

Hinkley

INQUIRER

The only complete and clear account

Breezing In From Kansas

American Professor Kemp Houck flew over from Kansas during Week 19, landing in a flurry of press and local attention.



His comments that the American prototypes for Hinkley C have been a "recital of chaos and corruption" were reported on television, in most of the papers, were expanded at a public meeting in Cannington - and even called forth a press release of refutations from the CEGB.

Appearing as a witness for *Stop Hinkley Expansion*, Houck described the troubled histories of two Westinghouse PWRs near his home - the Wolf Creek plant in Kansas and Callaway in Missouri. They have the same basic design as Hinkley C and were amongst the last to be ordered before the US nuclear programme collapsed.

Scrams

Both plants were plagued during construction by a succession of major problems, including alleged corruption among the contractors, according to Houck. The cost of building each station rose from one to over

three billion dollars.

During its first year of operation, Callaway had 22 automatic shut-downs (scrams) - over three times the national average. Houck is a member of the *Mid-America Coalition for Energy Alternatives* and has monitored the performance of these plants for years.

"Wolf Creek is the 11th worst among 110 reactors in the US," he told the *Inquirer*. "The nuclear option is a choice for a technology which has been obsolescent for 15 years. No American utility would now consider it. It's astounding and tragic that the British government is doing so."

Parliamentary dictatorship

Yet although Houck admires the comparative political maturity of people in this country, he is philosophical about our difficulties. Quoting Amory Lovins, he put it like this: "Britain is a parliamentary dictatorship and if a PWR is what Mrs. Thatcher wants, a PWR is what you're going to get."

Houck brought a rare gale of laughter into the Inquiry when he described how a customs officer at Heathrow had welcomed him to Britain. Stamping Houck's passport officiously, the customs man claimed, "I too am a registered objector to Hinkley C."

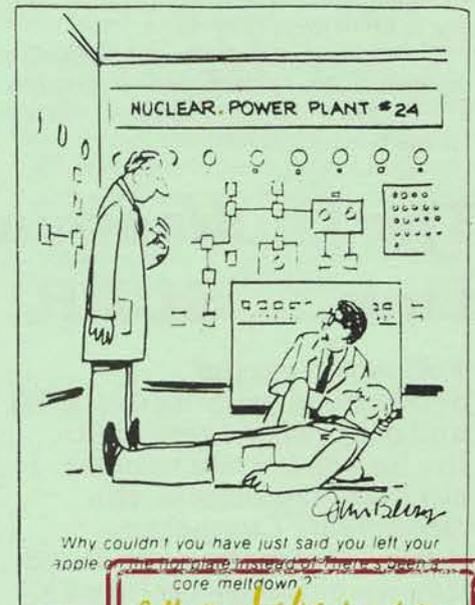
Houck faced with equanimity a bullish cross-examination from the CEGB's Mr. Grove. "It was like being in *Witness For The Prosecution* with Charles Laughton," Houck later revealed.

Workers At Risk Say FoE

Workers would be put at risk by radiation from Hinkley C, argued *Friends of the Earth* during Week 19.

Patrick Green, *FoE* Radiation Consultant, summed up the *FoE* evidence: "Firstly, the CEGB are unlikely to meet their worker dose targets. Secondly, those targets are too slack. And thirdly, the risks from radiation are underestimated."

Contrary to the CEGB's evidence, *FoE* argued that most PWRs the world over give collective radiation doses well above the CEGB's target of 2.0 person Sieverts/Gigawatt year. Hinkley C would have to be about the best PWR in the world to meet this target - yet the CEGB has no experience of operating PWRs.



Why couldn't you have just said you left your apple core in the reactor core meltdown?

IN THIS ISSUE

Health and Safety topic continues with evidence and questions from *FoE*, *COLA* and individuals. Comment, quotes and punters tips.

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Risks underestimated

The *CEGB* rely heavily on comparisons of radiation doses at very recent reactors, said *FoE*. Yet doses increase and built up as reactors age.

They also criticised the *CEGB*'s dose targets for operators, and said that the average individual dose target of 5mSv gives a higher risk to workers than any other UK industry - except for quarrying and deep-sea fishing.

Yet even this level of risk - based on figures from the National Radiological Protection Board - is an underestimate, argued *FoE*. Dr. Barrie Lambert, a radiobiologist who previously worked for the *NRPB*, argued that there is still great uncertainty about the risks of radiation. His evidence was that risk estimates could double those recommended by the *NRPB*.

Price of safety

FoE also expressed their concern about privatisation and safety, doubting that a private industry would spend money on expensive measures to cut down radiation exposure to workers.

Professor Richard Eiser, a social psychologist appearing for *FoE*, added his voice to the chorus of criticism that has been levelled at the *Health and Safety Executive*'s assessment of "tolerable" risk from nuclear plants.

John Popham (*Friends of the Earth*), cross-examining Brian George of the *CEGB*, criticised the Board's calculation of operator doses from foreign, especially French and United States Pressurised Water Reactors. Popham suggested that the Board had exaggerated these other plants' ability to meet dose targets.

George agreed that the *CEGB*'s expectations would put a British PWR "very close" to the best plants in the world.

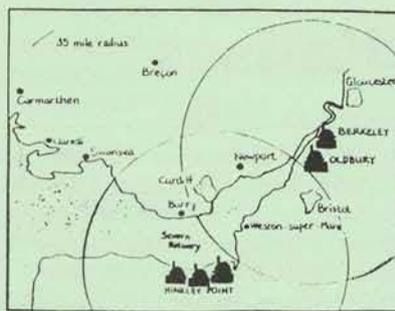
The Leukaemia Link : SCAR

Following earlier determined probing of *CEGB* and other witnesses about the links between nuclear sites and leukaemia, the *Sevenside Campaign Against Radiation* produced its own evidence on Day 71.

Dr. Michael Palmer, a senior statistician with the ICI chemical company, had surveyed all the available studies on the incidence of leukaemia

in young people near nuclear plants. "The weight of evidence," he concluded, "starting with *COMARE*, and continuing with *OPCS* and the Hinkley Point analysis, indicates that... young leukaemia rates are significantly high around nuclear establishments."

Dr. Palmer quoted the Chairman of *COMARE* (*Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation Exposure*) as saying that "the burden of proof now rests with the nuclear industry to prove that there is no connection." Until cause and effect had been established, "no expansion of the nuclear industry should be allowed," Dr. Palmer said.



Map shows the Severn Estuary with nuclear power stations and line marking the 35 mile radius within which tests are made for radiation.

Cancer in children

Interestingly, Dr. Palmer had already identified, through his own research, a higher incidence of young leukaemias round Hinkley Point, since confirmed by the Somerset Health Authority findings (see *Inquirer* 7).

In response to lengthy questioning from Michael Humphries for the *CEGB*, suggesting that he had forced the facts to fit his hypothesis, Dr. Palmer firmly defended his corner. On the possibility that a virus brought in from outside the area was to blame for the cancers, he said this just didn't fit the facts of either the Sellafield or Dounreay clusters. "Overwhelmingly, the only known cause of leukaemia in children is exposure to radiation," he said.

Asked by the Inspector about leukaemia clusters well away from nuclear sites, Dr. Palmer said that just because non-smokers caught lung cancer, this didn't nullify the link between smoking and the disease.

"Do not accuse me of anything. Barristers are not supposed to think anyway. You know they don't, unless they are Inspectors." Lord Silsoe (Day 72).

"I think I retreat into my shell and exit muttering: I only appear for the *CEGB*." Lord Silsoe (Day 72)

Low Level Radiation - Expert Speaks

Dr. Alice Stewart, a senior research fellow in the Department of Social Medicine at Birmingham University, gave her evidence as a witness for *COLA* (*Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities*). She argued that low doses of radiation are twenty times more likely to cause cancer than scientists have realised.

At the age of 82, she is no stranger to controversy. In the 1950s she made a dramatic discovery; many mothers of children who developed cancer had been X-rayed in pregnancy "That set the cat amongst the pigeons," says Dr. Stewart, because "it coincided with the studies of A-bomb survivors which said there were no effects from low level radiation."

Dr. Stewart's response was to continue the survey. By 1980, she says, "we had traced two-thirds of the children in the UK who had died of cancer before the age of sixteen, and had interviews with the mothers of two-thirds of those children."



Derek Victor Crowe

Childhood cancer causes

In fact, prenatal X-rays accounted for only 8% of childhood cancers. But with the help of information from the National Radiological Protection Board, Stewart looked at regional differences. Her conclusion? "Background radiation causes at least two-thirds of all childhood cancers, and is the biggest single cause."

In Dr. Stewart's view, "all childhood cancers (deaths from cancer under the age of 16) have foetal origins. The mutation must occur before birth - otherwise it is an adult cancer, because of the time lag."

Furthermore, she argues, "most childhood cancers come up shortly after conception."

Official views that low levels of radiation are harmless are based on studies of the Japanese A-bomb survivors. But Dr. Stewart points to a fundamental flaw in these studies. It had been assumed that the survivors were representative human beings, but she argues that only the very fit survived the appalling conditions, the disease, injury, starvation and exposure which followed the bombs.

A-bomb survivors

Furthermore, cancers take a long time to develop. Many people who should have died of radiation-induced cancers in practice may die much earlier from other effects of the bombs.

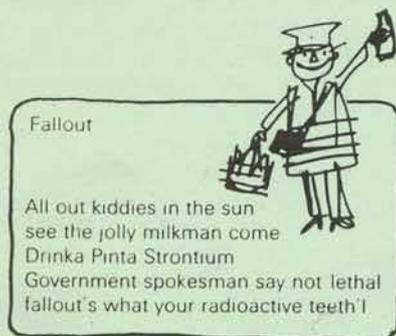
Dr. Stewart's theories were reinforced when she was invited to study radiation workers at the Hanford nuclear facility in the US: "We found that five per cent of workers were suffering from cancers probably caused by the work. The US Department of Energy stopped the project. They were truly upset."

Harmful increases

Hence her objections to the Hinkley C nuclear power station: "One of the effects of the nuclear world is to increase background radiation. They say it would require a very big increase to have a noticeable effect. We say that any increase in background radiation is going to do harm."

"Twice over my findings have had exactly the same effect. The first time, it took 20 years before they would admit I was right about childhood cancer. If you come up with something controversial and unpopular it takes 20 years before you get it sorted out. There is a mind set - shared by doctors - amongst people who want it all to be safe."

She is not advocating the wholesale shutdown of nuclear plants. "Everyone must admit there is some uncertainty. Therefore I believe we ought to be putting the brakes on."



Fallout

All out kiddies in the sun
see the jolly milkman come
Drink a Pint of Strontium
Government spokesman say not lethal
fallout's what your radioactive teeth!

Derek Victor Crowe

Unsafe, Unhealthy: Local Authorities' Case

As Week 19 drew to its close, the Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities (COLA) began to present its case on health and safety.

Representing 23 local authorities, COLA is the CEBG's biggest opponent.

But because the programme had been shifted forward by one day after a regime of early starts, the witness who was supposed to introduce the COLA arguments wasn't available.

In the event, first to appear for COLA was the nuclear consultant John Large. He argued that the CEBG's woeful record in handling their AGR nuclear plants makes it unlikely that they will be able to cope with the planned PWR.

Failed to spot faults

Large listed a series of cases of poor quality control by the CEBG and inadequate monitoring by nuclear inspectors. He said the CEBG and the NII failed to spot serious faults in the Heysham and Hartlepool AGRs for two years - by which time the plants were already operating.

Large also criticised the nuclear inspector's attitudes to ageing power stations - and to the transport of radioactive waste.

At Trawsfynydd the CEBG had planned a controversial experiment which had to be abandoned after a public outcry. In a subsequent shutdown at Trawsfynydd, "quite serious defects" were found, said Large. He argued the NII should have insisted on an inspection before agreeing to the experiment.

Incompetent, unreliable

In his view, the CEBG's management of the AGR programme has been incompetent, their nuclear safeguards are unreliable and "on the basis of inadequate quality assurance procedures alone", the PWR should be refused.

He is also concerned about the confused "tangle" of emergency organisations, and that the NII is too hard-stretched to do their job properly.

Extra radioactivity

At the beginning of Week 20 Wilf Cassidy, Somerset's County Analyst and Scientific Advisor, eventually gave his introduction to the COLA safety case.

His chief concern is the build-up of radioactivity around Hinkley Point,

an increase pinpointed by a scientist at Somerset's County Analyst's Department.

The CEBG did not draw attention to this build-up, Cassidy argued, even though its own monitoring showed increased levels in fish, seaweed and silt - from the early 1980s onwards. Dr. Ray Seymour, who analysed the figures, said that "the Board was fully aware of the build-up but did not include its results in its annual reports."

Cassidy believes the extra radioactivity comes from the Hinkley A and B stations, and that a third nuclear station could add to it. He is also sceptical about current radiation discharge limits from nuclear power stations, which he believes have not been improved despite severe criticism by a House of Commons report three years ago.

Reason to worry

Human error would be the most likely cause of an accident at the proposed Hinkley C, according to Professor James Reason from the Psychology Department of the Manchester University. He presented his case on human fallibility for COLA during Week 20.

In a computer search of Chernobyl type accidents Reason found that 67 major accidents over 760 years of reactor operation were caused by human failure. He also produced figures to show that 92% of 387 root causes of 180 accidents resulted from maintenance errors or bad management decisions.

**NUCLEAR
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A BOMB**
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Expansion*

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The Three Mile Island accident at a PWR in the US showed a "wide range of sloppy management practices and poor operating procedures", according to Reason. And mistakes like those made at Chernobyl are also happening in nuclear reactors in Britain.

Reason also added to the COLA criticisms of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which he described as "woefully under-resourced, overstretched and overworked." Extra nuclear stations will only add to its workload, he argued.

Swedish view

Gustav Ostberg also gave evidence (COLA 23) in support of Reason. He is a Professor of Engineering Materials at the University of Lund with experience of PWR safety issues in Sweden.

He appealed to the Inquiry to narrow the gap in understanding between scientists and humanists. It is a common syndrome in the nuclear community to "detach itself from... evidence of unacceptable performance of nuclear plants," he said.

Human failings

Dr. David Woods, an American Psychologist and Systems Engineer from Ohio State University, also gave supporting evidence for Professor Reason (COLA 24). He argued that nuclear stations would be safer if human performance were taken more into account.

Too much faith is put in technology, believes Woods. In the US, he said, recommendations have been made to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission urging the nuclear industry to recognise that research into human error must be an integral part in future nuclear power projects.

Fire risks

Somerset's Chief Fire Officer Mr. Nigel Musselwhite also appeared during Week 20. Although he has further objections yet to be raised at the Inquiry, he confirmed that difficulties over water supplies and access to the planned power station are likely to be resolved following meetings with the CEBG.

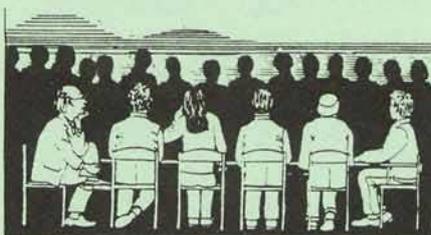
Cancer risk too high

Dr. Ray Seymour of the Somerset County Analyst's Department added his objections to the COLA case (COLA 32). He believes a new nuclear station at Hinkley Point would pose an unacceptable risk of cancer to the "critical group" - those people most at risk from radiation. Farmers and fishermen, for instance, would have more than one in 100,000 chance of

getting cancer, said Seymour.

Seymour also wants a radical overhaul of the system which fixes discharge limits. And he says current maximum radiation dose levels of one millisievert per year are too high. The County Analyst's department wants this reduced to 0.2.

Questioning Authorities



Dr. Ray Seymour (COLA 32) was questioned extensively by Lord Silsoe for the CEBG, particularly on his assertion that there had already been a build-up of radioactivity in the sea from the existing two power stations at Hinkley Point. Seymour responded spiritedly to this attack, often forcing the incisive Lord back against the ropes.

Seymour emphasised that it was very difficult to check the CEBG figures for discharges during the late 1960s, for example, because the relevant comparative data from the Department of the Environment were not available. The DoE had told Seymour that the figures might not even still exist.

Lost their figures...

"I found that absolutely astounding," he said, "because in the 1985 Ionising Regulations, employers are required to keep results of monitoring for 50 years. For a regulatory body to come out and say, 'We don't know if we have the monitoring results, but we say we perform check measurements 20 years later', I find awfully astounding."

Criticised by Lord Silsoe for his late reference to these problems, Dr. Seymour said: "Unlike the CEBG with its legions of backroom scientists... I am a one-man band. I have prepared two proofs of evidence, two summaries; I have briefed the Counsel on some 11 witnesses. So it is a question of time."

Scurrilous

Seymour also criticised the CEBG's monitoring experts for being unable to reach the accuracy of measurement of estuary silt samples achiev-

ed by Somerset County Council's own checks. He suggested the CEBG's experts could learn something from the County.

Their final exchange was about a press release issued by the CEBG in response to the COLA evidence produced by the Somerset County Council's Scientific Adviser, Wilfred Cassidy. Seymour described the wording of the release as "quite scurrilous". The Inspector commented that "the battle of press releases can go on, if it wants to, outside the proceedings, but, in general, we are probably not much advanced by them." (Better to read the *Inquirer* - Editor's note.)

Anxious scientist

Wilf Cassidy, scientific advisor for Somerset County Council, was also submitted to a lengthy cross-examination by Lord Silsoe.

Cassidy said that the decision to oppose Hinkley C had been made in 1987 after the Sizewell decision. "A number of people were unhappy that a further nuclear power station would be built in this country," he said. On the acceptability of the Sizewell design for Hinkley C, Cassidy maintained "that there were so many gaps in the actual safety case, and that it was only on balance that Sir Frank Layfield accepted Sizewell. I think this probably made us quite anxious. We really need to look at the whole safety case again."

Confidence dented

Cassidy agreed that his confidence was not dented in respect of the discharge levels being well within the authorised limits. But that the denting had occurred in relation to the achievement of ALARA and whether the system of regulatory function was satisfactory.

"We used to receive an annual report from the DoE and because the authorised levels were so high and the discharges were so low, we were almost unthinking that there was really no worry at all. It was only slowly and surely, as I got confidence in knowing what I was talking about, that I started asking more questions."

Cassidy was also concerned about gamma radiation at various points: "I think one needs to look fairly seriously at the gamma radiation levels near the site and as it moves out. I think there is some problem there. We have had some discussion with the DoE on that matter."



Speaking Out On Health And Safety

Seventeen individual objectors continued to put their concerns to the Inspector as the health and safety arguments unfolded.

Councillor Brian Jennings from Woodspring said his fears had been aroused by the discovery of leukaemia cases amongst his constituents.

As yet there have been no independent research studies done to establish the picture in this area. Studies of leukaemia are notoriously difficult to undertake, but his own personal contacts and local knowledge had convinced Jennings of risks to health.

Prudence Piper, a qualified biochemist, appeared as an "ordinary member of the public who relies mainly on the media for information about current affairs." She continued: "As a trained scientist, I know there is no safe dose of radiation, and I do not have any faith in statistically arrived at safety margins... As a mother I consider it both immoral and offensive that the CEBG should be seeking to expand its nuclear generation... As a resident and ratepayer, I applaud the stand Somerset County Council is making."

Safe in their hands

Mr. Fuhri-Snethlage, of Dutch birth, appeared for the second time. This time he was most concerned about malicious acts, terrorism and the international trade in plutonium.

Mr. and Mrs. Banks produced short statements touching on raised incidence of leukaemia, risk of accidents, and why, while the situation is still not clearly understood, "nice people at the CEBG" still say "Trust us, give us the go-ahead, it will be all right, the young are safe in our hands."

Accidents unacceptable

Roland Barker from Taunton Constituency Labour Party argued that the risk of accident - as well as the risk of cancers - from nuclear plants is greater than the CEBG will admit.

Dr. Paul Tonkin, a computer graphics designer and ex-teacher, said that he had "become increasingly concerned about the damage being done to our planet by primarily the so-called developed countries." Nuclear energy seems to him "the ultimate threat to the health and life, not only of people, but of many other life forms."

He objects to Hinkley Congrounds of the risks of accident, sabotage,

terrorism, aircraft crash and damage through war.

Incalculable threat

Rachel Baird appeared again at the Inquiry to express her concerns about a major accident on the scale of Chernobyl. A further reactor at Hinkley was "an incalculable threat to the lives of everyone in South Wales, Bristol, the M4 corridor area, and possibly much further afield," she said.

Jo Fitzhugh came from Suffolk to voice her fears of serious accidents - of the type that have already happened at Windscale and Chernobyl. "There can be no guarantee of safety," she said.

Catastrophic hazards

James Brander was concerned about the effects of radiation exposure and argued that the only valid way to judge this is through "the epidemiological work which has only just begun." As yet unconfirmed health hazards could yet appear, he said, necessitating very expensive changes to nuclear stations.



"Don't laugh! He used to be a nuclear physicist."

Doug Sneyd Sneyd Syndicate, Inc. (Canada)

Rodney Fordham talked about the risks and consequences of a catastrophic explosion at Hinkley C. His particular concern is the existence of the "stable crack growth phenomenon." Fordham worked in the UK Atomic Energy Authority as a consultant for 17 years, until 1978. He described how the UKAEA's less than enthusiastic welcome for his views led to his early retirement.

Women at higher risk

Jennifer Bell, an individual objector, gave evidence on Day 73. "In wartime most people think casualties are tolerable," she said. "In peacetime, casualties among the weak in order to produce electricity are not tolerable in a just society. Women are now found to be two and a half times more adversely affected by radioactive pollution than men."

"The CEBG," said Bell, "had a responsibility to its subscribers to

provide electricity in a way that is not disturbing to their peace of mind, damaging to their health, nor dangerous to their long-term welfare."



Neither milli nor micro

Rose Stuckey, an individual objector from Street in Somerset, could not agree to absorb any of the nuclear industry's output of waste radiation, nor did she wish it on her family.

Living about 15 miles downwind from Hinkley Point, she said she did not feel safe from the current emissions, much less from an added PWR.

Quantock concerns

Mr. Bedingfield gave evidence on behalf of the Friends of Quantock, an Amenity Society with 1,000 members founded in 1949.

Bedingfield questioned the CEBG's emergency arrangements: "What of the warning to the public, outside the Hinkley complex?" he said. "5,000 people could be using the hills on a summer's day. The farmers working in the fields, the forestry worker deep in the Quantock forest, the elderly in isolated properties and hamlets; how would they be warned?" he asked.

Bedingfield added that most of the medical practitioners within the Quantocks were not fully aware of emergency procedures regarding nuclear matters for the area. Finally he recommended to the Inquiry the words of King George VI: "The country is not ours to do with as we please. We have to account for it to those who come after."

Learning from history

Geoffrey Bright, a regular participant in the Inquiry, produced evidence for Cwmbran Anti-Nuclear Group to support his contention that "accidents will happen" - whatever precautions intelligent people take.

An architect by profession, Bright delved into history to show how the industrial revolution had brought with it the side effect of large-scale accidents. "A death toll of between eight and twenty thousand (Cher-

nobyl) for a single night's adventure is rather more than even the Albigenses could achieve, and brings us to the central problem of nuclear power: it is different altogether in kind from our previous experience..."

His conclusion: "No amount of parading speculative mathematics before us, in the guise of scientific realism, will persuade most agnostics that the believers are not playing with the most frightful fire mankind has ever known."

Sedgemoor Greens

Sedgemoor Green Party produced two proofs of evidence under Topic 2 - both in support of its general argument that a sustainable future means renewable energy and conservation, not uncertain and limited nuclear power.

Dr. Richard Lee, a local general practitioner, described the possibility of a bomb or terrorist attack on Hinkley C, and touched on the issue of global warming and decommissioning.

Jim Duffy, a psychiatric nurse, gave two examples of Hinkley Point workers suffering from stress and mental illness which he had come across during the course of his work. He was concerned that such illness might lie undetected in a big workforce and then "explode" - with disastrous effects on safety.

Emotional disturbances

"Nuclear power staff cannot adequately be vetted against emotional disturbance in their lives," he concluded, "and such stations should not be built where the consequences of human error can be so grave."

Mr. Fookes, for the CEGB, read out long sections of the Board's procedures and training to forestall problems with psychiatric disturbances, and criticised Duffy for (anonymously) describing the cases.

Dr. Ray Seymour (COLA witness):

"No one in their right mind would consider that one would have a cow tethered to the fence (of Hinkley Point) 365 days a year - right?"

-- Comment --

Diary Of A Half-Life

Although individuals in the Inquiry Secretariat are often doing their best to help, the bureaucratic machine grinds slow and exceeding small - as objector Richard Carder discovered.

First, catch your Parker! This, despite the miracles of modern technology, may not be as easy as you think, for the Parker-bird is a shy nocturnal creature.

You ring confidently the first time, only to be told that Parker is engaged. You refrain from offering your congratulations. Undeterred, you ring again, and find that he has gone to lunch.

After lunch you ring again. "We will leave a note on his desk." Fourth attempt: engaged. Fifth attempt: no answer. Sixth attempt: "Good evening."

Is it really as late as that? It is! Parker has gone home to roost for the night.

Next morning, however, you telephone for the seventh time. And, as in every good Fairy Tale, the seventh time strikes lucky. You are told (for the first time): "We will page him for you." And behold, within five minutes he rings back and says, ever so sweetly: "Could you possibly be here by noon, and cut your (two hours) cross-examination down to half an hour? We have an awfully tight schedule..."

You gasp. "But I received the proof of evidence on Health and Safety only this morning, and I would like to be able to read it at least once, before I come!" You skim through it, making a dash here, a dot there and a "?" elsewhere with your red pencil, before jumping into your car, pausing only at Glastonbury to buy the last curried pasty, which, though de-

licious, falls apart all over the steering wheel!

You arrive at Cannington with aching head and stomach. In her office Jill Sutcliffe is wearing five hats of wildly contrasting colours, but has time to smile and mutter, "Find Parker; he was here a minute ago!" But Parker is being "lesser-spotted" again, or probably "least-spotted", until you collide accidentally in a corridor, and he greets you with, "Are you ready to go on?"

The Inspector is severe: "Mr. Cretin, your name does not appear on the Programme! Take fifty lines!" You refrain from unspeakable obscenities and kow-tow as graciously as possible. You are lost in a sea of papers and tables and graphs, and none of the ones you need come to hand. You flounder around desperately, and mumble something incoherent. The experts are amused but patient, though condescending. "I cannot see quite where this line of questions is leading, Mr. Cretin!" You dry up, paralysed, and mutter: "That completes my questions, thank you."

Afterwards you chat to the large and formidable Dr. Little about isotopes and radioactive decay; she is most friendly and helpful, and becomes very excited about a book called the *Rubber Bible*. You had previously thought that such things were the province of naughty magazines; but are now joined by Professor Stephenson, who apparently is also an initiate of the *Rubber Bible* and the conversation becomes quite animated!

Lord Silsoe sidles up to congratulate you on your splendid cross-examination. You smile wryly and with disbelief: if everyone was as incompetent as you, the CEGB would soon be steaming full-ahead towards a rash of PWRs across the country!

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Working Out The Inquiry

- A couple of Bank Holiday changes to note. On Tuesday May 2, and Tuesday May 30, Inquiry proceedings will begin at 1.30 pm and go on until 6.30 pm, so that people can avoid travelling to Cannington during the holiday Mondays.
- Documents exchanged between the Economics Assessor Professor Ulph and the CEGB's witness Mr. Jenkin on diversity of fuel supplies have been published as Inquiry documents. Furthermore, interested people are invited to attend a meeting between Ulph and Jenkin on Friday March 17 at 10 am to discuss this issue. Let the Programme Officer know if you want to attend: the meeting is not in the Inquiry hall.
- The Inspector has promised to consider a request from the regular participant Brian Rome to instruct Avon central library in Bristol to stock Inquiry "S" documents. Rome pointed out that one quarter of objectors to Hinkley C are Bristolians. So far, only Cardiff Central Library, Cannington Court Library and Bridgwater public library hold all Inquiry documents.
- Here are some books you might have at home, or could get from the library, which have already been given the status of Inquiry Documents. These may, therefore, be freely quoted from in preparing your own Proof of Evidence.
 - S.1323 is *No Immediate Danger* by Rosalie Bertell (Women's Press, 1985).
 - S.1608 is *The Doomsday Book* by Gordon Rattray Taylor.
 - S.2046 is *Red Alert: the worldwide dangers of nuclear power* by Judith Cook (Hodder, 1986).
 - S.2051 is *Power corrupts: the arguments against nuclear power* by Hilary Bacon and John Valentine (Pluto Press).
 - S.1046 is *The Green Consumer Guide*, eds. John Elkington & Julia Hales (Gollancz, 1988).
 - S.2303 is *The Nuclear Barons* by Peter Pringle and James Spigelman (Sphere, 1983). "Well written, thoroughly researched and comprehensive in its detail... Best of all, it is objective." (*Sunday Telegraph*).

Short Circuits

Three of the COLA safety witnesses, Professor Reason, Dr. Woods and Professor Ostberg from Sweden - were given five-star treatment in the House of Commons last week at a meeting hosted by Tory MP Sir George Young. The title of their presentation was "Safety, Risk and Human Fallibility - from Chernobyl to Clapham". Among the audience was the head of British Rail.

★ ★ ★

Two CEGB staff were found nosing round the Cannington offices last week sizing up the accommodation for the Inquiry they expected to take place into a Wylfa B PWR in North Wales. No formal application has yet been submitted, but the CEGB's expectation of a proper Inquiry (as opposed to the brief affair they once hoped for at Hinkley) will have been fuelled by last week's decisive vote by Gwynedd County Council (39 to 14) to oppose any further nuclear stations in their area.

★ ★ ★

Anyone for the "psephologist"? On Day 62, Brian Rome pointed out that this ominous sounding word, mentioned by the Inspector on Day 60, had been transmogrified into "sophologist" which he thought was a mixture between a sophist making a syllogism and a psephologist making an elliptical solipism. Any the wiser?

★ ★ ★

The Inquiry was enlivened on Day 73 by Gillian Pearce of the *Devon and Cornwall Prospecting Society*, who appeared as a witness for pro-nuclear activist Dr. Kitty Little. She dramatically brandished a geiger counter over, first, a piece of (simulated) radioactive waste, then a plant grown on a Cornish cabbage patch, and finally (for good measure), a piece of rock from a Cornish car park. No prizes for guessing which items produced the noisiest crackling over the Inquiry's loudspeakers.

★ ★ ★

The Inquiry was entertained on Day 72 by some loud snoring from the public seating area. Not for the first time, one of the stewards had to disturb the sleeper - in this case none other than *Stop Hinkley Expansion* witness Kemp Houck. Was he dreaming of a world without nukes or just suffering from Kansas jet lag?

News From Stop Hinkley Centre

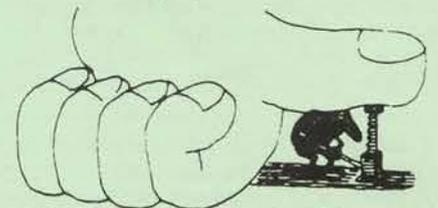
It's not always easy to define exactly which "topic" evidence should come under, as Jill Sutcliffe explains.

During the last fortnight, representatives from *Farmers for a Nuclear Free Future* have been visiting the Inquiry to see it in action and familiarise themselves with the procedures.

Having looked at the topic areas, they put themselves in the category of agriculture and hence Topic 5, "Environmental Issues". However, some of the evidence they want to give could relate to health and safety. As this topic is due to finish before the Inquiry goes to Wales on March 20, this presented problems for them. Their choice was then to just submit evidence in writing, or to give oral evidence under a later topic. (When in doubt ring the office or the Secretariat and discuss it with someone.)

The farmers were also amazed to learn that no major organisation, research group or agricultural college had come forward to present evidence of the impact of radioactive discharges, planned or unplanned, on food, livestock or agricultural production. They did not see themselves as experts, but had experience and evidence that they wished to present. This will include first hand evidence from Chernobyl, which is being gathered on their behalf.

At first, it was thought they were not even on the register, but they produced evidence that their registration had been acknowledged. As it appeared that they had not contacted Keith Parker to let him know of their intentions, the comment came back - "Where were their priorities?" So much for being working farmers, tied up with lambing and courteously trying to get to grips with the system. Do remember this Inquiry is not "user-friendly", it is adversarial.



Similar problems befell a local doctor who has done a lot of work in Japan, particularly on waste. Timetabled for March under "Health and Safety", he went away for three weeks and returned to find his

evidence should already have been submitted. A relaxed attitude has been taken in his case, but he is left with no secretarial help to produce it.

Press coverage

Don't forget that your visit to participate in the Inquiry and give evidence could be a good local story back home. We have had help from Claire Benjamin with press coverage, such as giving out local contacts, typing up and distributing press releases, getting radio interviews sorted out or spotting a good story. So remember to give it some thought. If you want some advice, ring in.

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Facilities For Objectors

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

N.B. When the Inquiry starts at 9.30 am, all morning bus times are half an hour earlier.

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.

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

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.

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.

TRANSCRIPTS

These can be obtained from the Secretariat, cost of weekly posting for four issues £2.00.

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 Twenty-one, Twenty-two and Twenty-three

N.B. Starting time 9.30 am unless otherwise stated, finish about 5 pm. Topic Two (Design and Safety) continues until March 16.

March 7 (10 am)

Procedural matters.

Evidence from COLA witnesses John Large (COLA 39 - abnormal operation of the PWR) and Malcolm Fergusson (COLA 41 - accidental releases of radioactivity).

March 8

Evidence from objectors Ms. T. Kelly, Alison Jarah, Alan Debenham (West Somerset CND), Stephen Seldon, Jesus Soul (Culdian Revival Group of the Culdian Community), John Lawson, Carl Pickthall, Francis Stoner and May Morris.

March 9

Evidence from objectors Peter Thomas, Ivan Dixon (Exeter CND), Mrs. Geraghty and Mrs. Peters (West Dorset Safe Energy Campaign), Penelope Price, Michale Vaughan, Mr. A. R. Molton,

Brian Rome (Conservation Society, Bristol Branch) and Mr. J. H. Jenkins.

March 10 (9 am)

Evidence from objectors Mr. D. Onley (Swindon and District Green Party), Elspeth Hamilton, Mr. J. H. Griffiths, Sally Lower, Helen Trenor, Dicken Fell, and four GPs representing Somerset General Practitioners - Dr. C. Paterson, Dr. T. Harris, Dr. N. M. Devitt and Dr. P. Skinner.

March 14

Procedural matters.

Evidence from objectors David Gillam and Tim Deere-Jones (Irish Sea Project), Richard Lawson (Woodspring Green Party), Penelope Boyle, Dr. Alan Blandford, Jan Henderson and Brian Jones, and Dr. Jonathan Thompson.

March 15

Evidence from objectors Dr. Jim Penman (Stop Hinkley Expansion), Commander Robert Green, Dr. Richard Webb and Dr. I. Vergeiner (all representing Commander Green), Mr. P. Hanson (Electrical Power Engineers Association), Ivan Dixon, Dr. Erskine and Dr. Webber (all representing Exeter CND) and Dr. Patrick Day.

March 16

Evidence from objectors Dr. Carol Westall, Mary Hazelwood, Martel Illingworth, David Childs and Jill Sutcliffe followed by the opening of **Topic Three (Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning)** with CEGB witness Fred Passant (CEGB 11 - waste management and decommissioning).

March 17

Further cross-examination of Fred Passant (CEGB 11).

March 20

(2.30 pm - 4.30 pm and 6.30 - 9.30 pm)

Cardiff session in the Assembly Room City Hall with CEGB witnesses Dr. Taylor, B. V. George, D. J. Western and F. P. Jenkin available for cross-examination, plus statements from objectors.

March 21

Cardiff session with CEGB witnesses (as above) available for cross-examination, plus statements from objectors.

March 22

Cardiff session with statements from objectors.

March 23 (ends 1.30 pm)

Cardiff session with statements from objectors.

N.B. The following people and organisations have already notified the Secretariat that they wish to make statements in Cardiff: Nicky Arnold, Michael Cottam, Friends of the Earth Cymru, David Gillam, Gwaelod y Garth Peace Group, Carole Kuhlman, Mr. Leslie, Alison Norris, Dr. Carol Westall, Mr. R. Green and Mr. C. Wilks (Oakdale Colliery, Gwent), Stephen Hayes, Hugh Griffiths, Ana Pulteney, Mr. C. C. Box, Sue Hale, Hilary Blunden, Ms. V. Davies, Mr. M. B. Throne, CADNO and the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance (Hugh Richards). Any further requests to the Programme Officer, Keith Parker or go to the Cardiff meetings.

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