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CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER NEWSLETTER

STOP URANIUM MINING

P.O. BOX 238, NORTH QUAY, BRISBANE. Q. 4000. PHONE: 221 0188 No. 57, APRIL, 1980 Registered for posting as a publication, Category B.

HARRISBURG HURTS RANGER

A sales deal with the Japanese for Ranger Yellowcake has been affected by falling prices and low demand.

The price of yellowcake on world spot markets has suddenly declined this year, from a peak of $US43.25 lb in early 1975 to less than $US38 lb now.

A yellowcake sales agreement recently struck between Ranger and four Japanese buyers, the first export deal by Australia for the new uranium mines, is believed to price the yellowcake at slightly less than the spot market.

SAFEGUARDS AFFECTED

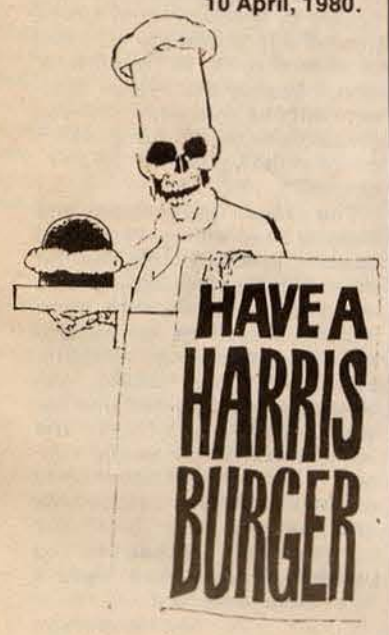
An important aspect of the Ranger deal is that it has been negotiated before the Australian and Japanese governments have agreed on safeguards conditions to cover Australian uranium.

But Japan is far from desperate about obtaining yellowcake supplies. Contracted yellowcake will last Japanese neclear industry until at least the 1990s.

But it appears that today's weak market for yellowcake could put the Canberra Government under more pressure in relation to safeguards demands.

The main factor in the declining price of uranium ore is the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in the US, which has caused considerable delays to the world nuclear industry's development schedules.

Financial Review, 10 April, 1980.



WIND ENERGY CHEAP AND CLEAN

There are no technical obstacles to making wind power economical, according to research by Boeing and Rockwell International.

Only mass production, funded by the U.S. government, is needed. For about $500 million, less than half the price of one nuclear plant, wind electricity could be made economical on a large scale within a few years.

COMPETITIVE

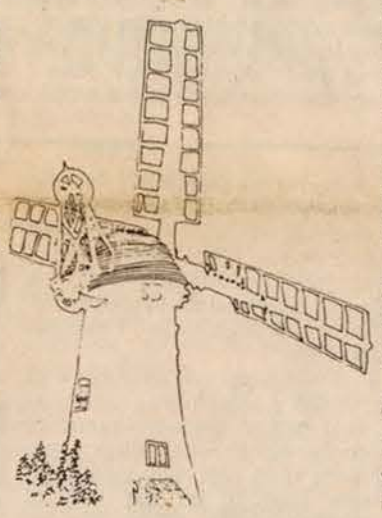
Boeing is building a large wind generator the "Mod-2" (rated at 2.5 mega-watts). According to Boeing, if wind generators were mass produced and used in areas with at least 14 mile-per-hour winds, the cost of electricity produced would be only 3.3 cents per kilo-watt-hour. This would make wind electricity competitive. Conventional electricity today costs 3 to 6 cents per kilowatt-hour.

A few wind generators, in fact, are already economical. The Southern California Edison Company has purchased a low cost wind machine for only $1,550 per average kilowatt, compared to $2,000 per average kilowatt for nuclear plants. This 3-megawatt windmill, upon completion, will be the world's largest wind machine. Project manager Robert Scheffler said, "we're looking at power for three or four cents a kilowatt-hour from wind. That's competitive with anything."

INADEQUATE INVESTMENT

The American Wind Energy Association wrote to members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, criticizing claims of high wind power costs. The wind power proponents urged the Committee to increase the 1980 wind energy budget of $65 million by at least $10 million. They noted that research and development of nuclear fusion will receive $360 million this year, through the Department of Energy say that fusion will not give any electicity before the twenty-first century, if ever. Wind machines, on the other hand, can be built in as little as two years, thereby helping to ease the energy crunch sooner.

Wind power development also offers us an important opportunity to help reduce unemployment. Large wind systems create two to four times as many jobs as nuclear or coal power, according to a report to the New York State Legislative Committee on Energy Systems.



Not Man Apart, April 1980.

— REVIEW —
SOLAR PROGRESS

The new periodical, Solar Progress, is a sensible coffee table magazine. In the words of the Editor, "the birth of this magazine marks the end of the pioneering era and the beginning of widespread utilisation of solar power in all its forms: directly as solar radiation, or indirectly through wind, water, tides, thermal gradiants, biomass, etc."

There are now so many solar projects in all the states of Australia and New Zealand that even the people working in this field have lost count. The aim of the publication is to provide comprehensive and reliable information for an ever increasing circle of interested readers.

The first issue is well presented with photographs and graphics and is recommended as an educational document of value.

Solar Progress: Official journal of the Australian and New Zealand Section of the International Solar Energy Society.

Editor: S. V. Szokolay, Architectural Science Unit, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Brisbane. 4067, from whom copies can be obtained. Price $1.60 ea. plus 50c p&p.

Dawn Waller.

ENERGY ECONOMICS

Does it make sense for the United States government to spend billions of dollars to develop alternative energy sources that will cost $30 or $40 or $50 for the equivalent of a barrel of oil, when even OPEC will supply that oil for only $20 or so? Conventional economics say no. We say yes. To rely on private enterprise alone to solve our energy problem would be an act of piety, not of sound policy.

The relative costs of oil and solar power, or oil and coal conversion, may not make these innovative options attractive today, but these relative costs will change. Simple-minded economic orthodoxy says private enterprise can assess these possibilities and take advantage of them better than the government. But this is wrong, even in straightforward economic terms.

First, unless we reduce our dependence on OPEC, the world oil price will continue to rise. As the New York Times pointed out last week, the true cost of the last few barrels we buy from OPEC — the ones that keep the supply so tight — is not simply the price we pay for those barrels, but the added price this tight supply enables OPEC to charge for all the barrels of oil it sells us. The Times estimated this cost, quite reasonably, at $100 per extra barrel. Oil consumers in general could save this much if they could avoid buying those last few barrels from OPEC. Therefore it makes perfect sense for society as a whole — through its surrogate, the government — to produce oil alternatives at even $90, and sell them to individuals at the going rate.

There's every reason to hope that research and development will bring dramatic breakthroughs in the costs of one or more alternative energy sources. But it's impossible to know in advance where the breakthroughs will come. Will it be wind power? Solar? Geothermal steam? To spend huge sums of money on any one of these is extremely risky. No private corporation, acting rationally, can be expected to do it. But to spend huge sums on all of them is not nearly so risky. In fact, depending on how the money is spent, it's a perfectly rational thing to do. Only the government can afford to minimize the risk in massive alternative energy research by pursuing the complete spectrum of alternative energy options, in the reasonable hope that one or another will pay off.

A third reason the free market won't solve our energy problem is that the price of imported oil is not paid in money alone. Our desperate dependence on OPEC reduces our sovereignty as a nation. Economists would call this an "external cost" of consuming OPEC oil. Like pollution, it is a cost to society as a whole that private markets do not automatically account for. It makes sense to include this cost when comparing oil and other energy sources.

A stiff tax on energy consumption (say a dollar a gallon on gasoline) would impose on each energy consumer the cost he or she is imposing on society. The extra revenue this tax would bring could be used, first, to alleviate the burden on the poor through rebates; and, second, to pay (along with general revenue) for massive government energy research. This is practical economics.

The New Republic, July 7 & 14, 1979. Editorial, Abridged.

This editorial may give some pointers for the creation of a sensible energy policy in Australia. Readers comments are always welcome.

LABOR DAY PROCESSION

All Campaign members and supporters are urged to join the May Day Procession. This is a great opportunity to again publicly voice our opposition to uranium and nuclear power, in conjunction with the Trade Union movement.

Gather in Mary Street, City, between Albert and George Streets at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, May 5.

Call Ron on 221 0188 if you have time, talent, ideas or energy to help make May Day a success.

9.30 MAY 5

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

MEMBERSHIPS RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE

PLEASE SEND IN THE FORM ON BACK PAGE.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

U.S. ACTIVIST TO VISIT BRISBANE

Daniel Berrigan, former Catholic priest, writer, and opponent of the U.S. nuclear strategy will be in Brisbane from September 1 to 5 this year.

Dan and his brother Phil were once on the F.B.I.'s most wanted list for destroying U.S. draft files during the Vietnam war. Dan has been jailed many times for non-violent anti-war and anti-nuclear activities. He is now involved with other members of a Christian Community called Jonah House in opposition to the U.S. Pentagon's aggressive nuclear strategy.

While in Brisbane, Dan will lead study sessions on the arms race and aspects of the nuclear issue generally.

BUSH DANCE

WITH

BALE EM UP BUSH BAND

AT

Caxton Street Community Club
17 Caxton St.
Petrie Terrace
ON
SATURDAY MAY 10
7.30 P.M.

JOE HARDING'S DEATH LIST

The growing toll of workers in the uranium enrichment industry

There are only eight operational uranium enrichment plants in the world. Another five are planned or under construction. Three of the four largest plants are in the U.S. and the other is in the U.S.S.R.

Most people are unaware of the environmental and health effects of enrichment plants. The operators and governments, supported by tight security laws and regulations, don't tell much. However, one former plant employee has spoken out. This article is part of his story.

Joe Harding is compiling a list of deaths.

"The evidence just keeps mounting, "says Harding. "Every day I hear about one or two more that's died."

The list has become a gruesome hobby for Joe Harding. Over the last eight or nine years he has tried to keep track of the growing roster, but he worries how long it will be before he becomes the next entry, and whether anyone will care to add his name to the list. As he approaches fifty-nine and increasingly uncertain health in his remaining years, Harding grows more obsessed with knowing what happened to each of the 200 or so men who began work with him in 1952 at the Federal Government's massive uranium enrichment plant at Paducah, Kentucky.

Through the 1950s and 1960s, Harding's generation of enrichment workers handled tons of radioactive uranium in steel cylinders, guiding the material through the complex, painstaking process of gaseous diffusion, making it rich enough in fissionable isotopes to be useful as the fuel for nuclear bombs and nuclear reactors.

NO COINCIDENCE

Now, Harding estimates that as many as fifty of these men are dead of leukemia, cancer, or some unidentified ailment that may be related to radiation. He is convinced that it is no coincidence.

"I don't see how I'm living now," he says, rubbing his leathered, lined face. "The doctors have told me I should have been dead ten years ago, fifteen years ago."

In 1961, after a seven-year series of violent vomiting attacks and weight loss, his stomach was removed. The organ was displayed in formaldehyde at a hospital for several years, so unique was its state of deterioration.

In 1968, Harding came down with pneumonia, as he has done every year since. "They've looked at my lungs with every kind of probe and x-ray you can imagine. When I'd ask them what it was, they'd just say, 'Well, it's real different. We haven't seen anything like it before."

Since 1973, small skin sores have been working their way up Harding's emaciated body.

For the last nine years, fingernail-like growths of cartilage have been penetrating the skin over Harding's knuckles, finger joints, wrist, ankles, and toes. Similar growths have developed from the ends of his lower ribs, curling into hard knots beneath the flesh.

But one of these illnesses has broken Joe Harding.

He has learned to block out the pain.

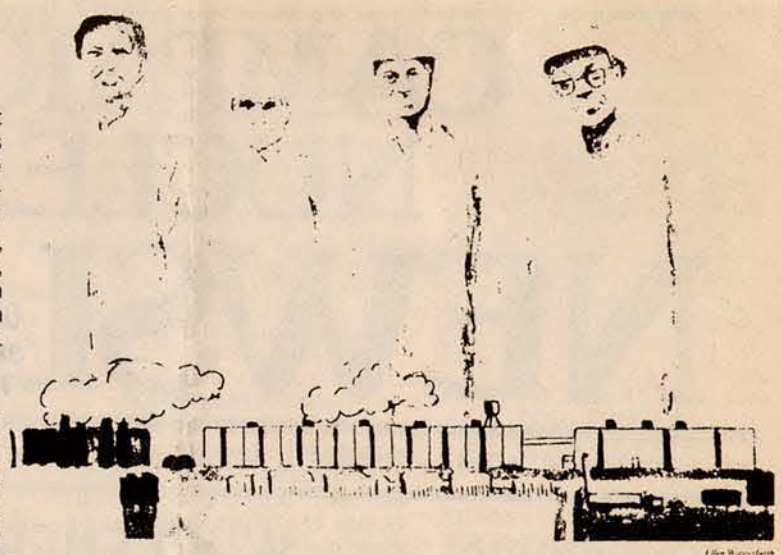
What Joe Harding has not been able to accept is that years of inquiry and legal action have brought not a dime's compensation for radiation-related disabilities from his employer, Union Carbide Corporation, which operates the uranium enrichment plants at Paducah and Oak Ridge for the U.S. Department of Energy.

PLUGGING LEAKS

Harding worked for Union Carbide from 1952 to 1971, first in the huge factory rooms where an endless line of giant steel barrels carry a stream of hot uranium gas through a series of secret filter-barriers made of nickel. With each pass through the barrier material, the gaseous uranium is isotopically enriched. The gas must pass through miles of the "cascades" to made the uranium rich enough for power reactors, and thousands of more miles to make it suitable for nuclear bombs.

The demand for millions of tons of enriched fuel to feed the nation's appetite for nuclear weapons and nuclear power requires enrichment plants covering hundreds of acres, the size of small towns in themselves, at Paducah, Oak Ridge, and Portsmouth, Ohio. Each of the plants is its state's largest single consumer of electrical power, needed to turn the massive motors and pressurizers that keep the uranium gas churning through the barrier material.

With his top-secret security clearance, Harding was assigned work as a process operator in a building the size of five football stadiums. There, he and other workers kept constant watch on some of the 4,000



THE PROGRESSIVE

process stages, plugging leaks and frequently pulling equipment off the process line for repairs.

RADIATION RELEASED

Releases of moderate and sometimes large amounts of the radioactive gas were routine, Harding recalls. "There's really no way you can run a plant like that without having releases all the time."

"At the end of a day you could look back behind you and see your tracks in the uranium dust that had settled that day. You could look up at the lights and see a blue haze between you and the light. And we ate our lunch in all this, every day, eight hours a day. We'd just find some place to sit down, brush away the dust, and eat lunch. Now you try to tell me that I didn't eat a lot of uranium during all those years."

But for more than half the time he worked for Union Carbide, Harding says, he was "just like everyone else who believed the company when they said we would be exposed to no more radiation then we'd get from wearing a luminous-dial wristwatch. They said they'd protect us and let us know if we ever got too much and we all believed them."

Union Carbide "categorically denies" that any worker has ever received more than the permissible dose of radiation on the job (the limit is now five rems per year), say Harvey Cobert, the company's press officer in Oak Ridge. "Of course, we have improved our operations over the years. Nothing is ever in a static state. And the exposure limits were somewhat more lenient years ago. But we were then and still are within the acceptable limits."

Taylor G. Moore,
The Progressive,
January 1980.

U.K. waste decision decades away

The decision on what form of disposal will be chosen for high-level radioactive waste may not be taken for decades, a minister said.

Mr. Wyn Roberts, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales, told members of Powys County Council that only after long-term research "is any future government likely to choose underground disposal as an option."

Environmental and farmers' groups in Wales have been protesting ever since it was known that the Government was embarking on a research programme to determine the potential of various geological formations for underground disposal.

The Times,
March 25, 1980.

INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE)

INFCE was conceived in early 1977 by U.S. President Carter as an international forum to study a range of issues associated with the nuclear industry. Its establishment followed Carter's April 1977 announcements of new U.S. policies, to establish a moratorium on the commercial development of the breeder reactor and on the reprocessing of spent uranium fuels as well as to provide guarantees of access to uranium and enrichment services.

NUCLEAR MONOPOLY

These policies were implemented by the U.S., but were firmly rejected by other nations more advanced in breeder and reprocessing technologies. These countries had more to lose. There was also severe criticism from Third World nations who saw this as a further attempt by the industrialised, nuclear-armed West to control nuclear technology in their own interests.

Consequently, when INFCE was finally established, it was designed to do three things – first, to find ways to guarantee the supply of nuclear materials (especially uranium), or nuclear technologies (especially reactors), and of nuclear services (especially enrichment); second to minimise the chances of nuclear weapons proliferation via the civil nuclear energy industry; third, to reassure the Third World that the developing nations would be able to obtain access to nuclear technology.

RISKS ACKNOWLEDGED

As far as INFCE was concerned, the study was directed to examine measures to "minimise" – rather than eliminate – the risks. It was assumed at the beginning that the minimisation of the proliferation risk was both possible and worthwhile. Not surprisingly, the study concluded that this was possible without jeopardising the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

It was reported, as a mark of INFCE's success, that it managed to get agreement by consensus from 56 nations that there is in fact a proliferation risk attached to the use of nuclear power. What this attitude shows is how little INFCE did achieve.

This risk was appreciated by many people as much as 30 years ago, and was reflected then in unsuccessful proposals for international control of nuclear power. It was clearly demonstrated in the May 1974 Indian nuclear weapons test. And it has been thoroughly documented in reports such as that of the Ranger Inquiry.

NO SOLUTIONS

INFCE's reports from its Working Groups were published for its plenary session in Vienna in late February. They are long and detailed – around 1700 pages – but are a great disappointment. The reports offer little that is new by way of solutions to the problems associated with nuclear power: they are, by their own description, concerned only with the "technical" issues, yet they recognise that proliferation problems in particular require essentially political and institutional solutions.

Also they are merely "discussion" documents, with little in the way of firm proposals for improvements in the control of the nuclear industry and they fail, again by their own account, to examine in any comprehensive way the health, safety and environmental aspects of nuclear power.

GRAFITTI BRISBANE STYLE

AUSTRALIAN EFFORTS

Australia co-chaired Working Group 3 which was concerned with assurances of supply of technology, materials and services. The report of this Working Group asserted, in the words of the INFCE summary: "...as a general principle that assurance of supply and assurance of non-proliferation are complementary."

Further, Working Group 3 suggested that: ".. assurances of supply could be enhanced if the adoption of such mechanisms were to be complemented by guarantees regarding the continuity of supply during the re-negotiation process," in improving non-proliferation agreements.

In other words, this report – presumably with the Australian Government's support – is proposing that in practice the best way to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons via nuclear energy is to become committed to long-term uranium supply contracts, without any intention of using the threat of withdrawal or interruption of supply as a bargaining tool in negotiations to improve safeguards agreements.

Obviously, uranium buyers would be delighted with such an agreement. So would suppliers whose overriding interest was in selling uranium, who believed that safeguards agreements are of secondary importance.

PEACOCK FENCE SITS

The Foreign Minister (Andrew Peacock) has avoided indicating his Government's response to INFCE's proposals. This is important because these are attitudes and recommendations of INFCE which could not be accepted by a Government which placed a high priority on non-proliferation. It is important, also, because the Fraser Government has committed itself to review its nuclear reprocessing policy in the light of INFCE's findings.

The Fraser Government has already been willing, in several specific instances, to change its nuclear safeguards policy when it conflicted with commercial objectives of attracting or protecting uranium sales. With this record, the Government might well find the unsatisfactory priorities and attitude of INFCE a useful support – namely, pay attention to nuclear safety, safeguards and security only after the commercial interests of uranium buyers and sellers have been protected.

Ian Henderson

ENRICHMENT REPORT

TOWNSVILLE STOPPED

Public opinion has forced the Premier to back down from proposals to build a uranium enrichment plant near Townsville.

When enrichment plant proposals were announced last December, Townsville was the most favoured site. The National Party and the Australian Labor Party conducted their own opinion polls.

OPINION POLLS

The A.L.P. candidate for the State seat of Townsville, Mr. Brian Dobinson, conducted two polls. A random telephone survey of 100 people revealed 68 percent opposed to construction of an enrichment plant near Townsville, whilst a street survey of 403 people found 71 percent against.

The National Party has not released its findings, but it appears that the Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, has been frightened into an about-face. Two of Townsville's three State seats would change hands with swings of less than 2 percent.

ABOUT-FACE

At the end of February Mr. Bjelke-Petersen announced that he had told overseas interests that Queensland would not build a uranium enrichment plant near Townsville. He said that numerous isolated areas could be utilised instead.

Of course, shifting the proposed site of the enrichment plant does not solve the major problems. Queensland's electricity generating capacity would need to almost double to supply the plant. This block of electricity would then be sold cheaply, subsidised by ordinary consumers. Uranium enrichment is also very capital intensive. The projected market is declining, and construction of an enrichment plant would bind Australia more tightly into the nuclear fuel cycle.

The Premier's about-face on building an enrichment plant near Townsville is encouraging because it shows what public opinion can do, but it will have achieved little if it simply means that the plant will be built in an isolated area. Clearly, uranium enrichment proposals must be fought at a national and state level.

Bruce Doyle.

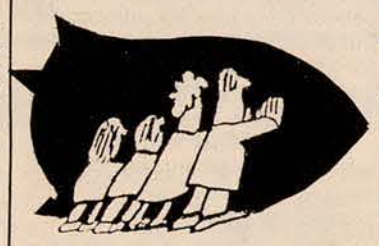
PROLIFERATION AND THE MYTH OF DETERRENCE

The testing of an atomic weapon for the first time is only one aspect of Nuclear Proliferation.

Proliferation has two dimensions termed horizontal and vertical.

Horizontal proliferation occurs whenever a country acquires the technical ability and critical materials necessary to build an atomic weapon.

STOP URANIUM MINING



Although the dangers of this type of proliferation are great, they often only hide the more serious aspect, vertical proliferation.

Vertical proliferation occurs whenever one of the six acknowledged nuclear weapons states impoves or increases the destructive capacity of its weapons.

This can be done in a number of ways, including any of the following: –

- An increase in the number or size of atomic weapons held in the country's arsenal;
- An increase in the accuracy of the weapon;
- An increase in the likelihood of a successful delivery of the warhead.

The U.S. argument has been that the M.A.D. or Mutually Assured Destruction capabilities of the Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons would indefinitely stop a 'First Strike' by either side.

This was referred to as nuclear deterrence.

NEW OPTIONS CONSIDERED

However, technological advances now enable new and dangerous political options to be considered.

A major such development is the increase in accuracy and probably success rate of atomic weapons systems.

Systems are being developed with sufficient accuracy to ensure that most of the opponent's weapons would be destroyed by a first strike. As a result, the deterrent effect of assured destruction is being undermined.

The U.S. will soon have this capability and is planning what is termed a 'Counterforce', a first-strike strategy.

NURRUNGAR

This explains the importance of the U.S. Satellite tracking station at Nurrungar near Woomera. It gives so much more warning of a Soviet attack that the US has been given the incentive to build a missile with a first strike capability.

The common view is that warning time is from the point of launch when the missle's exhaust plume can be detected – ie about 30 minutes.

This can be extended to six hours with the great sensitivity of the early warning infra-red sensors.

Unlike the solid-fuelled US missiles, all rely on liquid fuels, with the exception of the obsolete SS13.

The fuel is kept at extremely low temperatures so that leaks from the fuelling stage undergo a rapid temperature change as they hit the atmosphere.

These temperature changes are picked up by the infra-red sensors in a way that allows up to 12 times the popularly accepted alert period.

When the Nurrungar system was designed in the late 1960s, US missiles did not have the necessary accuracy for silo-busting. this inability to hit the other side's weapons had led to the doctrine of mutual assured destruction of each others cities.

The US has worked on accuracy over the past decade to the point where the Mark 12, a warhead of its Minuteman III, lands on average 600 ft from its target.

This should be enough to destroy hardened missile targets but, just to be sure, the MX will get this down to 100-150 ft, giving it a definite first-strike capability.

Nuclear proliferation, both horizontal and vertical, has ended the concept of Nuclear Deterrence and made it relevant only to the military historian.

An effective mass movement of opposition to atomic weapons and the associated nuclear industry is therefore more important than ever. Our campaign must redouble its efforts to secure a nuclear free zone throughout the Pacific.

RON LEEKS

ADVISORY COUNCIL IGNORES KEY QUESTIONS

The Minister for Trade and Resources, Mr. Anthony, has used a report of the Uranium Advisory Council to support a uranium enrichment plant in Australia.

LIMITED SCOPE

In fact, the Council's report, tabled on 5 March in the House of Representatives, on the Feasibility of Uranium Enrichment in Australia severely limited the scope of its enquiry, and strongly hedged its support:

"Assuming that the overall balance between costs and markets is considered by the Commonwealth Government and private industry to be acceptable, it can see no valid reason against the Government proceeding with a study on the feasibility of commercial uranium enrichment industry in Australia."

The report accepted uranium mining as inevitable, so support for the feasibility study was based on "the principle that Australian mineral ores generally should, wherever practicable, be processed here before export."

VITAL AREAS EXCLUDED

The Council did not regard itself as competent to offer a valid judgement as to the economic viability of an enrichment project. This excluded from thorough consideration such vital concerns as infrastructure requirements (e.g. electricity and cooling water), foreign capital requirements, employment impact, and the likely demand for enriched uranium.

The Council accepted that the Australian Atomic Energy Commission has the necessary skills and experience to advise on and participate in the planning, construction and operation of a plant. Since the AAEC is working on the gas centrifuge process, this would favour the URENCO-CENTEC proposals for South Australia which are futher advanced than the gaseous diffusion process proposed by a French consortium for Queensland.

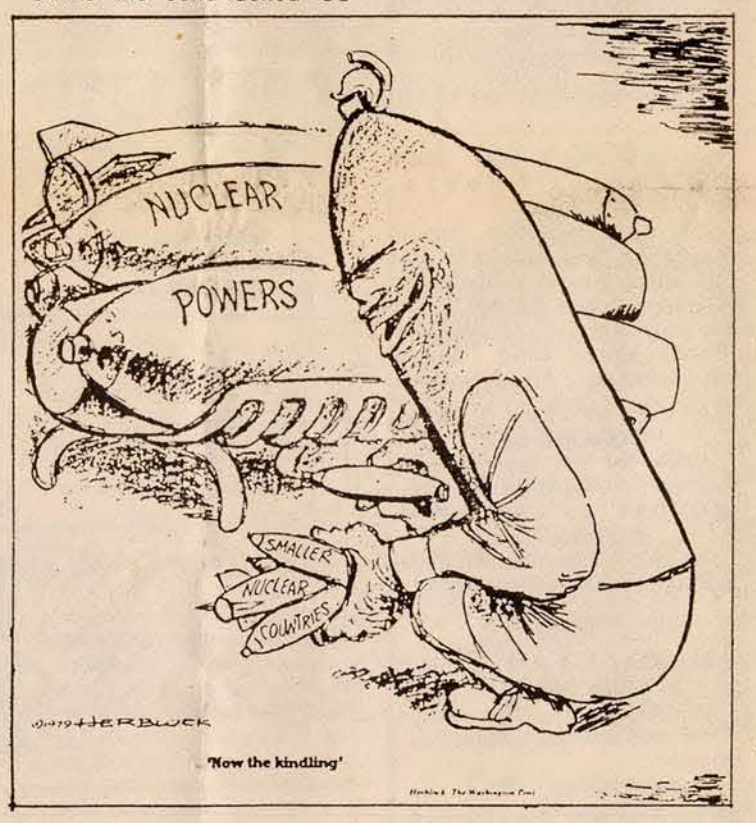
PROLIFERATION RISK "INHERENT"

The report points out "that proliferation risk is inherent in enrichment technologies", but does not mention that the risk is greater with its favoured centrifuge process. It only called for an upgrading of the Australian Safeguards Office.

According to the report, environmental effects of such a project would need to be assessed in respect of conditions at a particular site. However, the Council expressed its belief that normal, routine operation would have little or no effect on the environment.

Speaking in reply, the Labor Party's spokesperson for Minerals and Energy, Mr. Keating, described the report as honest, but unsatisfactory, leaving too many questions unanswered.

Bruce Doyle.



OUR CAMPAIGN IS FIVE YEARS OLD

When our Campaign began in May 1975 the risks and hazards of the nuclear industry were unknown to most Australians. In marked contrast, nuclear issues are rarely out of the news these days and they are of importance to a large section of the community.

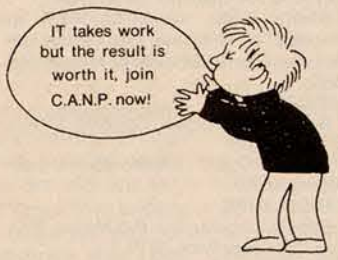
LONG CAMPAIGN

Even so, the Campaign will be a long and difficult one because the nuclear industry has a lot at stake. Government attempts to introduce additional parts of the nuclear fuel cycle into Australia will complicate our task. It may be another 10 to 15 years before the slowdown already evident in the industry worldwide leads to its inevitable collapse. How long this takes will depend in part on our perseverence and tenacity, as the Camaign's history shows.

In reviewing our first five years, several cycles of more active support for Campaign objectives are evident. Large numbers of people have been attracted from time to time by deceptively simple proposals to dramatically halt uranium mining. These have played an important part in the Campaign's development but each has ultimately failed to achieve our goals in the decisive way which was expected.

REVIEW

Very early in the Campaign, one widely held belief was that the trade unions would recognise the terrible dangers of a nuclear world and would ban the mining and export of uranium once and for all, but they didn't. Througout 1976, many Campaigners pinned their hopes on the Ranger Inquiry. The Commissioners brought down 2 reports which very



thoroughly surveyed the risks and benefits of the nuclear option but then sat on the fence. Likewise, those who expected the Labor Party to form a government in December 1977 and immediately impose a ban on all uranium mining, except Mary Kathleen, were disappointed.

Later, some Campaigners ignored the legal constraints on Aboriginal land-owners and expected them to refuse permission for uranium mining on sacred land, but this was not an option open to them. Even with outside support, the deception and pressures imposed by the government and companies – and for some, the promised rewards – were too great to resist. Then, in 1979 some people believed that a favourable policy decision at the ACTU Congress would certainly spell an end to mining. It may still do so, but not without a considerable increase in organised trade union activity.

Every one of these event has played a valuable part in producing the increasingly favourable climate for a halt to uranium mining and nuclear power.

PERSONAL DIRECT ACTION

In the long run, however, our own president campaigning, year in and year out, has produced the most enduring changes in policies and attitudes. As a result of our efforts, genuine concern and readiness for action have been created throughout the Australian community.. Every Campaign member and supporter should make a new commitment to continue speaking, writing and organising activities on nuclear issues during 1980.

Tailor your activities to suit the time and energy available – but above all make a firm decision to do something. Support and assistance are always available for those who will distribute newsletters; write letters to the editor, politicians, etc.; help at workbees; organise local meetings and the myriad of other activities upon which our success depends. Start now! Contact Joan Sheers or Ron Leeks at the Campaign office.

Bob Phelps.

ACTION AGAINST URANIUM

HARRISBURG DAY

Our Harrisburg Commemoration Day activities were a rewarding success. A rally in the City Square on Saturday morning was addressed by Brian Burns of the AMW&SU, Sen. J. Keefe (Labor, Townsville), Sen Mason (Democrats) and Rob Robotham who is radiation protection officer at Melbourne University.

After assembling in the square about 1300 marchers moved out into Albert Street, scene of many confrontations with the police. This time, however, as a permit to march had been issued, the only police in evidence were there to direct traffic flow and we were able to proceed peacefully around the chosen route.

A huge papier mache Intercontinental Ballistic Banana was a feature of the contingent from the Bayside Anti Nuclear Group.

Other groups displayed banners, placards and decorated vehicles.

The only discordent note evident was the fact that special branch police were in the Square continuing their campaign of photographing people at the rally.

Both Sunday papers gave us coverage with photographs and clips were shown on all four T.V. news programmes.

The proceeds of stalls in the square helped defray expenses of arranging the rally. "No more Harrisburg" placards were snapped up by the assembling marchers. A showing of "Paul Jacob s and the Nuclear Gang' and a seminar with Rob Robotham drew a capacity crowd at the Temperance Hall during the afternoon.

UNION MEETING ACTION

Campaign members helped the W.A.U.M. groups publicise and promote a union delegates meeting called to discuss implementation of the official anti-uranium policy of the A.C.T.U. The first such meeting was cancelled due to power restrictions, but another meeting was called for 17th April for which we once again lent our support.

N.F.P. CONFERENCE

Efforts to contact aboriginal people in the N.T. with regard to their choosing a delegate to the N.F.P. Conference ended successfully with the nomination of Vi Stanton, an aboriginal activist from the Rum Jungle area. Vi has accepted the invitation to go to Honolulu and will leave Darwin on 7th May to go to Sydney to join Pat O'Shane, an aboriginal barrister who is also a delegate to the conference.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

A large banner has been prepared and sent off to the U.S. in support of the Native Americans' fight to stop uranium mining on their land. The American Indian Environmental Council has organised a demonstration at Dalton Pass in the Navajo area, New Mexico on April 26th.

COUNTRY GROUPS ACTION

Bundaberg Nuclear Concern Group has been keeping the anti-nuclear position well to the fore with various activities including a series of letters to the editor, press releases and a complete leafletting of the town of Gin Gin by residents. A stall in the same town sold books and stickers and collected 18 signatures for a petition to declare Kolan Shire a "Nuclear Free Zone."

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Toowoomba had a very successful Music Festival on Harrisburg Day and was able to add about $1000 to their funds as a result. 500 people attended and were entertained by 14 local and Brisbane acts including a wide variety of musical styles. Their showings of 'Paul Jacobs' during the week leading up to Harrisburg were well supported.

FILM TOUR SUCCESS

During March and the first week of April the tour in Queensland of the film "Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang" was an outstanding success. It was shown in places as far apart as Mt. Isa to an audience of 80, Townsville 170, Mackay 100, and Rocky 50. Caboolture, Kingaroy, Nambour, Toowoomba and Hervey Bay also reported enthusiastic audiences. We were also able to give it wide exposure in Brisbane.

LETTER

Sir,

Attempts have been made to revive the slogan BETTER DEAD THAN RED in recent letters in the Australian.

Could one be justified for suspecting that this could be yet another tactic to divert attention from sinister happenings and threats to freedom which such programmes as a Nuclear Economy may present?

Anyway, who is it that says we would be better ***dead*** than ***red?***

Who is it that says we must accept nuclear power?

How do the advocates of the 'slogan' explain the political flirtations of the U.S. and their condoning of it, with Red China?

Why do we applaud the Russian dissidents and condemn or gaol our own?

Why do we denounce the restrictions the Kremlin places on the Emigration of Jews when we scream at Viet Nam for releasing the boat people?

Why did the U.S. and Australia apparently condone the Indonesian invasion of East Timor and the Chinese invasion of North Vietnam and make an international issue over Russia's adventures in Afghanistan?

I would invite, nay, ***challenge*** our opponents to answer these questions.

Finally I would suggest a much more relevant slogan is, BETTER TO BE ACTIVE THAN RADIOACTIVE.

Yours Faithfully,
W. D. Bryce L. Th. Dip. R. E.
Kingaroy.

DIARY OF EVENTS

APRIL

WEDNESDAY 23, 7.30 P.M. QUEENSLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Guest speakers on the Rundle Oil Project. Teachers Union Building, Boundary St., Spring Hill.

Thursday 24, 1 p.m. Mark Desendorf speaks,

Dr. Mark Desendorf, one of Australia's foremost authorities on wind energy, speaks on "Towards a Low Energy Future for Australia." E. G. Whitlam Room, Union Bldg. Uni of Queensland. All welcome.

SATURDAY 26, 1 P.M. WORKING BEE.

Work for life and a non-nuclear future. 147 Ann St., City.

MONDAY 28, 7.00 P.M. WORKING BEE.

All welcome to make final preparations for May Day march.

MAY

SATURDAY 3, 1 P.M. C.A.N.P. WORKING BEE.

At 147 Ann St. All welcome. Final preparations for Monday's march.

MONDAY 5, LABOR DAY MARCH.

Gather 9.30 a.m. in Mary St., City.

SATURDAY 10, 7.30 p.m. Bush Dance

With Bale em up Bush Band 17 Caxton St., Petrie Terrace

Saturday 10, 1 P.M. WORKING BEE.

Many are needed to get the job done. 147 Ann St.

SATURDAY 17, WORKING BEE

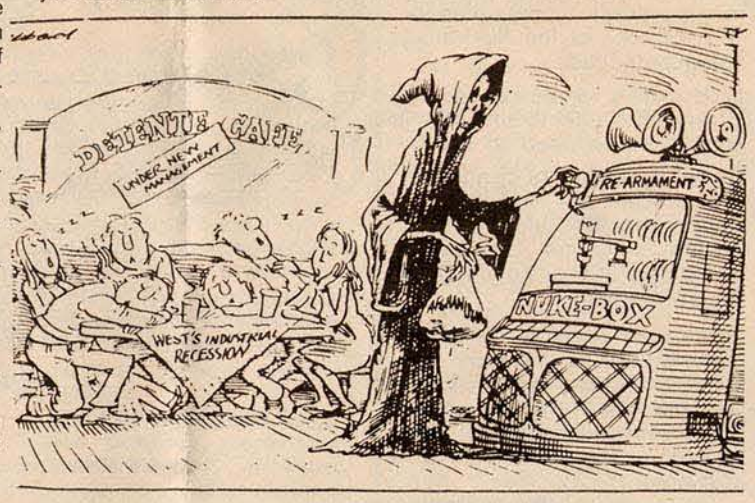
At 147 Ann St., from 1 p.m.

SATURDAY 17, MEDIA WORKSHOP

1.30 to 5.00 p.m. For details contact C.A.N.P. 221 0188 or A.W.D. at 221 9398.

TUESDAY 20 C.A.N.P. GENERAL MEETING.

At 7.30 p.m. 9th floor Canberra Hotel. All welcome.



NATIONAL OCCUPATION

Anti-uranium activists from around Australia will gather in Adelaide on May 17 to oppose uranium mining and enrichment. The gathering results from a decision of the national meeting of Uranium Moratorium last November.

On Saturday, May 17 a march is planned to the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories (one kilometre from the city). AMDEL is considered to be processing yellowcake for government mining companies. The following morning a car-cade will leave Adelaide for Port Pirie where the participants will march to the site of the Port Pirie tailings dams: a legacy of uranium mining in the 1950's. On Sunday evening they will proceed to the Redcliffe site, a possible uranium enrichment plant area, and camp. On Monday, May 19 interested people will travel on to sites of proposed uranium mines (including the one in which Mr. Bjelke-Petersen has an interest).

For information contact C.A.N.P. on 221 0188

membership

IF THERE IS A CROSS HERE, AND YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER REGULARLY, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM AND SEND IT WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE SOON.

MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

To: CANP, P.O. Box 238, North Quay, Qld. 4000.

My name is .....

My address is .....

..... **Postcode** .....

Phone numbers ..... **Work** ..... **Home**

HEREWITH:

| | $3 student/unemployed/pensioner membership

| | $6 Individual membership

| | $20 Organisation Membership

$| | A Donation | pledge $| | a month

YOUR GROUP

BAYSIDE ANTI/NUCLEAR GROUP
BANG meets every fortnight at Tingalpa. All welcome. For further details ring Gloria 396 1269 or Miriam 390 4262.

BUNDABERG
Bundaberg Nuclear Concern Group c/- Harry Akers.
"Electra Court". Electra Street, Bundaberg, 4670.

CABOOLTURE
CANP (Caboolture) c/- Pat Moran, P.O. Box 109, Caboolture. 4510.

KINGAROY
S.S.A.N.E. Society for Sane alternatives to Nuclear Energy. P.O. Box 16, Kingaroy.

MACKAY
~~Mackay Nuclear Awareness Group~~ P.O. Box 458 Mackay. 4741.

MT ISA
CANP (Mt. Isa). P.O. Box 1473 Mt. Isa

NORTHWEST SUBURBS ACTION GROUP.
c/- Scott O'Keefe, 9 Musgrave Tce Alderley, 4051.

PADDINGTON
Joan Shears 356 1492.

PINE RIVERS
CANP (Pine Rivers) Grace Duffield 285 3381.

ROCKHAMPTON
CANP (Central Qld) P.O. Box 795. Rockhampton. 4700.

SALISBURY
Phone Barbara Robson 277 6597.

SUNSHINE COAST
CANP (Sunshine Coast) P.O. Box 520, Nambour. 4560.

TOOWOOMBA
CANE (Toowoomba) P.O. Box 1167 Toowoomba. 4350 Ph. 076 343 983

TOWNSVILLE
MAUM (Townsville) P.O. Box 364, Townsville. 4810. Phone 71 6226.

TRADE UNION ANTI-NUCLEAR LOBBY
P.O. Box 196, Broadway. 4000. Phone Ken McGrath 221 2350.

UNIVERSITY OF QLD
Meetings or activities of the Campus Movement Against Uranium' Mining every week during semester. Ring the Union 371 1611 or Bruce Doyle 378 1514 for details.

WEST END
Ring Kathy Moran 44 3896.

WINDSOR/CLAYFIELD
Ring Chris Tooley 57 1704

WORKERS AGAINST URANIUM MINING Telephone 391 5966.

Our street address is: C/- QCC Environment Centre, 147 Ann St., BRISBANE.

Workingbee Every Sat. 1-5

Please send DONATIONS and MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW