

Hinkley INQUIRER

The only complete and clear account

Valentine's Day Massacre

The usual sleepy atmosphere of the Inquiry hall was dramatically transformed on Day 67, as objectors confronted the Inspector with their complaints as to his running of the Inquiry.

For months, participants have been telling the Inspector at the formal Tuesday morning procedure sessions that he is pushing people too hard, while press reports have talked about the "whiplash" Inspector and his juggernaut Inquiry. But he has continued to announce early starts and evening sessions at short notice.

Explosions

But the fireworks really began on Valentine's Day, when Mr. Ryan, the previously compliant counsel for COLA (*Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities*) acted on instructions from his employers:

"There is a very widespread feeling of unease and objection to hours being sat which... is imposing a burden on many people, sir, which they find intolerable."

In icy tones, the Inspector asked Ryan if he was "speaking for COLA or for people generally." And when Councillor Humphrey Temperley (COLA) stood up in the hall to chip in, the Inspector shouted furiously at him to sit down and be quiet.

When Phil Davies of *Friends of the Earth* stood up to express similar concerns, the Inspector told him he could not read out loud a letter from Jonathon Porritt: "You can make it

an Inquiry document" (see page 2).

Next to lay his head on the block was Commander Green, whose expert witness is Dr. Richard Webb. Green complained that changes made to the programme without consulting him were putting his expert witness at a disadvantage. He also suggested that this was deliberate.



"There is no doubt in my mind that if Dr. Webb has begun to persuade you that some aspects of the CEGB safety case might be unsound, then the government might wish to bring pressure to stifle further debate involving Dr. Webb. One obvious desire would have been to cut short his time for cross-examination. The next obvious option would be to squeeze his remaining time for submitting his proof of evidence."

Doth he protest too much?

"Such a suggestion (of government pressure) is both untrue and absurd," was the Inspector's response. Decisions are taken "by me and me alone" he insisted.

As for the point made by Ryan that this Inquiry sits longer hours than others, "I am not concerned as to other Inquiries" said the Inspector. "I will from week to week determine what are the hours of sitting of these proceedings."

Inquiry Within

The pace of the Inquiry has been relentless, calling on witnesses at such short notice that it is nigh impossible for some of them to be cross-examined. Are the public really getting a "full, fair and thorough" hearing? Or is there pressure from elsewhere: "Have that Inquiry report on my desk by.... love Cecil?"

This is what has been happening to the programme:

The first version of the post-Christmas programme scheduled evidence from the CEGB, the Department of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. This covered a four-week period with the NRPB given half a day and three CEGB witnesses appearing for two weeks.

The scheduling was then relaxed by three weeks to give slightly more time to individuals and the licensing bodies. When the start of proceedings was brought forward to 9.30 am in the week beginning January 31, it meant

IN THIS ISSUE

Health and Safety topic continues with NRPB, DoE, MAFF and DoT: evidence and questions. Collaborating with the system? Humour and High Culture.

the three NII (HSE) witnesses appeared in less than a week. Objectors had a wide range of questions to put to many of these bodies.

The Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities were allowed two weeks, but the rest of the objectors were crammed in at a rate of seven a day (the rate has since gone up to ten a day). On March 1, for example, Brian Rome (proof of evidence 200 pages plus), Penny Boyle (a daily participant at the Dounreay Inquiry), Alan Debenham (*West Somerset CND*) - and four others - were expected to get through their evidence and be cross-examined.

Protests

Protests were made at the Procedural time on February 7. But to what avail: that week the DoE were brought forward by a week to "fill a gap" (according to the Inquiry Secretariat). They were then put on at an additional evening session on February 9 between 5.15 and 7 pm, and then finished cross-examination on the Friday. Only five people cross-examined.

Alan Debenham (*CND*) applied to cross-examine Dr. Clarke (*National Radiological Protection Board*) at two days' notice but was told "no".

9.30 am starts were again announced on the Friday morning (February 10) for the following week.

Implications

What are the implications of all this for participants?

a) Anyone trying to get to the Public Inquiry by the regular bus service and in receipt of the programme does not know of these late changes, so you must ring in and keep in touch.

b) Regular participants who travel daily and get up at 6 am, returning home by 8 pm, are faced with more pressure and rushed travel arrangements.

c) The service network supplying documents, recording the day's events, managing the creche etc., are obliged to work longer hours.

d) The Objectors' Office is put under even greater pressure. It already runs 8 am to 8 pm and deals with many issues related to procedure and follow-up for people who have not had their objections acknowledged, as well as giving guidance to people about their role vis à vis presentation of their objection.

e) Chopping the programme about at the drop of a hat reduces the number of objectors available to ask questions. For example, DoE were questioned by five people and the DoT by only four.

13 February 1989

Michael Barnes QC
Hinkley C Public Inquiry
Cannington Court
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Cannington
Somerset
TA5 2HA

Dear Mr. Barnes,

Friends of the Earth Limited
26-28 Underwood Street
London N1 7JQ
Telephone 01-490 1555

EARLY STARTS AND LATE FINISHES.

Friends of the Earth wish to acknowledge that we have in the past benefitted from the willingness of the Inquiry to sit beyond the normal closing time of 5 p.m.

We would also like to put on record however our indebtedness to the work of Stop Hinkley Expansion, and in particular to the staff of its office. This is not only a matter of sharing common aims. SHE also acts as a point of referral for many individual objectors, many of them directed there through Friends of the Earth. SHE also provides an invaluable service to the Inquiry by helping objectors prepare their presentations, and by familiarising them with Inquiry Procedure. Friends of the Earth, along with many other objectors, also benefit from SHE's presence at the Inquiry through its monitoring of the Inquiry's progress, as well as the publication of the 'Hinkley Inquirer'.

This service, which in view of the volume of objections, quite clearly serves a public function, is funded entirely through voluntary contribution, and receives no public support.

We are therefore disturbed to learn that this service is being put under additional strain by the increasing tendency of the Inquiry to start earlier than the originally published time of 10 a.m., as well as to finish later than 5 p.m.

In your letter of June 23 1988, announcing the general times of Inquiry sittings, you say in paragraph 21:

'I do not exclude occasional Monday sittings or longer or different hours on some days should this prove necessary'

We draw your attention to the words 'should this prove necessary', and would therefore ask for your assurance that in future early starts and late finishes will remain the exception rather than become the rule.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathon Porritt,
Director, Friends of the Earth

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Inspectors Inspected

As Week 17 began, people continued to question the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate witness.

Jill Sutcliffe put her concerns to Hannaford over the tremendous range of expertise which the NII staff must need in order to do their job properly:

"Your staff have had to oversee the Magnox, the AGR, the reprocessing works. You are now about to take on a third and different type of reactor at a time when the Magnox is entering a new era. It has gone beyond its design life and so it may cause problems we are unaware of. We have a decommissioning which we have not overseen yet either, apart from the Windscale AGR."

Hannaford told her that "we do have specialists" - but also that "we move them around and give them a variety of work."

Other bodies

Crispin Aubrey (*Stop Hinkley Expansion*) asked about the NII's monitoring of the reactor parts already ordered by the CEGB for Hinkley C. Mr. B. Hemsworth (assisting Hannaford) said that "no steel has been poured yet for the forgings, so NII involvement has been minimal... there has been no activity in that direction." The NII would, however, visit the French factory where the parts were being made during the process, he added.

Aubrey also referred Hannaford to a report from the International Atomic Energy Agency which stated that between 50 and 70% of all problems in the nuclear power industry were the result of human error.

Casual relationship

Brian Rome questioned Hannaford on the quality of the information given to the NII by the CEGB. Just how accurate and complete is it?

The Inspector cut in to say that while he understands the NII is "not holding anything back... information that is given them by the CEGB may be regarded as commercially confidential and, in those circumstances, as a matter of policy, they do not disclose it."

Rome then put it to Hannaford that the NII has a "casual" and "very lax regulatory relationship" with the CEGB. Hannaford denied this, but admitted "we cannot check everything and we do not set out to do so."

Mistakes and malevolence

On the subject of accidents Rome made the point that more important lessons can be learned from real life than from theoretical studies. "The database of real accidents is real life," he said, "it is the whole of human history, and my database starts at Herodotus and Thucydides and Polybius and Plutarch and that is where I see human action, human failure, human fallibility... and that to me is far more real to the nuclear future than these theoretical studies and 10-to-the-minus-7 or such statistical constructs. We can look back at two-and-a-half millenia of actual real life, well documented."

Professor astonished

Professor Simpson, one of the Inspector's Assessors, questioned Hannaford closely on engineering details such as the integrity of the pressure circuit.

Professor Simpson also asked for Hannaford's reaction to a statement made by Mr. George (CEGB) that "he thought the need for in-service inspection would disappear and they would simply do a calculation based on fracture mechanics, which astonished me, coming from a practical engineer."

Hannaford did not contradict the Professor and Hemsworth added that "I am surprised that he has made that statement."

Finally, Simpson wanted to know, how many engineers in the NII have had experience of operating a PWR?

"Not many," said Hannaford. But he said that the NII staff includes ex-Royal navy submariners who have operated PWRs.

Cancer Risk Trebled Says NRPB Boss

On Day 63 Roger Clarke, Director of the National Radiological Protection Board, gave evidence.

The NRPB's estimates of the risks of exposure to ionising radiation are higher than they had previously assumed, he told the Inquiry: "The fatal cancer risk estimate adopted for protection purposes is now taken to be some three times higher than before."

This assessment is based on the latest 1988 report from UNSCEAR - the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation.

This new risk estimate, said Clarke, also reinforces the NRPB's interim guidance given a year ago to restrict doses to the most highly exposed workers and members of the public to levels well below the existing limits.

He described the research and advice functions of the NRPB and outlined its relationship with the two principal international organisations, the ICRP (International Commission on Radiological Protection) and UNSCEAR. The ICRP is also revising its risks estimates and will publish new recommendations in 1990.



"First we have to convince the people that good health isn't everything."

NRPB Questioned

On Day 64 Lynette Warren for Severnside Campaign Against Radiation (SCAR) questioned Dr. Clarke, director of NRPB.

Referring to the COMARE report which looks at case studies of Japanese survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Warren pointed out that the report shows records were only kept from the 1950s, missing out the first five years. "It is therefore

possible that there could have been more cases related to radiation in Japan than those reported," she suggested.

Clarke agreed that there is a gap in the Japanese data but added: "We use other studies where the data did exist for the first five years and make the extrapolations from other studies to the Japanese."

Warren asked if the NRPB had done any autopsy measurements on the children at Dounreay who had died of leukaemia.

"We have done nothing at Dounreay," replied Clarke. He added that the NRPB "had found it impossible to get tissue samples from autopsies for analysis because the pathologists had judged it unethical to pass samples to an independent body such as ours for analysis."

Propaganda?

Dr. Kitty Little, the only pro-nuclear objector, questioned Dr. Clarke about the National Radiological Protection Board's cancer statistics.

She implied his agency was wasting money on seeking further protection from radiation which she believes is not as harmful to the public as are the "scare campaigns" on radiation risks.

Radon risks

She raised the subject of radon, and the Inspector took her questions further to ask Dr. Clarke about the relative value for money in spending to cut nuclear radiation versus spending to cut radon in houses.

HSE risks not tolerable

Clarke was then questioned by Jonathan Milner, representing the Consortium of Local Authorities, COLA.

He pressed Clarke to say whether or not he agreed with the government's nuclear safety watchdog, the Health and Safety Executive, over tolerable levels of risk from nuclear.

"HSE have now proffered a figure of 10-to-the-minus-4," said Clarke. But when pressed further by Milner and also by the Inspector, Clarke admitted, "I think 10-to-the-minus-4 is rather a high number."

"Do you not see an argument for reducing the 0.5 mSv limit still further, perhaps to 0.2?" Milner asked.

"I can certainly see arguments," Clarke agreed.

Toothless body?

Ann Lee of the South Wales Women's Support Group wanted to know from Dr. Clarke if his organisation was responsible for protecting the public from man-made radiation: "We are an advisory body," replied Clarke, "We are not regulatory and so I

cannot enforce anything by power of regulation."

"Do you have any teeth in your organisation?" Lee asked further.

"Our teeth, I suppose," Clarke replied, "are that if you or anybody else found a Government Department doing something which did not correspond with advice the Board had given there would soon be some sort of an outcry."

Unbiased?

Lee also wanted to know how the NRPB ensured they were un-biased towards those who paid them. Clarke agreed that this was an important question and cited as an example that they had done work both for the CEGB and been contracted by COLA for the Inquiry.

On the Chernobyl disaster, Lee asked if the NRPB had learnt anything which could be applied to the development of the nuclear power programme in this country.

Clarke admitted that the most important lesson had been "the anxiety of the public in this situation. It was very difficult to talk to people about the real worries they had and try to help them. That I think is a major problem for an emergency. But we did get ourselves fairly well organised even though our switchboard was jammed."

Messing about with uranium

Richard Carder from the English Campaign for Cancer Protection was the next to put questions to Dr. Clarke.

He sought a definition of natural background radiation, and Clarke agreed with him that this is a "grey area".

On the subject of monitoring Carder wondered whether we had any idea of "normal radioactive levels in the general environment before mankind started messing about with uranium - so that we can understand what is normal to the planet." He got Clarke's general agreement that there is probably more radioactivity in the environment now than there was at the turn of the century.

Drawing on the American statistician Jay Gould's work, Carder put these figures to Clarke: "radiation from Chernobyl weakened the immune system and caused the premature deaths of from 35,000 to 40,000 people in the US alone during the summer after the explosion."

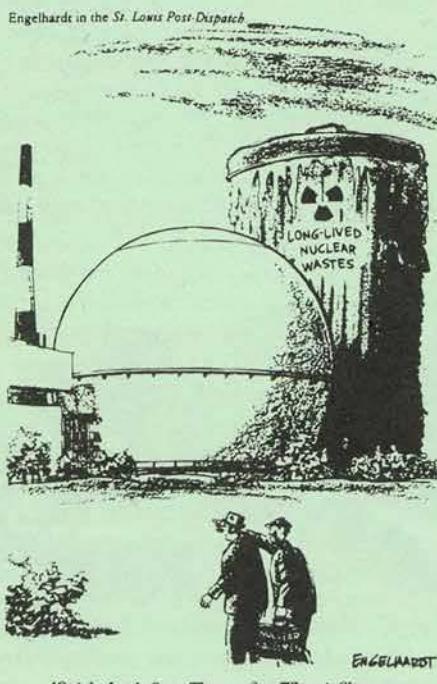
Carder also told Clarke about a questionnaire sent after Chernobyl to all District Medical Officers in the country. 89% responded, and only 2% were satisfied with their queries to medical authorities on the problem of Chernobyl.

Unacceptable

Crispin Aubrey (SHE) asked Dr. Clarke about the figure he had given to the media of 2,000 people who were now working in nuclear power stations and elsewhere at radiation dose levels above the new NRPB recommendations. Clarke agreed with an earlier comment he had made that "if British workers exposed to radiation continued working within the present limits, they faced a level of risk which 'verged on the unacceptable'."

Managing Waste: DoE Evidence

In a special evening session on Day 65 of the Inquiry, Brian Ponsford gave evidence. He is an Under Secretary in the Department of the Environment and Director of HM Inspectorate of Pollution.



The DoE's position, he said, is to neither support nor oppose the CEGE's proposal for a PWR at Hinkley. He dealt with the DoE's responsibilities for radioactive waste management. The DoE is jointly responsible with MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) for authorising and checking up on the disposal of radioactive waste. DoE is also responsible for keeping radiation exposure levels as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA), and for strategies in management of civil radioactive wastes.

Food, Fish And Farming

On Day 67 officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food gave evidence.

Peter Boyling, the Ministry's policy witness with responsibility for protecting the aquatic environment, kicked off with his policy on disposal of radioactive waste at sea.

MAFF evidence is not intended to be for or against Hinkley C, but deals with the Ministry's statutory responsibilities in the consequences of nuclear waste for agriculture, fisheries and food. It shares this responsibility with the Department of Environment.

Dose limits

The government follows ICRP (International Commission for Radiological Protection) and NRPB (National Radiological Protection Board) guidelines, said Boyling. These allow a dose of 1 millisievert (mSv) a year to members of the public who are most exposed to radiation (the critical group), or up to 5 mSv in one year as long as the total dose doesn't exceed 70 mSv over a lifetime.

But general policy is to keep doses as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) and operators are expected to use "best practical means" (BPM) to limit discharges.

Let them eat fish

Dr. Graham Hunt, MAFF's Fisheries head, followed with his evidence. He described how MAFF would assess doses to members of the public from a PWR.

According to his estimates, doses from Hinkley A, B and the planned C station would be within national limits. The dose to the general population of the UK would see a "relatively small increase" if the C station is built, said Hunt. But there would be "a somewhat larger increase to the world collective dose because of the contribution due to the long-lived carbon-14."

He assured the Inquiry that doses would be kept under review and that effects on the sea environment and sea birds would also be watched. Dose rates would be "of the same order as due to natural background and well below" harmful levels, he concluded.

Food, glorious food

William Bradford, head of the Food Safety (Radiation) Unit, then gave the MAFF view on the impact of radiological waste on horticulture and agriculture.

Bradford considered the effects of routine radioactive discharges from a PWR on local people eating local food. He concluded that the impact of this would be "small" and that "the resulting dose would represent only a small fraction of the UK and international recommended limits."

All At Sea: MAFF Grilled

On Day 68, the men from MAFF were questioned by Tim Deere-Jones of the Irish Sea Project from Wales.

He wanted to know if MAFF's discharge authorisations were framed to suit reactor design - or were reactors being designed to meet a specific discharge rating? MAFF confirmed the former is the case.

Weakness

Questioned about the efficiency of environmental modelling of the Irish Sea and radioactivity dispersion MAFF said that they have "confidence that we can predict concentrations sufficiently well to be able to assess compliance with ICRP limits". This was despite their published statements that there is "an overall weakness in the lack of systematic long term data collection in almost all areas", and Hunt's admission that there are "significant fluctuations" in the Irish Sea environment from time to time.

Despite the fact that seaborne radiation is proved to be blowing inland and contaminating food crops on Irish Sea coasts, MAFF did not and would not put such information into their models for food exposure and subsequent radiation doses to populations.

Likely story

Tim Deere-Jones referred to his examination (Day 55) of CEGB, where it was stated by CEGB that Hinkley alpha levels were so low as to be virtually undetectable and that alpha activity measured in the Bristol Channel was almost entirely due to Sellafield. MAFF were asked how they distinguish between Sellafield and Hinkley alphas. They answered that this was very difficult to do and therefore "we make the judgement that it is likely to be due to Sellafield."

Silts not monitored

Irish Sea Project pointed out that it was well known that radioactivity tended to concentrate in estuarine silts and asked whether in the absence of monitoring by CEGB at the headwaters of the Parrett any such work was done by MAFF. The answer was no.

Questions were raised about Tritium which is a large part of the gaseous and liquid discharges from the Hinkley site. MAFF agreed that tritiated water behaved like any environmental water, that 100% of inhaled tritiated water vapour would be retained, that 100% of tritiated water absorbed through the skin would be retained, and that in the case of fog, mist or steam rising off exposed mud flats and shorelines 100% of the tritium in that water vapour would be retained if inhaled. Nonetheless, no monitoring was done on human tissue to assess the effects of such exposure, nor was any similar work done to assess tritium levels in soil, vegetation, seaweed, or silt.

MAFF agreed that the Plutonium and Americium discharged could enter the food chain and result in eventual ingestion by human beings.



Effects on Wales

Geoff Bright from Cwmbran concentrated on MAFF I produced by Peter Boyling, Head of Marine Research on the Administration side.

Also, Bright explored the consequences for Wales of discharges including the effects on local seaweeds consumed as laverbread and, indirectly, when used as a source of fertiliser for organic farmers.

Confidential sources

Danielle Grunberg (SHE) asked if they produced maps of all their monitoring sites like the CEGB and SCC (Somerset County Council).

Hunt (MAFF) answered that their sampling on the aquatic side was "fairly simple," and the results were published in their annual report.

Aerial maps

Referring to the Scottish Eye film shown on Channel 4, January 28, Grunberg asked about the aerial survey of West Cumbria undertaken for MAFF by the Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre. This survey had found, according to Professor Baxter, director of the Centre, readings of 300,000 becquerels per square metre caused by radioactive water discharged from Sellafield. "Do you agree with Professor Baxter's figure produced in that television programme?" she said.

Data suppressed?

"I think that is a fair assessment of the level of contamination which gave rise to the aerial survey readings, yes," replied Bradford.

Quoting from an article in *The Yorkshire Post*, Grunberg asked why officials of *The National Farmers Union*, who were shown the results at a private briefing, were told not to repeat what they had seen.

Bradford replied that he himself was present at the meeting and that: "There is no intention to suppress the results. But they were raw data and it would have been inappropriate to publish preliminary results."

Transport Department's View

On Day 68, David Blackman, head of the Radioactive Materials Transport Division at the Department of Transport, gave evidence for the DoT.

He outlined the safety responsibilities of the DoT, the national and international regulations, and the various types of packages used to transport radioactive materials.

Blackman also outlined accident procedures and commented on the recent report from ACTRAM (*Advisory Committee on the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials*).

He referred to the "very good safety record over the 20 or 30 years that nuclear flasks have been transported," but added that "vigilance must be maintained as the risk of serious accident involving radioactive materials in transit can never be entirely eliminated."

Objectors Put Health And Safety Case

On February 16, with the programme one-and-a-half days ahead of schedule, opposition groups and individuals made their first contribution under Topic 2. Getting things off to a very good start was Dr. Piers Rawson appearing on behalf of South Somerset Friends of the Earth.

Rawson was brought in one month ahead of schedule at six days' notice and was unable therefore to call a

witness, Mrs. Margaret Rogers. Nor was he allowed to read out or summarise her evidence. In spite of this, and in spite of curt commands from the Inspector ("Get on with it Dr. Rawson" - a direction never extended to witnesses for the PWR proposal), the integrity of Dr. Rawson's argument was sustained throughout and he put up a robust defence of the group's position.

FoE case

FoE argued that the reliance by the CEGB on the safety case made at Sizewell is invalid:

1. The Sizewell Report presented national economic benefit and safety as inseparable. With no economic case left, the safety case is undermined.

2. Sir Frank Layfield relied in his Sizewell decision on confidence in the CEGB design judgement and engineering quality. Its record in this area is now known to be very poor, and problems with the AGR have been discovered since.

3. Dr. Rawson said "It was unacceptable that under privatisation, risks to the people of Somerset and the areas surrounding Hinkley Point, would no longer be set against a theoretical national economic benefit, but against the profit, if any, of a private utility company."

Morally wrong

SSFOE also pointed out that the CEGB witnesses had admitted that it was still an open question whether leukemia clusters can be associated with radioactive discharges. They believe that with major research still in progress, it would be "premature and morally wrong to proceed with Hinkley C".

Dr. Rawson urged the Inspector to withhold any recommendation for consent until the matter has been scientifically resolved. So long as the question remains open, routine operation of Hinkley C could be in breach of the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 Section 7. CEGB witness Brian George has conceded that the present design for the PWR could not be adapted to eliminate radioactive discharges.

... Comment ..

Walking The Tightrope - Or Walking The Plank?

Did you know that the House of Lords once decided that the Secretary of State doesn't even have to read the Inspector's report from a Public Inquiry? So are we all wasting our time? L. Profile gives a personal point of view.

Talking to objectors at Cannington, I am struck by the incredible amount of time, money, sweat and blood they are putting into their evidence - and their low expectations of the outcome. The results of previous nuclear inquiries fully justify the latter, but if we don't hope to win this Inquiry, what are we doing here? If our participation enables the government to gain public consent (as opposed to support) for Hinkley C, are we guilty of complicity? By helping them walk their tightrope, are we walking the plank?

Public Inquiries are tightropes: the trick for the organisers is to allow just enough participation in the decision-making process. Too much input by objectors would lead to loss of control by the authorities; too little to the loss of the public's consent.

The British P.I. system is often cited as the reason we have seen less civil disorder organised around nuclear power sites than in America and Europe. But by the mid '70s the limited terms of reference of nuclear P.I.s, coupled with the growth of the anti-nuclear movement, meant that they were wearing thin as a legitimating device. The Torness Inquiry failed to pre-empt serious disruption at the construction site. Thus was born the Super Inquiry, of

which Hinkley is the third, after Windscale and Sizewell.

The Cabinet minutes which were leaked in 1979 are explicit as to the rule of the Inquiry process as a device to secure the consent of the public to the PWR. However, there is a difference between consent and support. Opposition to nuclear power was at a new peak in the aftermath of Chernobyl, at the time of the Sizewell decision in 1986, and yet direct action at the site has been minimal. The previous decade had seen a sea-change in political climate and culture, but this had not prevented successful dump site campaigns in the mid '80s. The crucial difference had been the "full, fair and thorough" Inquiry.

The opportunity cost of participation is huge. Imagine the redirection of all the effort the objectors have put into the formal Inquiry process into a direct action campaign. But could this really happen? For all the difficulties and barriers to participation in the Inquiry, it does provide a focus and a way of latching on that anyone who has time to fill in a postcard can be part of.

Some participate to protest, to deny their complicity and to put a spoke in the works (Sizewell was delayed for nearly two governments). Some participate for publicity, and because they know they can win the arguments, if not the Inquiry. Some participate to extract information that otherwise they might not even realise existed. Some participate because the City may kill nuclear power if it can be shown to be a hopeless investment. But you can walk the plank with your eyes shut; if we are choosing to walk the tightrope it must be with our eyes wide open.

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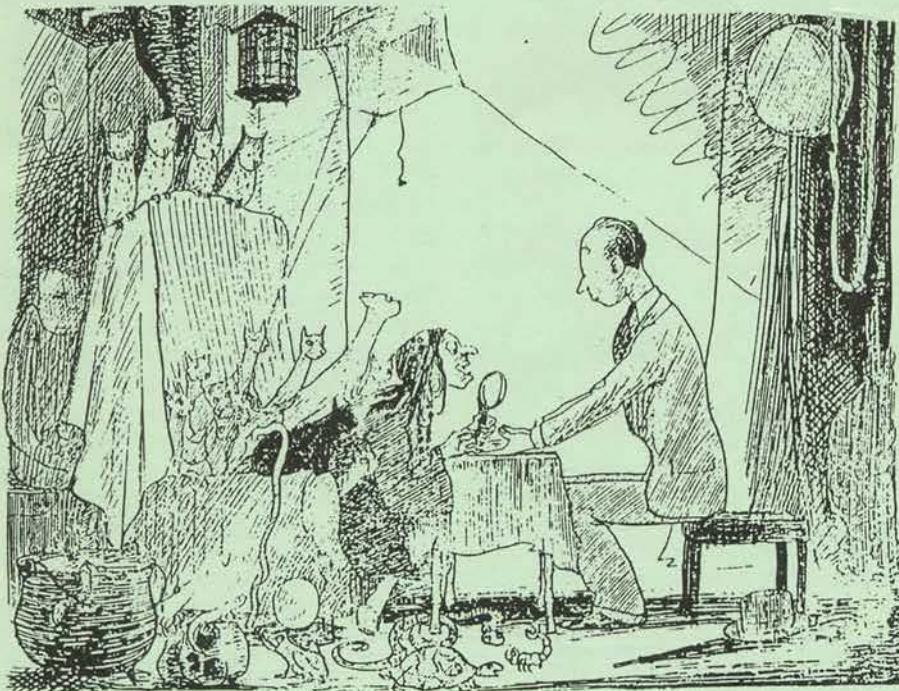
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Working Out The Inquiry

- Documents used in cross-examination: a list of these must be left with the Programme Officer at 4 o'clock on the day before participants are programmed to conduct their cross-examinations. Copies of any documents which are not already Inquiry documents should also be provided.
- The Inspector will not be inviting any representatives from either the COMARE Committee or the Somerset Health Authority to speak at the Inquiry, despite their recent reports on cancer and nuclear power. Nor will he be inviting anyone from the Severn Tidal Power Group, who have recently submitted a document to the Inquiry.
- The Inspector has asked that a Police witness from the Avon and Somerset Constabulary should attend and answer questions at the Inquiry about emergency procedures during Topic 4.
- On Thursday, March 2, the Inquiry will not sit after lunch. It will start at 9.00 am and continue until 1.30 pm.

"Life is a sexually transmitted disease which is always fatal".
(Dr. J. Corbett, CEGB Berkley Nuclear Laboratories. Quoted in ATOM 368-June 1987.)



"WOULD YOU RATHER I DIDN'T MENTION THE FATAL ACCIDENT?"

A Day In The Life Of Stop Hinkley Centre

Jill Sutcliffe describes her role.

The Stop Hinkley Centre is the office which exists to help all objectors. The pace is fast and furious and a variety of skills and a calm temperament are the main requirements!

On Wednesday February 15, for example, there were 20 calls on the answerphone, 25 letters in the post, 17 callers to the office, material to produce in time for the next issue of the *Hinkley Inquirer* plus the opportunity to cross-examine the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. And all that before 3.30 pm.

The calls varied from quick messages to be disseminated, to help required by people unable to locate the right staff member in the Secretariat. A number of callers still had not received their copies of MAFF 5, delayed for alterations to maps included in it and the MAFF team, I had to tell them, were likely to finish that day.

Then there was the person wanting to organise a visit to the power station at Hinkley, plus the six people who had not received any acknowledgement of their objections sent in to the Secretariat before Christmas. Then there were a couple of callers wanting to know when their evidence would be most appropriately given.

Other post included five letters from people sending in their Proofs looking for some feedback, follow-up on the Severn Barrage scheme from a person interested in tidal power, four subscriptions to the *Hinkley Inquirer*, three envelopes containing further information on topics still to be heard, someone wanting to know what a geiger counter measures, a request for stickers, new supporting documents to be registered, regular magazines, etc.

The callers included a number of people who were to cross-examine that day, including Francis Stoner from Ilfracombe, Tim Deere-Jones from the *Irish Sea Project*, Geoff Bright and colleague from Cwmbran, Richard Carder from the English Campaign for Cancer Prevention as well as some of the regulars.

Then there were three women and a seven-week-old baby from Devon who had come to listen and had sat in the Public Gallery, people from Combwich to run off some photocopying, Paul Tonkin whose evidence had been called forward a month and was now due to appear on February 17. He had come in to see the Inquiry in operation and to find out what the set-up was like. Like many individuals he felt in awe of the procedure and was anxious about what might happen. Worse than going to the dentist, he felt! After a chat and a cup of coffee and some time listening to the Inquiry he felt much better.

The "routine" callers included Keith Parker looking for people about to appear and cross-examine, or passing on messages. Conversely, some of my work involves steering people in his direction as Programme Officer.

People phoning in during the day included some members of the press concerned about what had happened during procedure the preceding day. Then there are people needing Transcripts sending out, people wanting to know when certain groups are giving evidence, people concerned about how to stay in touch when they have little money or time available.

STOP HINKLEY CENTRE,
CANNINGTON COURT, CHURCH
STREET,
CANNINGTON, BRIDGWATER,
SOMERSET TA5 2HA
Tel: Bridgwater 652408 Fax: 652459

Inspector, Day 64:

"Where is this getting us, Mr. Carder? I find it quite interesting myself, but I must not spend my time doing interesting things."

Facilities For Objectors

CRECHE

People with children under five are welcome to use the excellent creche at Cannington. Open each day of the Inquiry from half-an-hour before proceedings begin. Telephone in advance to book your place: (0278) 653081.

TRANSPORT

There is a free bus service to and from Cannington, as below.
Use it or lose it!

Tuesday - Thursday		
9.00 am	Taunton BR Station	5.55 pm
9.30	Bridgwater BR Station	5.25
9.40	Inquiry Venue	5.15
9.45	Creche	5.10
Friday		
8.00 am	Taunton	4.25 pm
8.30	Bridgwater	3.55
8.40	Inquiry Venue	3.45
8.45	Creche	3.40
Creche on Fridays 8.30 am - 4 pm.		

LIBRARY

The Public Office at Cannington Court dealing with the Public Inquiry contains the whole gamut of documents being prepared in connection with the PWR proposals.

The Hinkley Point C Public Inquiry Secretariat, Cannington Court, Church Street, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2HA. Telephone: 0278 444005.

DIARY

The programme is provisional and subject to change, so keep in touch with Keith Parker, Programme Officer (0278 444005, ext. 128) for up-to-date information.

Weeks Nineteen, Twenty and Twenty-one

NB The starting time has been brought forward to 9.30am this week.

February 21

Procedural matters.

Severnside Campaign Against Radiation: Dr. M. Palmer will give evidence on SCAR 3 and be cross-examined by Mr. Humphries for the CEGB. Kemp Houck will give evidence for Stop Hinkley Expansion on American PWR experience and be cross-examined by Mr. Grove for the CEGB. Geoff Bright will give evidence for the Cwmbran Anti-Nuclear Group and, following cross-examination, Dr. Richard Lee and Mr. John Duffy will give evidence and be cross-examined for Sedgemoor Green Party.

February 22

Mr. George of the CEGB recalled on CEGB 9 for Design and Safety to be cross-examined by Dr. Webb and Mr. Popham for Friends of the Earth. To be followed by FoE evidence by Dr. Lambert, FoE 4 and Mr. Gee FoE 5 and cross-examination.

February 23

Professor Eiser will give evidence and be cross-examined on FoE 6. To be followed by Mr. Fordham for evidence and cross-examination, Dr. Kitty Little and witnesses for KL 3, KL 4 and KL 5, evidence and cross-

examination of Ms. J. Bell and Mrs. R. Stuckey.

February 24

Evidence and cross-examination will take place of Mr. Bedingfield of the Friends of Quantock, Ms. B. Norland, and be followed by witnesses for the Consortium of Local Authorities (COLA): Mr. W. Cassidy on COLA 21 and overview of the safety case, Mr. Large on COLA 26 about Consent, regulation and licensing and COLA 27 on Quality assurance. To give evidence and be cross-examined.

Week Twenty

February 28

Procedural matters will be taken from 10 am.

COLA witnesses to give evidence and be cross-examined: Professor Reason on COLA 22 Human fallibility, Professor Ostberg on COLA 23 Human fallibility and Dr. D. Woods on COLA 24 Risk and the human-technical system.

March 1

COLA witnesses continue: Mr. Large on COLA 28 Comparisons with overseas regulations and the resource of HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and Mr. Musselwhite on COLA 29 Access for firefighting appliances and on COLA 30 Provision of water supplied. All will give evidence and be cross-examined.

March 2

NB 9.00 am - 1.30 pm

COLA witnesses: Mr. Large on COLA 31 Pressurised water reactor - aspects of normal operation; Mr. Seymour on COLA 32 Public exposure and radiation risk due to normal operation and Dr. Stewart on COLA 33 Cancer risk estimates for ionising radiation. Will give evidence and be

cross-examined.

March 3

COLA witnesses continue. Mr. R. Seymour on COLA 37 Aircraft hazard, Mr. Musselwhite on COLA 38 Five reactors in three different power stations on one site and Mr. Large on COLA 39 Pressurised water reactor - aspects of abnormal operation. Will give evidence and be cross-examined.

Week Twenty-one

March 7

Procedural matters taken from 10 am.

COLA continue: Mr. Musselwhite on COLA 40 Dose limits for fire fighters and Mr. Ferguson on COLA 41. The consequences of accidental releases of radioactivity. Will give evidence and be cross-examined.

March 8

COLA continue evidence and cross-examination.

March 9

Peter Thomas, Elspeth Hamilton, Mag Richards, Exeter CND in the person of Ivan Dixon, Dr. Blandford and West Dorset Safe Energy Campaign represented by Mrs. Geraghty and Mrs. Peters, the Culdian Revival Group of the Culdian Community represented by J. Soul, Francis Stoner, Deirdre Rhys-Thomas and Robin Grove-White all appear to give evidence and be cross-examined.

March 10

Brian Rome, for Conservation Society, Bristol Branch, Alan Debenham for West Somerset CND, Stephen Seldon, Dr. Carol Westall, Mr. Jenkins, Carl Pickthall, May Morris, D. Onley, Richard Carder for Bath Friends of the Earth and Jonathan Thompson all appear to give evidence and be cross-examined.

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