dismantle them.

Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff



E.P. Thompson at Campaign For Nuclear Disarmament Rally in London, October 24, 1981.

photo by Justin Munro

The art of democracy

One of my first discoveries about the consensus process, when I started working with the antinuclear movement in 1977, was that it meant my ideas and feelings were given a thorough hearing. My opinion really mattered, and I was respected and listened to. I literally felt high for weeks.

Consensus promises that experience to every individual. In a society that reduces most of us to cogs in the profit wheel and gives us virtually no say on the most important aspects of our lives, that can be very reaffirming.

But what are the costs of consensus? In my experience, it works best in small groups, like the neighborhood chapter or affinity group. The intimate nature of the group lends it a high level of mutual trust; conflicts can usually be resolved and consensus reached. But even in small groups the consensus process readily breaks down when the group grows in size or diversity of opinion.

The problems multiply at the community, regional and statewide levels. The meetings are larger, and the issues addressed are broader in scope and more critical to the whole organization. Local spokes are rarely empowered to make decisions not specifically agreed to by their groups. So when the time comes for

compromise, the spoke must go back to the group for discussion. I've seen proposals bounce back and forth for months. At a typical Abalone Alliance conference you're lucky if any decisions at all get made.

Advocates of consensus are generally aware of its cumbersome nature, but they rarely address its consequences. When vital decisions are left unresolved, personal frustrations build and the whole organization suffers. And consensus can be a very elitist process, since people with 40-hour-a-week jobs and families can't afford the hours of meetings that consensus demands.

Even a recognition of these limitations doesn't forestall the argument that consensus is the most humane and democratic option available. Consensus is characterized as nonviolent and loving, while voting is violent, coercive and competitive. Consensus is for those who seek cooperative solutions; voting is for power-mongers.

I believe that the pro-consensus folks have grossly distorted the nature of voting. It is *not* the mechanical, win/lose inhumane process they describe. There can be a great deal of give-and-take, listening to everybody's concerns, synthesizing opposing positions, compromis-

ing and amending.

The truth is, voting and consensus can *both* involve coercion -- forcing one party to accept the decision of another. In the Abalone Alliance, tiny groups have been able to force their will on hundreds of activists across the state.

With voting, the will of the majority holds sway, but with consensus an individual or minority wields power through exercise of the veto or block. Consensus replaces majority rule with minority rule. That's not democracy.

Consensus may not be the best way to guarantee the right of individuals to express their views either. The voting process allows people to simply raise their hand in favor of or against a decision. Those who are shy or unsure of themselves can participate in the process without having to explain or defend their position before the group. Another problem is that it often seems prudent to keep quiet rather than raise an objection that, with the consensus process, might take another hour to resolve.

Voting allows decisions to be made and work to go on while internal conflicts continue. It ultimately allows more issues and concerns to be raised than consensus, which -- not intentionally but actually --

works to suppress conflict and discourage open debate.

The antinuclear movement needs a better definition of democracy. In my mind, democracy means the ability to participate in decisions that affect our lives, and more. Its means that the proposals being considered are fully understood, that all sides of the question have been heard, and that everyone has had ample opportunity to express concerns.

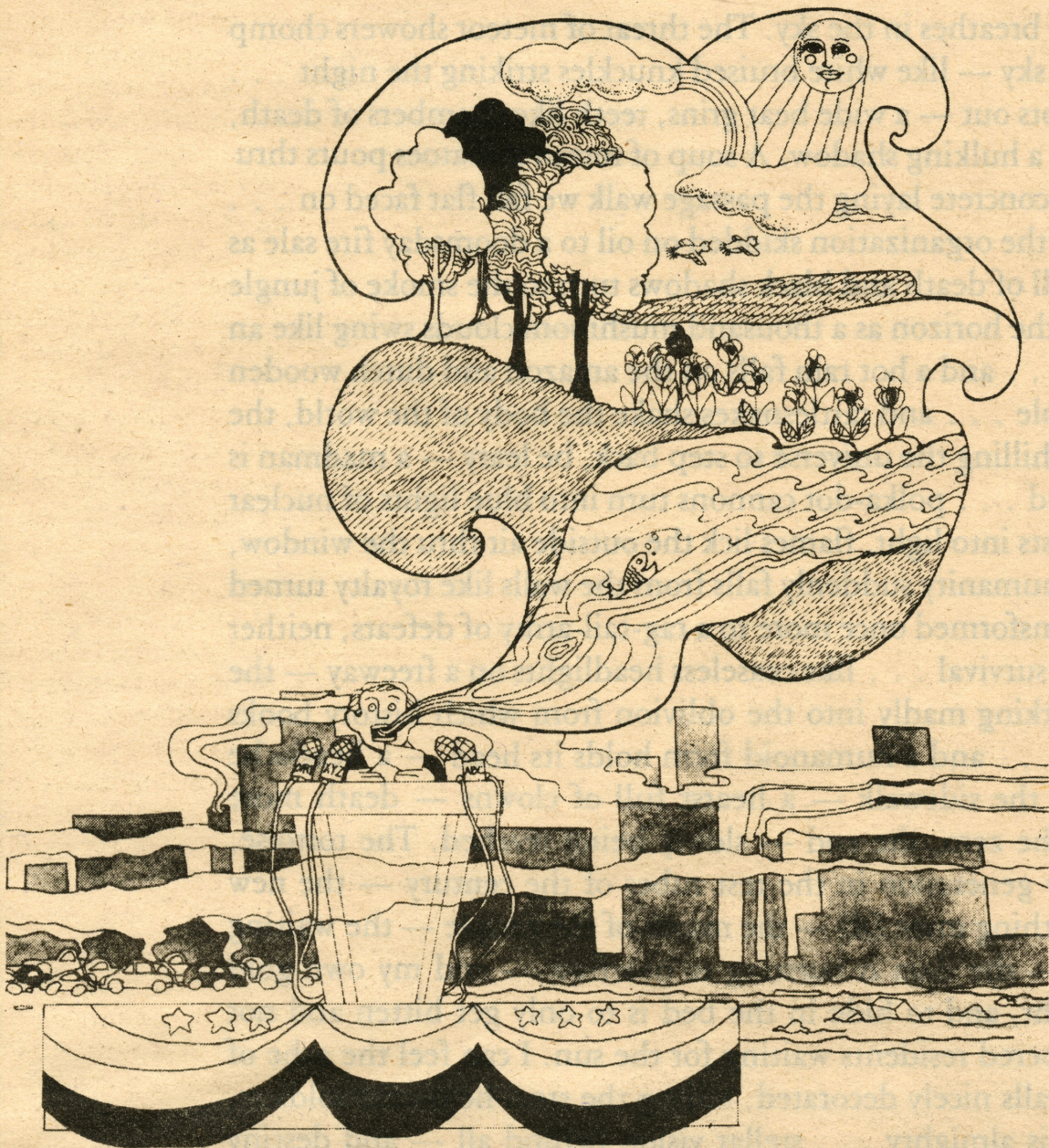
Democracy does not mean subjecting ourselves to hours of drudgery, trying to satisfy every objection. Nor does it mean that each individual or tiny minority should have the power to block decisions. There is an important difference between giving minorities the right to fully voice their views and giving them the power to force their will on the larger group.

Despite its built-in drawbacks, consensus really does encourage a personally reaffirming group process. But this style could be combined with a model of democratic voting, and I believe the Abalone Alliance would be richer and stronger for it.

-- Howard Ryan

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Short Circuits



MAJORITY OPPOSES NUKES

A NBC News/Associated Press poll taken in mid-November shows that 56% of the public now thinks that no more nuclear plants should be built. That number has more than doubled from a 1977 poll that showed only 25% opposed to more nukes. The recent poll also found that 32% of those sampled favor more nuclear construction, as compared to 67% in 1977. Twelve percent of both polls were undecided.

In the new poll, 63% said the future energy needs of the US would be best served by more conservation and the expansion of other energy sources, 18 percent thought nuclear power was best, and the remainder favored some combination or were not sure. The poll also asked people, "Would it worry you to live within 10 miles of a nuclear power plant?" Some 58% said it would, 35% said it wouldn't, 5% said they already did, and the other 2% were undecided.

-- From *Nucleonics Week*, 11/26/81

50,000 PORTUGUESE MARCH AGAINST WAR

In the largest antiwar demonstration ever held in Portugal, about 50,000 people marched through downtown Lisbon January 16. The marchers, many of them dressed in mourning black or death's heads masks, were protesting development of the neutron bomb and NATO plans to put medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. A similar demonstration staged simultaneously in Oporto drew between 5000 and 10,000. The demonstration was organized by the Council for Peace and Cooperation and Portuguese trade unions. According to the *Oakland Tribune*, most of the marchers were Communist trade unionists.

Oakland Tribune, 1-17-82

HOW TO SAY "KEEP OFF"

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has a message for Americans who will live thousands of years in the future, but it doesn't know quite how to say it. It is trying to devise a way of warning future generations to stay away from still-deadly radioactive waste dumps.

The job has fallen to University of Indiana linguist Thomas Sebeok, who is working on a message that will use words, pictures, cartoons and stick figures to mark the toxic wastes. But the first deterrent, Sebeok says, might be a noxious stench that would be clear in any language.

PNS/ZNS, 12-4-81

ILL WINDS

Despite an existing stockpile of tens of thousands of tons, the Reagan administration is gearing up to produce still more chemical and biological weapons. Under the administration's tentative plan, the budget for such weapons would rise to \$810 million next year -- and \$1.4 billion in 1984 -- compared to the \$455 million in this year's budget.

Most of the money would go to produce nerve gases, which have been described as "doing to humans what Raid does to roaches." When breathed or absorbed through the skin, a droplet of nerve gas the size of the period following this sentence will cause death within minutes.

The weapons produced under the new Reagan plan will probably be primarily deployed in Europe. There is likely to be strong European opposition to the move since unprotected civilians would likely be the major victims of a chemical war there, while armies in sealed protective suits would suffer relatively few casualties.

-- from *SF Chronicle*, 1/15/82 and *The Progressive*, 1/82

CIVIL DEFENSE REVIVAL

The Reagan administration has decided to revive civil defense as part of its goal of attaining "nuclear war-fighting capability" to counter the alleged threat of a Soviet nuclear attack.

The administration claims that its new program, which involves the evacuation of the urban population to primitive fallout shelters in the countryside, would save 80% of the US population in a nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

The Office of Management and Budget criticized the program, drafted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for being hastily planned and too expensive. One source predicted that the ultimate cost "could easily go over \$10 billion if they end up going for blast shelters."

Reagan intervened personally in the disagreement after FEMA director Louis O. Giuffrida, who formerly headed a California anti-terrorist school, contacted presidential advisor Edwin Meese. Reagan announced that he backed the plan "in principle" but the OMB succeeded in holding down the commitment for fiscal 1983 to \$237 million. Still, this is almost 90% more than was spent this year, and represents the first increase in two decades.

FEMA has also prepared a series of commentaries for publication in local newspapers to push the idea that the US could fully recover from an all-out nuclear war in two to five years. William Chapman, head of the agency's civil defense division, says, "People would be miserable, but they would in all probability rise to the occasion and restore some kind of country."

One FEMA column, called "Would Survivors of Nuclear Attack Envy the Dead? -- Experts Say 'No,'" includes handy hints for turning a recreation room into a fallout shelter. The "pre-planned basement snack bar/shelter," says the government, can function as an entertainment room before, and presumably after, an attack.

Robert Scheer, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 1-15-82 and *PNS/ZNS*, 1-22-82

BAY DUMPING SCANDAL SURFACES

The US Navy apparently dumped large quantities of radioactive acids and other chemicals into San Francisco Bay after they were used to decontaminate ships which survived atomic testing in the South Pacific in 1946.

The ships were among 76 old vessels that were populated with plants and animals and stationed near the Kwajalein and Bikini atolls in order to test the destructiveness and radiation effects of the bombs. After the experiments, a few of the ships that were not destroyed or sunk were towed to various West Coast ports and decontaminated, resulting in the radioactive wastes.

According to a story in the January 14 *Sacramento Bee*, recently declassified documents show that dumping the wastes into the Bay was authorized by Rear Admiral T.A. Solburg of the Bureau of Ships in December of 1946. Solburg wrote, "All procedures should be treated as routine to minimize any adverse publicity." In accordance with this philosophy, sand used in sandblasting the 'hot' ships was sold for landfill to private contractors who were deliberately not told its source, and equipment was salvaged from the ships and transplanted to other vessels.

-- from *SF Chronicle*, 1/15/82

SITE EMERGENCY AT NY PLANT

The rupture of a tube in the steam generator of the Ginna nuclear power plant near Ontario, New York led to the evacuation of the plant and the declaration of a site emergency on January 25. Radioactive gas was released intermittently from the facility for about an hour following the 9:30 AM accident, which flooded the floor of the plant's containment building. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission dispatched a team to the site to supervise the handling of the emergency.

Although the reactor was successfully shut down and was apparently undamaged, the accident passed through a serious phase when a valve being used to relieve pressure in the plant's primary system stuck open, leading to the formation of a steam bubble in the reactor vessel. Closing a backup valve allowed pressure to be restored and collapsed the bubble. If the bubble had been allowed to expand, it might have uncovered the nuclear fuel and led to the kind of extensive core damage that occurred at Three Mile Island.

The Ginna plant, which has been in operation for 11 years, has a history of corrosion problems with its steam generator tubes -- problems shared by other Westinghouse plants including southern California's San Onofre Unit 1. The presence of many weakened tubes in these facilities raises the possibility of more Ginna-type accidents.

-- based on *SF Chronicle* 1/28/82, *Oakland Tribune/Today* 1/26/82, *SF Examiner* 1/25/82

WASTE DISPOSAL MADE EASY

Two weeks after a German firm picked a tentative site in Bavaria for a new nuclear fuel reprocessing plant, large parts of a chemical plant in the area literally disappeared overnight from the surface into a huge crater. The reason for the earth movement, which caused \$10 million in damage but no injuries, is still unknown. The existence of several mine shafts 450 feet underground may have contributed to the mid-November cave-in, but mining experts believe there must be other causes including underground water.

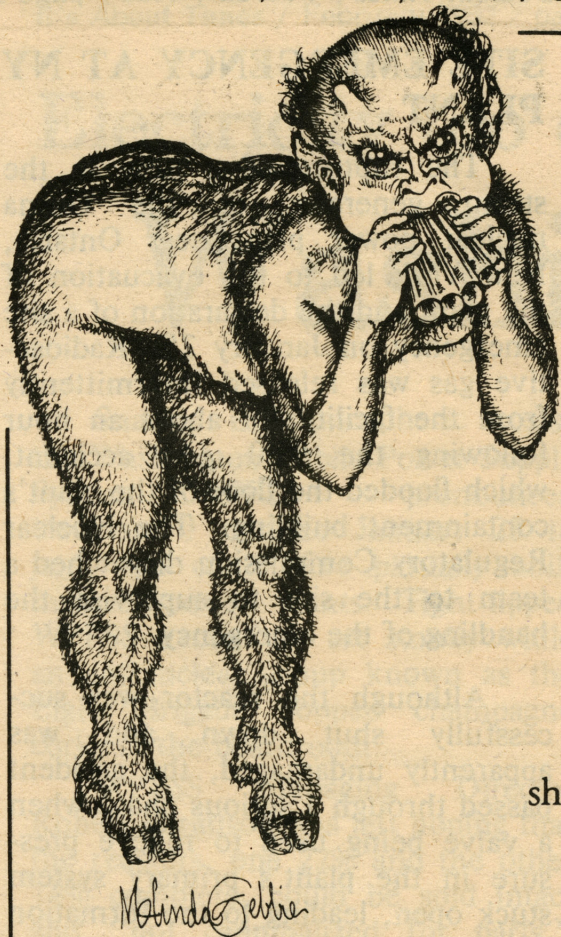
Officials from the Bavarian government and DWK, the company promoting the reprocessing project, say the cave-in is no cause for worry since the proposed site is 10 miles away from the ill-fated chemical plant and not undermined by mining activities. But politicians of the Social Democratic and Free Democratic parties have expressed their opposition to the plant, and *Nucleonics Week* comments that "there is little doubt that public acceptance will not exactly improve after last weekend's landslide."

-- *Nucleonics Week*, 11/19/81

FRIENDSHIP VOWS

The Environmental Protection Agency has publicly declared a truce with the oil companies. Sonia Crow, the EPA's new Western Regional administrator, told a meeting of oil industry executives that the EPA no longer views them as "adversaries who are out to hurt the environment." Crow, who was appointed two months ago after heading "California Armenians for Reagan," invited the executives to pass along suggestions on how the EPA could better serve the oil industry.

PNS/ZNS, 12-7-81



PAN: Poets Against Nukes

Poetry is a weapon loaded with future. —Gabriel Celaya

NUCLEAR FEAR *by Pancho Aguila*

The fire angel breathes in the sky. The threat of meteor showers chomp like bloody teeth in the sky — like white bruised knuckles striking the night . . . a flint spark shoots out — a wide bear grins, teeth like chambers of death, surround the world in a hulking shadow. A soup of rotten tomatoes pours thru the day — as skeleton heads mix in concrete laying the passage walk we fall flat faced on . . . and autos crash on the freeway — the organization skidded on oil to a doomsday fire sale as shoppers run wild thru department stores full of death and black shadows turn to the smoke of jungle wizards who see the great tragedy on the horizon as a thousand mushroom clouds swing like an elephant death train of final tributes . . . and a hot rain falls on the amazon and dutch wooden shoes, rattles as the dykes of sanity crumble . . . and rattlesnakes shake the body of the world, the planet like a great rattler of warning, chilling the universe to step back, be leary — a madman is loose from the asylum . . . purple flowers bleed red . . . polka-dot cannons turn into blue lights of nuclear candles . . . and the dark holy house suddenly bursts into light, flames lick the outside air thru the window, windows become mouths that close forever — and humanity suddenly falls from the walls like royalty turned to a tattered beggar — and the human race is transformed once more to a rag-tail-army of defeats, neither caring of power or right — just marching towards survival . . . like ceaseless headlights on a freeway — the pointed greyhound on a bus, a white dog of doom barking madly into the oblivion from which history books fly — and small bugs live on shit . . . car doors slam . . . and a humanoid form holds its head — a headache that won't leave . . . blue bruises and blue blood on the sidewalk — a hearst full of clowns — death more with us than life . . . life a backward countdown — the zero, the end — slowly being reached. The tortoise, the helmet, the bombshelter . . . symbols of the new generation in the test tubes of the century — the new millenia, a poison . . . or alcoholic mix . . . but something must fall — the march of the people — the waiting of the bombs cannot long endure the beaver's teeth — the dam is bursting to overflow — and my own gold clock is like a greasy wharf rat staring at me in the night, and to hide in the bed is to only get bitten and not know where to strike back. The doll house of dismembered residents waiting for the sun. I can feel the ache of the sun — like a fist it wants to break thru the paper walls nicely decorated, hiding the steel-helmeted soldiers, oxen of torture, axes of punishment . . . and the fist is almighty . . . stellar vision behind all — and destiny no longer a deaf mute — everybody is shouting — and I rest this pen — the vocal chord exercised.

PAN: *Poet Against Nukes*, P.O. Box 1139, Berkeley, California 94701 USA.

Appeal loses

“Diablo 200” to be sentenced

After a three year legal battle, the 1978 Diablo appeal has lost its bid to establish the defense of necessity for California antinuclear protests. The 200 people attached to the appeal will have to appear in court in San Luis Obispo for sentencing on March 18.

The appeal resulted from the trial in late 1978 of 20 participants in the Diablo blockade and occupation of that August. Trial judge Robert Carter refused to allow expert testimony in that trial and instructed the jury to ignore nuclear issues in its deliberations. On that basis, the jury found the “20” guilty.

The case was appealed on the grounds that we should have been allowed to present a defense of necessity -- that we were justified in breaking the law to prevent the greater harm that would result from the operation of Diablo. About half of the 1978 blockaders decided to join the appeal and link their legal fate to that of the “20,” resulting in the “Diablo 200.”

We lost the appeal -- barely -- in the Los Angeles Superior Court. Of three judges, one agreed with us completely and another felt that the defense of necessity was applicable in antinuke cases but ruled against us for other reasons. The Court of Appeals in Fresno declined to hear the case, and on January 22 the state Supreme Court declined also by a vote of four to two.

All of the 200 people attached to the appeal must therefore appear for sentencing on March 18. The original sentence in the case was 15 days in jail and a \$300 fine (which very few have paid), or two years proba-

tion and a \$300 fine. It is unclear whether this sentence will be changed. People will have a chance to make a statement at sentencing.

Members of the Diablo 200 are urged to get in touch with their area contacts to arrange strategy, transportation, etc. for the sentencing. The contact people are:

North Coast:

Jim Adams (707) 677-3142

Leanna Carson (707) 826-0216

SF Bay Area:

Barbara Levy (415) 752-8433 (h) or 668-6004 (w)

Santa Cruz:

Jane Weed, Ron Pomerantz (408) 423-2293

Santa Barbara:

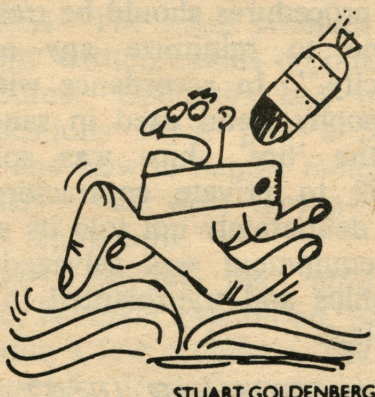
Mary Grace Canfield (805) 966-1039

Los Angeles/South:

Nancy Berlin (213) 483-7255 (h) or 622-1440 (w)

Vance Corum (213) 256-5285 (h) or 489-4090 (w)

-- Diablo Appeal Committee



Abalone sued

continued from page 1

100 cases nationwide, either initiating them, joining in as a “friend of the court,” or intervening in ongoing legal action.

A number of these cases have involved key Supreme Court decisions. As a “friend of the court,” PLF supported Allen Bakke in his “reverse discrimination” suit. It was a party to the *Barlow v. Utery* case in which the Supreme Court ruled that inspection provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act violated the search and seizure protections of the Fourth Amendment.

In return for these services, PLF is generously funded by tax-deductible contributions from businesses and conservative foundations. From a start-up budget of \$240,000 in 1973, PLF has grown to an operation with a budget of \$2.5 million for fiscal year 1981-82. Its staff totals 45 people, including 18 full-time attorneys. It has two litigation offices, in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.; two “liaison” offices, in Seattle and Anchorage; and a research center in Los Angeles.

According to a PLF “Statement on Funding,” about 56% of its annual budget is donated either by “charitable” foundations like the William Hearst Foundation, William Volker Fund, and John M. Olin Foundation or by associations of farmers, construction companies, real estate interests, cattlemen, taxpayers, and labor. Another 31% is contributed by businesses like Southern Pacific, Safeco Corporation and San Diego Federal Savings and Loan. The rest comes from a variety of sources including individual donors.

PLF’s 18-member board of

trustees is made up primarily of top executives from large companies, including Southern Pacific, Santa Fe Railway, Safeco Corporation, Knudsen Corporation, and San Diego Federal Savings and Loan. One board member, John P. Adams, is president of a division of Borg-Warner Corporation, which makes pumps for nuclear reactors.

Before he went to Washington as Reagan’s top advisor, Ed Meese was director of the board of advisors for the PLF’s College of Public Interest Law. Another trustee, Wendy Borchardt, resigned to become Assistant Director of Presidential Personnel for the Reagan White House.

Before helping to found PLF, President of the Board Zumbun worked for the administration of then-Governor Reagan as author and chief advocate of Reagan’s first program of cuts in social welfare. Recently he was tentatively chosen as chairman of Legal Services Corporation, the federal agency that distributes funding for legal aid to the poor. If Reagan has his way, Zumbun will preside over its dismantling.

IAT staff and Bill Bothamley Community Energy Action Network, San Diego

Editors note:

The Diablo Project Office encourages interested people to attend the February 8 court hearings in San Luis Obispo and show their support for the Alliance. Money - and fundraising - for the legal effort are also badly needed; please send to the DPO at the address on page 11.

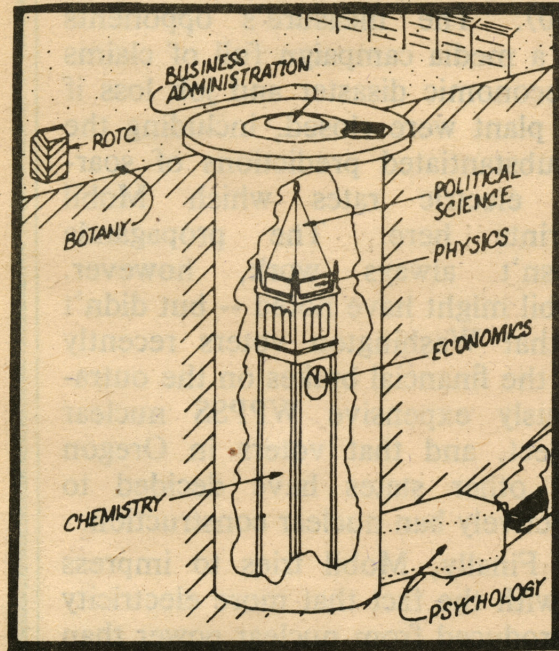
Announcements

SOCIAL CHANGE TRAINING PROGRAM

Does your group sit through long dull meetings, suffer unresolved tensions, or have trouble planning beyond next week? You might be interested in the Social Change Training Program, which is now offering low-cost workshops in meeting facilitation, group dynamics and conflict resolution. Organizing skills workshops include strategy development, planning a demonstration, training for trainers, canvassing for

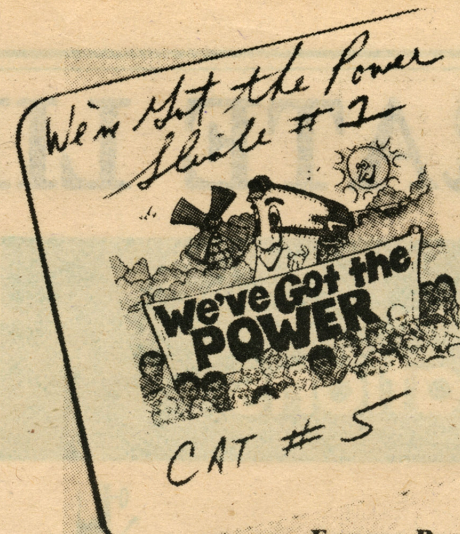
money, bioregional organizing, and more. We are especially interested in working with groups rather than individuals, and will tailor sessions to fit your group's needs. The program is funded as a short-term pilot project by the American Friends Service Committee.

To set up a workshop for your group, or to find out more, call Liz Walker at 415-285-9685 or 752-7766 (messages).



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Looking for a way to plug in? The Abalone Alliance and UC Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project need your help in their effort to distribute "First There Was The Bomb," a compilation of articles on nuclear weapons and nuclear power. Help will be needed mailing promotional literature. We especially need one or two responsible people to fill incoming orders for this magazine; a time commitment of 5-10 hours/week will probably be required beginning some time in late March or early April. Call Wendy at 654-1930.



Energy Project
2160 Lake Street
San Francisco, CA 94121

American Friends Service Committee

"ENERGIZING"

That's what people say about our new slideshow on America's tough energy choices in the 1980s. But see for yourself.

We'll tell you and your group how to buy or rent *We've Got the Power*... or any of our other lively slide/tapes. Just mail this ad for more information.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Calendar

February 4 and 18: Californian's for a Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze will sponsor a free screening of *The Last Epidemic*, a 36-minute film on the medical consequences of nuclear war. 7:30 pm, Friends Meeting House, 2151 Vine St., Berkeley. Information (415) 653-9900.

February 9: Fred Halliday, author of *Soviet Policy and the Arc of Crisis*, will discuss the American-Soviet confrontation in the Middle East. **Modern Times Bookstore**, 968 Valencia St., San Francisco, 8:00 pm, \$2.00 donation.

February 18: Michael Klare will present a talk on Reaganism and disarmament, **Modern Times Bookstore**, 8:00 pm, \$2.00 donation.

February 24: *Lovins on the Soft Path*, West coast premiere, benefit for Friends of the Earth Soft Energy Project. Amory and Hunter Lovins will be present to answer questions. **Palace of Fine Arts**, San Francisco, 7:30 pm, \$4.00 donation. Tickets available through Friends of the Earth, 1045 Sansome, San Francisco, CA 94111.

AA Safe Energy Groups

ABALONE ALLIANCE OFFICE: 2940 16th St., #310, San Francisco, CA 94103 • 415-861-0592

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

NORTH

ALBION:
WOMEN FOR SURVIVAL, Box 415/95410 • (707) 937-0090

ARCATA:
REDWOOD ALLIANCE EDUCATIONAL COLLECTIVE,
P.O. Box 293/95221 • (707) 822-7884

CALISTOGA:
UPPER NAPA VALLEY ENERGY ALLIANCE, 2200
Diamond Mtn. Rd./94515 (707) 942-5856

COMPTCHE:
MENDOCINO TRAVELING ALL STARS,
P.O. Box 326/95427

COVELO:
DOWNWIND ALLIANCE, Box 175/95428 (707) 983-9969

LAYTONVILLE:
CAHTO ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE ENERGY,
P.O. Box 902 • (707) 984-6170

LITTLE RIVER:
ALLUS MOLLUSKS, P.O. Box 361/95456
(707) 937-4068

NAPA:
NAPA VALLEY ENERGY ALLIANCE, 2119 Brown Street,
#4/94558

OCCIDENTAL:
BOHEMIAN GROVE ACTION NETWORK
P.O. Box 216/95465 • (707) 874-2248

FAMILIES FOR PEACE, P.O. BOX 362/95465

PHILO:
ANDERSON VALLEY NUCLEAR AWARENESS COMMITTEE
Box 136 / 95466 • (707) 895-3048

POINT ARENA:
POINT ARENA ACTION FOR SAFE ENERGY,
P.O. Box 106/95468

PORTLAND, OREGON:
SOLARITY, 3210 SW Arnold/97201 (503) 245-6273

REDWAY:
ACORN ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 773/95560 (707) 923-2258

SANTA ROSA:
SO NO More Atomics, 1030 Second Street / 95402
(707) 874-2702

SONOMA:
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(707) 938-0622

SONOMA ALTERNATIVES FOR ENERGY, P.O. Box 452/
95476 • (707) 996-5123

CENTRAL VALLEY & SIERRA

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CHICO PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, 708
Cherry St./95926 • (916) 891-6424

DAVIS:
PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, 411 5th St./
95616 • (916) 753-1630 M-F 12-6 P.M.

FRESNO:
PEOPLE FOR SAFE ENERGY, 175 Blackstone / 93701
(209) 266-5471, 485-9444

GRASS VALLEY:
NEVADA COUNTY PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE
FUTURE, P.O. Box 471/95945 • (916) 272-6418

MODESTO:
STANISLAUS SAFE ENERGY COMMITTEE, P.O. Box
134/93354 • (209) 529-5750

MOKELUMNE HILL:
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243-5941

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SEQUOIA ALLIANCE, 3017 South Conyer / 93277 • (209)
733-9050

GREATER BAY AREA

BERKELEY/OAKLAND:

EAST BAY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP, 585 Alcatraz, Suite
A/94609 (415) 655-1715

BOLINAS:
BOLINAS AGAINST NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION, P.O. Box
708 / 94924 • (415) 868-0245

LEGAL ACTION FOR UNDERMINING GO-
VERNMENT HARASSMENT IN SOCIETY,
P.O. Box 249/94924 (209) 754-3721

EL GRANADA:
COASTSIDERS FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O.
Box 951/94018 (415) 728-3119

PALO ALTO:
CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO NUCLEAR ENERGY
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PLEASANT HILL:
CONTRA COSTANS FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE,
P.O. Box 23103/94523 • (415) 934-5249

PT. REYES:
PELICAN ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 596/94956 • (415) 663-8483
SAN ANSELMO:
ABALONE ALLIANCE OF MARIN, 1024 Sir Francis Drake
Blvd./94960 (415) 457-4377

SAN JOSE:
GROUP OPPOSING NUCLEAR ENERGY, 520 S. 10th St./
95112 • (408) 297-2299

SAN FRANCISCO:
ALLIANCE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, UC Med Center,
c/o Michael Kosnett, MU 249/94143
• (415) 666-2010
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, Liz Walker,
David Hartsough, 2160 Lake St./94121 • (415)
752-7766

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MINISTRY
942 Market St., Room 310/94102 (415) 391-7112

GOLDEN GATE ALLIANCE,
2735 Franklin/94123 (415) 673-7422

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1021 Sanchez/94102 • (415) 285-2262

CENTRAL COAST

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LOMPOC SAFE ENERGY COALITION,
238 S. J. St./93436 (805) 736-1897

SAN LUIS OBISPO:
PEOPLE GENERATING ENERGY, 452 Higuera
93401 (805) 543-8402

SANTA BARBARA:
SANTA BARBARA PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE
FUTURE, 331 N. Milpas St. / 93103 • (805) 966-4565

SANTA CRUZ:
ACTION COMMUNITY ON DIABLO CANYON,
P.O. Box 693/95060 • (408) 462-4524

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 1236/
95060 (408) 425-1275

SANTA MARIA:
UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH, 510 S. Thornburg #F/93454
(805) 922-3079, 922-1309

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(213) 455-2867, 455-2768

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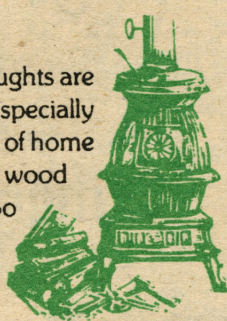
VENTURA:
VENTURA ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, c/o Ron Cone,
P.O. Box 308 / 93002 • (805) 642-0584

WOODLAND HILLS:
WEST VALLEY ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL
6123 Lockhurst Drive / 91367

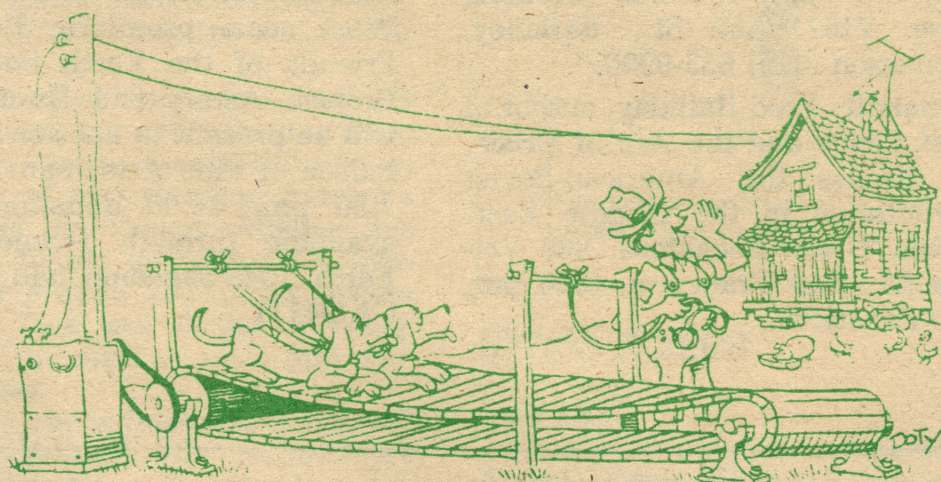
CORPORATE LIES DEPARTMENT

Observations

Burning issues. There's a fall nip in the air, and many folks' thoughts are turning to... **wood.** Use of this ancient energy source is booming, especially in the North and Northeast, and not just as a supplemental source of home heat. For instance, a power plant in Ashland, Wisconsin, is turning wood to watts by using wood chips and sawdust as fuel for generators. So we're not knocking wood. But the real issue is **whether the U.S. will develop all its fuels**, not "just" wood (or solar or biomass) as some conservationists advocate.



Blowing smoke. Fact is, the "all or nothing" approach is full of knots. **Massive wood burning can cause air pollution and forest depletion.** In fact, if wood becomes a dominant heating fuel, warns an Environmental Protection Agency official, "one can strip the wood supply of the nation in a big hurry." It happened in Europe—back in the 13th century—when overuse of wood for ships, wagons, smelting, forging and home heating resulted in a **wood famine** that lasted until the Black Plague of 1347-50 reduced demand by shrinking Europe's population by a third.



It's a gas. Biomass may be a gas—on first whiff. But a scheme to use **manure** to power farm machinery has turned out to be less than a bed of roses. Aside from potential "nose pollution," some farmers have discovered that this use of biomass often requires **extra heating sources that use up much of the energy that's supposedly being saved.** Then there's a Florida power plant that harnesses **marijuana** by burning the pot seized from smugglers. Uh huh. But the plant burns only 500 tons of "grasshol" a year. That's barely enough to keep Miami's air conditioners running for a day.



Remember the Maine. What's the answer? Plain old oil, natural gas, coal and nuclear power. They may lack the pizzazz of the more exotic energy sources, but they **work.** Together, they performed **95.8 percent of all the energy chores in the U.S. last year.** Even nuclear power has been given a boost, in of all places, heavily-forested Maine. Voters there scuttled a plan that would have closed down Maine Yankee, the state's only nuclear power plant. One state official described such a prospect as "foolishly shooting ourselves in the foot." Not to mention the pocketbook, since electricity bills would have soared 30 percent. So "remember the Maine"—and that it takes many different kinds of energy to fuel all the people, all of the time.

It's a fact: Nuclear power, for the first time, has surpassed oil in the amount of electricity it produces in the U.S.

Mobil

Observations: Box A, Mobil Oil Corporation, 150 East 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10017 © 1981 Mobil Corporation

Mobil has long been the most sophisticated of the corporate propagandists. It specializes in ads like this one, illustrated with homely little graphics and cartoons, which are seemingly good-natured and low-key. Mobil's approach is the soft-sell at its softest.

But behind the ad's "down-home" style, the message is familiar: "alternative" energy sources -- those that are not yet under the control of the energy corporations -- are ridiculous and impractical. Mobil makes this point in a number of subtle ways, protesting all the while that it really *does* love alternatives, but they are no substitute for the energy sources that "work."

Mobil starts the ad with a few throwaway lines conceding that firewood has its uses. But the oil giant goes on to claim that the "real issue is whether the US will develop *all* its fuels, not just wood (or solar or biomass) as some conservationists advocate."

Which conservationists are those? Serious advocates of "soft energy" have always argued for a diverse energy system where solar, wood, biomass, hydroelectric, wind, and numerous other energy sources are *all* developed in appropriate ways. They have argued -- with the support of studies by groups such as the Ford Foundation and the Harvard Business School -- that increased efficiency in energy use is not only the cheapest and cleanest new source of energy but also the most effective, capable of producing at least ten times as much energy as the entire US nuclear power program. Instead of giving alternative energy advocates a fair shake, Mobil prefers to pretend they are all "firewood fanatics" who would use wood as inefficiently and irresponsibly as Europeans of the 13th century.

From this point on, the ad degenerates into a series of one line comments ridiculing other alternative energy experiments and implying they are all Rube Goldberg schemes like the cartoon farmer harnessing the family pets. Some homegrown energy ideas may indeed be unworkable. But Mobil goes far beyond this legitimate observation to imply that all efforts to develop fuels other than those controlled by the energy corporations are doomed to failure or insignificance.

The moral of all this? Forget all that "soft energy" stuff and stick with Mobil and its energy industry friends. They have the real solution to your problems: more of the same

"plain old oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear power" that they've been selling you for decades. To show the public's supposed good sense in such matters, Mobil points to the defeat of a 1980 Maine initiative that would have closed the Maine Yankee nuclear plant.

That referendum was hardly a fair test. Nuclear firms, banks, utilities, and other corporations from throughout the country contributed heavily to an \$800,000 war chest to defeat the initiative, outspending its supporters by a five to one margin (see *IAT*, September and October, 1980). The measure's opponents ran a media campaign full of claims of economic disaster and job loss if the plant were closed, including the unsubstantiated predictions of soaring electric rates which Mobil reprints here. The propaganda doesn't always work, however. Mobil might have noted -- but didn't -- that Washington voters recently put the financial brakes on the outrageously expensive WPPSS nuclear project, and that voters in Oregon and other states have decided to effectively ban nuclear construction.

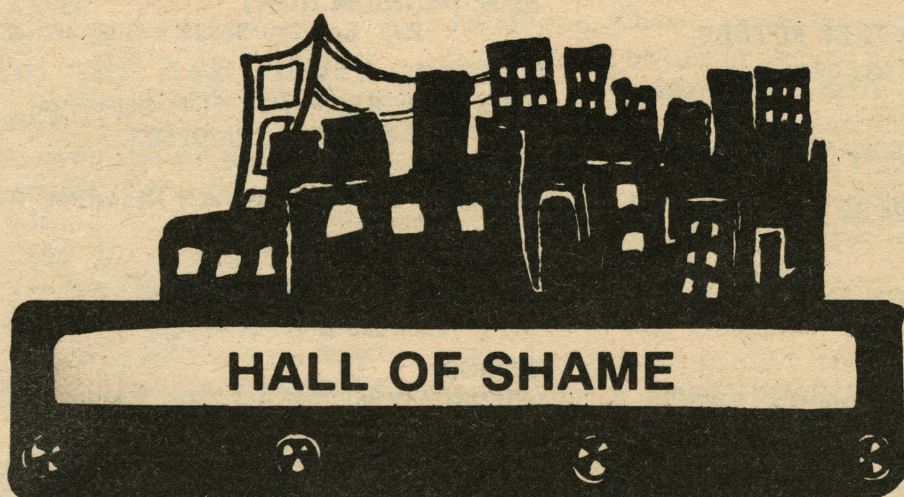
Finally, Mobil tries to impress us with the fact that more electricity is produced from nuclear power than from oil. True, but only because the high cost of oil has led to reductions in its use for electricity generation. Less than one-eighth of US electricity is generated from oil, a fact rarely mentioned by utilities trying to blame all their rate increases on OPEC.

Nuclear power produces less than 2% of the country's energy. This is about half the energy already produced by renewable sources such as firewood and hydroelectricity, and could easily be replaced -- at a savings -- by modest conservation measures.

Mobil may be right that "it takes many different kinds of energy to fuel all of the people, all of the time." But any society has limited resources for energy development, and there are choices to be made. More oil subsidies or a real conservation program? Billion-dollar breeder reactors or the development of solar cells? Energy for the public good or for the private profit? Ads like Mobil's, with their message of "leave it to us," encourage the public to ignore these questions -- and allow the energy elite to impose the energy choices on society which serve *its* interests best.

-- Bob Van Scoy
IAT staff

TOUR of the NUCLEAR INDUSTRY



Monday, March 22

Rally, march and direct action in the San Francisco financial district. Info: (408) 462-4524

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