

Hinkley INQUIRER

The only complete and clear account

NUM Refused On 'Leaked' Papers

Leaked internal CEBG papers which the Miners Union wanted to refer to during Day 86 were banned from the Inquiry after a ruling from the Inspector.

The documents, mostly originated within the National Power section of the CEBG, reflect the Board's view that under privatisation they will have no obligation to "keep the lights on" or build uneconomic power stations. In particular, they suggest that National Power won't build any nuclear power stations unless the Government "makes it worth the hassle" by providing a cast-iron insurance policy against escalating costs on things like nuclear waste disposal.

David Feikert, for the National Union of Mineworkers, said that much of this material had already been leaked to the press, and the documents raised important issues on the CEBG's approach to privatisation.

Announcing his refusal to allow the papers to become Inquiry documents, the Inspector made great play of the fact that they had been "stolen", and the NUM wouldn't tell him who had passed them on.

IN THIS ISSUE

Cardiff session. Economic arguments continue from NUM, Local Authorities and Coalfield Communities. Safety case concludes.

Benn And Scargill Energy Boost

A cheerful and ebullient Tony Benn called into the Stop Hinkley Centre on April 7 (Day 94), after giving evidence and robustly answering queries from the Inspector and Lord Silsoe.

He congratulated us on our "splendid" publication, the *Inquirer*, and said that it reached his desk fortnightly, "like letters from home". The campaign by local people against Hinkley C was "very, very impressive", he said.



CATRIONA SINCLAIR

Would the PWR be licensed? "We've given the Inspector enough evidence to turn it down," Benn commented, "although if he doesn't want to, that doesn't make any difference."

What counts in his view is "getting through to the public. The fact that

Mrs. Thatcher felt she had to be a 'green' is a considerable victory.

Benn is well aware that objectors at the Inquiry have been subjected to tremendous pressures on their time and resources, and that Stop Hinkley Centre worker Jill Sutcliffe has recently resigned in protest. "The harder you fight, the better your chance," he said.

As for his own role in the Inquiry, he felt that the Inspector had treated him respectfully, asking some good, interested questions, and that Lord Silsoe had "crumbled".

"But then, I think they're a bit nervous of me..." suggested the former Secretary of State for Energy.

Scargill's warning

Arthur Scargill, who had introduced Benn's evidence for the NUM, told the *Inquirer* that he was "not surprised" that over 20,000 people had registered their objections to Hinkley C, "bearing in mind Chernobyl. In a similar disaster here the whole of Somerset would be wiped out."

"According to the CEBG's own calculations," said the NUM leader, "40,000 people are likely to die as a result of Chernobyl - after a 10% meltdown. Therefore after a full meltdown of the PWR, 400,000 people would die. And if the American doctor Robert Gale - who treated victims of Chernobyl - is correct, the figure could be a million."

In Scargill's view, the Inquiry is based on "blind ideology and direction by the Tory government" and its

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"terms of reference suggests a pre-determination" to build a PWR.

Yet he believes it is "important that objectors argue the case as strongly as possible. The Sizewell objectors' arguments have since been fully vindicated. If people had not participated that wouldn't be possible."

also see p. 6.

Green Safety Case

"The Ides of March are come." Thus Commander Robert Green introduced his evidence on Day 84, quoting from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*.

Rob Green, who is retired from the Royal Navy and is now a working Thatcher, described how he first came across his expert witness Richard Webb's analysis of the Chernobyl disaster. He thought it reflected the ordinary citizen's gut feeling that Chernobyl could not be dismissed as if it had been an explosion at a chemical factory in the third world.

On the safety debate at Hinkley, Green believes that probabilistic risk analysis is a smokescreen to conceal the fact that not even one "beyond design basis accident" could ever be tolerable to the public on this crowded island. The CEBG should have learnt that two "beyond design basis accidents" - Three Mile Island and Chernobyl - had already happened within seven years.

In conclusion, Green had a comforting message for the CEBG. He was not threatening them with ruin, but advised them to redirect their talents to researching the alternatives for the sake of generations to come. They could do no better than look to the Swedes, who had made their choice democratically - before Chernobyl - that nuclear power was too hazardous.

Catastrophic explosions

Dr. Richard Webb, an American nuclear physicist and engineer, gave evidence on Day 85 on behalf of Commander Green (RDG 3).

Dr. Webb said that he was associated with the first civilian nuclear power plant development in the United States - the Shippingport PWR. For nearly 20 years he has been researching accident hazards of nuclear power plants, including both PWR and AGR reactors.

All types of nuclear plants (including the Sizewell B PWR) have extremely serious potential for catastrophic accidents, he said. Steam explosions or even an atomic bomb

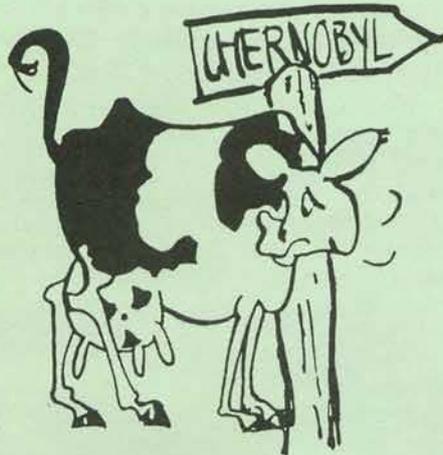
style nuclear explosion in a Hinkley PWR would spread radioactive fission products, including gamma radiation, Caesium 137 and Strontium 90, over most of Europe.

There is also the potential for multiple reactor eruption at a site like Hinkley if one of the two AGRs exploded, destroying the other as well as the Magnox, and the proposed PWR. There are a myriad possibilities of different reactor accidents - all as credible as the official "design-basis" accident, Dr. Webb concluded.

During his cross-examination Dr. Webb urged the Inspector further to investigate the issues raised by him at the Inquiry with a view to creating an independent scientific commission. Only when this was implemented would the Inspector be in a position to make a recommendation.

Webb also maintained that AGRs anywhere should be closed down immediately, irrespective of a possible PWR at Hinkley.

Source: Dagens Nyheter (Stockholm) 17 Feb. 1989



Studies in depth

Don Arnott, a former nuclear scientist with the UK Atomic Energy Authority, who has worked with Commander Green since the murder of his aunt, Hilda Murrell, read out a statement in support of Green's evidence.

He did not believe Dr. Webb's case could be disposed of by a few hours' cross-examination. The problem was one of how to handle technological issues of great depth. He urged the Inspector to decide that when the Inquiry is confronted with an issue it cannot resolve (due to constraints of structure and time) that issue should be studied elsewhere.

Whatever the weather

Ignaz Vergeiner, Professor of Meteorology at the University of Innsbruck in Austria gave evidence for Commander Green (RDG 4) on Day 84a. He is a member of an official study group investigating the pos-

sible consequences for Austria of radioactive emissions from the planned nuclear reprocessing plant at Wackersdorf in Bavaria.

When assessing the consequences of a catastrophic release from a degraded core accident, Vergeiner argued that specific worst cases needed investigating. "There is no such thing as probabilistic weather". In the case of a catastrophe there could be any weather, which would be 100% that weather and not "a distribution of weathers".

Vergeiner commended Dr. Webb, Rob Green's second witness, for asking questions on the probability of risk: "How much is acceptable? 5,000 deaths? 50,000 deaths from cancer? Who decides? Certainly this cannot be a scientific decision."

Relentless perfection

On the issue of nuclear power in general Vergeiner believes that the technocratic and bureaucratic vision is bound to fail. In order to defend some free spaces within our society we need to change the state of affairs and look at the "Soft Energy Paths" advocated by Amory Lovins.

Describing the Austrian history of Nazi collaboration, he maintained that his countrymen were experts on chaos. He could not see how the relentless perfection that nuclear power technology demanded of us fitted in with the reality of administrative and human structures.

Doctors' Concern

Four doctors gave evidence on Day 85 - all members of a Somerset group of general practitioners.

Dr. Charlotte Patterson described how her medical training and practice had helped her understand the issues and brought the health aspects to the fore. Commenting on the Somerset Health Authority report on leukaemia incidence in the county, she pointed out that all such reports suffered from the same problem: statistical proof was hard to come by as the figures for childhood leukaemia were so small.

"Just two cases may be a small number statistically but these two children and their families represent untold suffering and heartache, which as a doctor and a parent strikes home hard to me," she said. "We must not allow the numbers game to take over our humanity."

En Passant

Fred Passant, the Board's witness on nuclear waste (Topic 3), has already read his proof (CEGB 11) to the Inquiry in a special extended session on Day 85A. But we won't be reporting his arguments until the next issue of the *Inquirer* when Passant comes back to be questioned (April 12) and the real discussion on waste gets underway.

In the meantime, the specially designated Topic 1a - on coal versus nuclear costs - has obtruded its rich seam.

Nuclear Prices: The Pits

After the drama of the original admission, the return of Frank Jenkin on Day 86 to present CEGB 4 Add 5 - which accepts that coal would be cheaper than nuclear under the expected regime of a privatised industry - came as something of an anti-climax.

Jenkin's evidence says in essence that with an 8% return on capital, Hinkley C would be "less economic" than a coal-fired station, but the Government's "non-fossil fuel" quota makes this irrelevant.

The *National Union of Mineworkers* enlivened the opening of what has been christened Topic 1a by trying to present "confidential" CEGB correspondence (see "Leaked Papers" story). These included among other things a calculation that the *present* overall cost of nuclear electricity is 5p per KWh compared with 3.5p for coal.

The NUM's David Feickert then took Jenkin to task for failing to look at new, more efficient and cleaner coal-burning technologies which might further stretch the future coal-nuclear cost disparity.

Grimethorpe option

Feickert drew attention to British Coal plans for small (100-300MW) stations next to pitheads, and to developments in Fluidised Bed Combustion (already operating in West Germany and the United States). Jenkin responded that either the technology wasn't advanced enough or pleaded "commercial confidentiality".

He did agree, however, that the CEGB had dropped out of the Grimethorpe FBC research project because it "didn't seem appropriate". (Jenkin later accepted that with a Combined Heat and Power element the Grime-

thorpe scheme could be 80% thermal efficient.)

Jenkin also agreed on the issue of future coal supplies that in the "short to medium term" another miner's strike was "very unlikely".

On Day 91, Brian Parkin took up the NUM's baton about waste heat from power stations. Jenkin said that heat could be piped up to 40 kilometres away, but the problem was finding customers.

Greenhouse queries

On the greenhouse effect, Jenkin responded that it was easier to tackle the "supply side" - power stations - to reduce CO₂ than the "demand side" - energy efficiency - because that meant "you have to interfere with the habits of millions of people." He added that the prime reason for Hinkley C wasn't to reduce the CO₂ output.

Gerard Ryan (COLA) challenged Jenkin on his expectation that the future for nuclear was reliable, for other fuels uncertain. Jenkin did agree, however, that combined cycle gas turbines might undercut coal costs "by some significant quantity".

Questioned by the Inspector, Jenkin agreed that, as long as a contract could be made with the new distribution companies, it didn't matter whether coal was a better bet than nuclear.

Stop Hinkley Expansion announced earlier that it wouldn't be questioning Jenkin because its economics expert, Professor Jim Jeffery, had been ill.

Cardiff Objects

A former Health and Safety Inspector, Christopher Gifford, was given a standing ovation when the Inquiry moved to Cardiff as he tore into the way the CEGB had put together their safety case. And a one-time welder said he knew from his own experience that work on a coal-fired power station had been below specification. If the same thing happened at a nuclear plant, the results would be "disastrous".

The statements came during four days of heated and often emotional discussion at Cardiff City Hall as a number of witnesses expressed strong doubts about the worth of the whole Inquiry.

Risks much higher

Christopher Gifford retired last year

as the District Inspector of Mines and Quarries based in Cardiff. His work for the Health and Safety Executive had involved examining human factors in accidents.

He said the HSE had been wrong to base their assessment of the risk of a nuclear accident on theoretical calculations. Instead, they should base their analysis on the history of the industry. Far from the one-in-100,000 years chance of an accident, the real figure is 200 times higher.

The HSE's case on the PWR was based on engineering judgements and estimations of human factors made by what he described as disadvantaged civil servants who had been working in an atmosphere created by a pro-nuclear Government. He said there was a danger of the political climate affecting the industrial safety climate.

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Defective welds

Paul Relph of Cwmbran, now running his own small engineering firm, said that as a 22-year-old welder he worked on parts for the Aberthaw B coal station for an off-site contractor. He knew some welds had been defective and had gone undiscovered. If something had failed at Aberthaw, the results could have been serious. If there were a failure in the PWR, it would be disastrous, Relph said.

Miners query safety

Miners from Oakdale Colliery in Gwent returned to the Inquiry to cross-examine the CEGB on the safety of the entire nuclear cycle, starting with uranium mining. The CEGB answered that the risks from the nuclear industry were comparable to those in other methods of energy production.

NUM lodge committee member Colin Wilks said if that was the case,

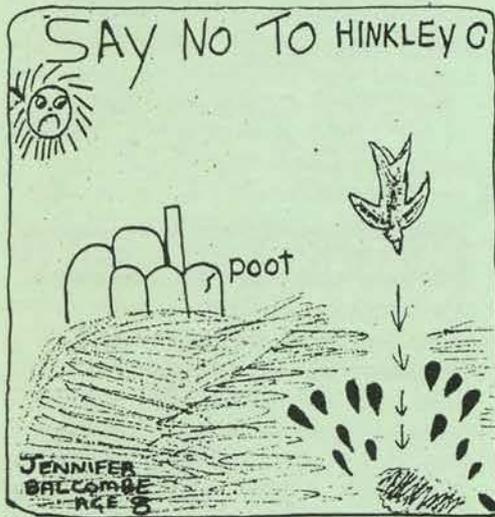
and there was equality, the economic and environmental arguments being used to close collieries could also be used to close nuclear stations.

The CEBG were also questioned on emergency plans covering a nuclear accident, and how South Wales would be affected by a release of radioactivity from Hinkley.

Criminally negligent

Max Wallis and Alan Baker presented the *Welsh Communist Party's* case. The CEBG document on Emergency Planning is grossly deficient, they asserted. It supposes that accident procedures in a 3.5km zone close to Hinkley Point are, in the CEBG's words, "capable of forming the framework for response" for a Welsh town like Barry, just 15 miles away. "That is ludicrous if not criminally negligent", the Communists declared, asking how potassium iodate tablets would be brought from Avon and distributed around 45,000 townspeople within seven hours of an alert.

"The CEBG has already lost the battle for the hearts and minds of the people of Wales," they said. "But maybe they don't care, for the CEBG has limited life, only nine months to go." The CEBG was "guilty of self-delusion" in claiming, as Mr. Jenkin did, that the public is evenly divided for and against nuclear power.



Legacy to children

Numerous individual objectors also had their chance to give evidence. Mary Lloyd of Barry had to sit her 17-month-old son Morgan on her knee because of inadequate creche facilities while she told the Inquiry: "I don't want to pass on to him the legacy of nuclear power."

Dr. Madeline Gray of Tongwynlais, in evidence read on her behalf, said giving birth to her daughter Rachel and then bringing her up had strengthened her conviction that we should "make every effort to look after the world in which we leave our

children".

An historian and archivist, Madeleine questioned whether the CEBG had taken advice on keeping long-term records of nuclear waste sites. There was a good chance of a major social upheaval during the lifetime of the dumps.

Brian George of the CEBG said radioactivity was fairly readily detected. "So I don't think there would be any problem with detecting where nuclear waste is stored," he said.

That point was mocked later by retired Civil Servant Jim McCarthy from Cardiff, who said the fact that radioactivity would be around and detectable was of little comfort.

Political views

Most of the political parties - including two MPs - called for the PWR to be scrapped or, in Plaid Cymru's case, for it to be shelved at least.

Cardiff West MP Rhodri Morgan, a Labour front bench energy spokesperson, said recent statements from the CEBG made it even more likely that Hinkley C would be followed by Hinkleys D, E and F.

He said the Board had told the Energy Select Committee that if public concern about the greenhouse effect reached a "crescendo", they would need to build another 10 nuclear stations between 2000 and 2005. Because they were unlikely to get permission to build on virgin sites, they would want to dismantle their old stations as they became uneconomic and build the new ones in their place, Mr. Morgan warned. That would also mean speeding up decommissioning.

Dr. Alan Williams, the Labour MP for Carmarthen, said the Government had "lied and lied" about nuclear costs. CEBG leaks suggested nuclear energy could be about 40% more expensive than fossil-fuelled plants. He also said the Board had underestimated the chances of a major accident.

The Democrats' Welsh chair and energy spokesperson Jenny Randsen said the Government's insistence on nuclear power was politically rather than environmentally motivated. The privatised electricity industry would find nuclear generation too expensive and dangerous.

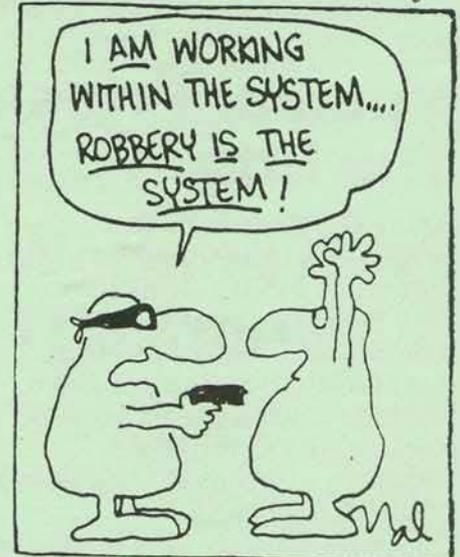
Criminal record

Peter Keelan, a Plaid Cymru Euro-Candidate, said the CEBG had failed to prove their case "beyond reasonable doubt".

The Board was like a criminal defendant who had exaggerated in giving evidence, had said he was incapable of supporting himself without state handouts, had not only

admitted to a criminal record but asked for other offences to be taken into consideration, and could not promise not to offend again. Keelan asked Mr. Barnes to pass a suspended sentence.

Hugh Richards of the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance said the PWR design was already obsolete. The development would be "potentially devastating" in an area with a population six times that surrounding Chernobyl. And he said there was still a split in the medical world about the health effects of radioactivity.



Farce

Attacks on the worth and credibility of the Inquiry, and the Cardiff sessions, were led by *Friends of the Earth Cymru*.

Some of their members turned up at the one evening session in Cardiff in cocktail dresses and evening suits dressed, they said, for a visit to the theatre. "It's Cardiff's best farce in years," *FoE Cymru* organiser Margaret Minhinnick said.

"The speed with which this Inquiry is being conducted gives the impression that ordinary people's opinions don't count, that it's a foregone conclusion," she said, adding: "If this Inquiry was as thorough as it should be, it would probably run as long as *The Mousetrap*."

Barry Paine from Llantwit Major, sought to highlight the gap between most of the objectors and the CEBG. He said he and friends had taken two weeks to organise a poems-and-pints night in their village, which had raised £60 towards them fighting their case. But he estimated that Lord Silsoe, the CEBG's leading barrister, could earn that in 12 minutes.

WANA told the Inspector that objectors were being alienated and put under unnecessary pressure. They were concerned that the CEBG witnesses had not been asked to stay at the Cardiff hearings beyond the first two days.

Carol Westall, who cross-examined the CEGB on their safety case, started her own evidence with a quote from Lewis Carol: "When I used to read fairy tales, I fancied that kind of thing never happened, and now I am in the middle of one."

She ended with one, too: "Said the mouse to the cur, 'Such a trial, dear sir, with no jury or judge, would be wasting our breath.'

'I'll be the judge, I'll be the jury,' said cunning old Fury. 'I'll try the whole cause and condemn you to death.'

also see 'News From Stop Hinkley Centre' for further Cardiff reports.

Cola Costs Coal

New evidence on "need" and coal costs was presented on Days 92 and 93 by economics experts Professor Colin Robinson and Dr. Trevor Sweeting of Surrey University. They spoke for COLA, the Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities.

Lord Silsoe, for the CEGB, had previously urged the Inspector not to allow some of the evidence on the grounds that cost and need had already been covered in Topic 1 before Christmas.

But Jonathan Milner (COLA) said the new evidence arose from a meeting with the CEGB - suggested by the Inspector - after an impasse in its cross-examination of Frank Jenkin, the Board's chief economic witness, on Day 4.

Milner argued that the evidence addressed important issues raised in new information which arose at the meeting. The Inspector said it was "wholly exceptional" to allow new evidence after a topic had closed - but he was using his "personal discretion" to allow it.

Inadequate, incredible

Robinson argued that the CEGB had failed to establish a case that Hinkley C was needed. The CEGB's demand and load forecasting methods are inadequate and as such are not able to show a real need.

He claimed that no systematic modelling, of the kind with which economists are familiar, is employed and that the Board seems to rely too much on judgement to the exclusion of a more systematic approach.

Professor Robinson concluded that no decision should be made about the proposed PWR until after privatisation. "Forecasts by the CEGB can hardly be credible considering that its business existence is about to

end," he says.

Flawed forecasts

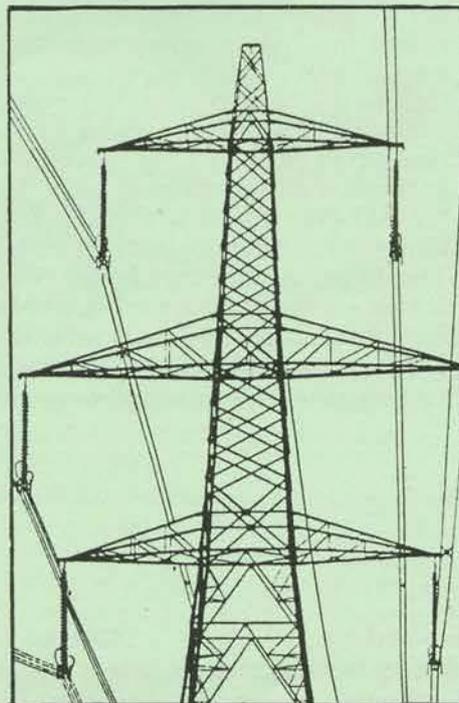
Sweeting focused on the CEGB's poor performance in forecasting future demand. The Board's cost benefit analysis of the planning margin is flawed, he believes, and the reliability of its parameter estimates is doubtful.

If more realistic parameters are used, predicted capacity needs for the year 2000 could be greatly reduced, in view of work on load forecasting by other COLA witnesses, "the need for new capacity of any sort on the CEGB system must be called into question," he said.

Angus Morrow, Senior Planning Engineer with Kennedy and Donkin Power Systems, argued for COLA that there is no economic case for Hinkley C as fossil-fuel prices have dropped markedly since the Sizewell B Inquiry. Mr. Morrow said that over-planting has become a norm at the CEGB; that there is no market constraint to check over-plantings and that excessive plant margins are paid for by the consumer. Excess capacity of 7.7 GW exists in the CEGB system at present. Electricity is not supplied at lowest cost, he claimed.

Economic mix

An economic energy supply mix would include a higher proportion of low cost gas turbine and combined cycle stations which are far less capital intensive, have a much shorter lead time and are easier to build because environmentally more acceptable, said Morrow. If a privatised electricity supply industry took this way forward, there would be no need for new base load plant until well after the year 2000.

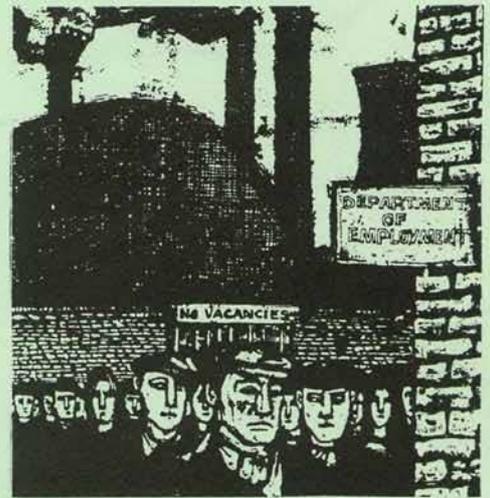


Nuclear Not Worth It

The Coalfield Communities Campaign gave their evidence on Day 93.

First to speak was energy consultant Mark Barrett (CCC 7) who compared the economics of Hinkley C to the coal-fired alternatives.

"Coal has a very marked advantage" over the PWR, argued Barrett. The "raw capital cost" of a 940 MW coal station is £710 million - compared to £1,610 million for a PWR.



Barrett has worked out that a PWR would cost £160 million a year more than a coal station. "Each PWR would increase the average price to the consumer by about 1.2%," he said. "Four PWRs would increase prices by 5%. Meeting the bulk of a 20% non-fossil-fuel-fraction would increase average prices by about 10%. This is equivalent to a £20 addition to the average annual domestic electricity bill of £220."

"The PWR is a giant, inflexible one-off investment, and the risks of cost escalation and poor performance are such that the overall financial performance and stability of Big G (the privatised generating company) could be threatened," argued Barrett. Furthermore, problems of waste disposal and decommissioning could also scare off the private investor.

Michael Prior (CCC 8), an energy economics consultant, backed up Barrett's case with detailed evidence on international and domestic coal prices.

Frans Berkhout and Timothy Jackson (CCC 9) concluded the CCC case with their evidence on back-end nuclear fuel cycle provision and decommissioning costs. Costs for these services "are characterised by considerable uncertainty and a tendency to significant increases", they concluded.

The Miners Hold Court



In a flurry of television interviews and media attention, Arthur Scargill and Tony Benn spoke for the *National Union of Mineworkers* on the economics of coal versus nuclear, to a packed Inquiry hall on Day 94.

Scargill, introducing the NUM case, accused the government of "a paranoid determination to reduce the coal-mining industry, and the power of the miners" in pursuing the Hinkley C plan. "This application is not being made on need for the station. Instead of an energy policy we have an energy ideology based on the demonology of the miners' union," he said.

Scargill said that the Government had "set up a misinformation service" to show that coal was responsible for nearly all our environmental problems, including the greenhouse effect. But to go for nuclear power after Chernobyl would be to "swap the prospect of a tragedy for the certainty of a catastrophe."

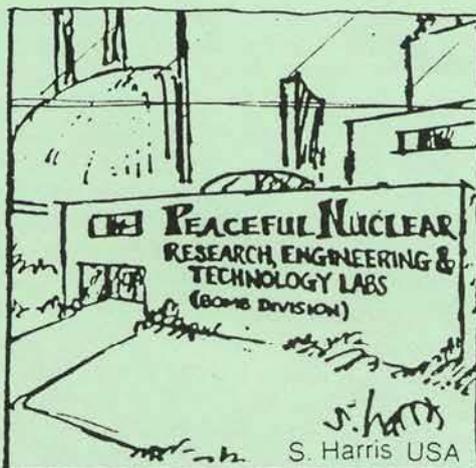
"We are not just against a PWR," he said. The union was in favour of a balanced energy policy based on coal, the renewables and energy conservation. "No other European country has the same energy resources. We don't need to go down the

nuclear road. It's incredible that an energy rich nation should decide to step up its nuclear power programme."

Come clean

Scargill said that on nuclear economics, "the cat is now out of the bag". John Baker of National Power had said in a leaked speech "that nuclear is 40% more expensive than the coal-fired equivalent." How long is it before they come clean on the other problems, like waste, contamination and the weapons links, he asked.

Scargill added that well over half the British people didn't want nuclear power and three-quarters didn't want privatisation. "Where you have a privatised electricity industry, nuclear power had been rejected throughout the world," he added. "But in Britain it's being deliberately protected."



Tony Benn (NUM 3) declared that "nuclear power is neither economic, safe, nor dedicated to purely peaceful purposes."

He also berated "this Government's almost fanatical commitment to nuclear power with its attendant vendetta against the miners". And he raised the "whole question of state secrecy and military patronage that follows the 'civil' nuclear industry."

Rejecting the Government's justification of Hinkley C on "diversity" grounds, Benn commented that this "could be the first power station to be built on purely ideological grounds". The diversity arguments are a cover for the "strong military reasons" for Hinkley C, he said.

Nuclear bomb factory

"Some of the plutonium which is produced in British power stations has been made available to the USA for weapons purposes," he said, "and since the USA has a weapons programme that requires more plutonium than can be produced in the much curtailed US civil power stations they need to get it from Britain."

"Every British nuclear power station has become a nuclear bomb factory for the USA," argued Benn. He is in no doubt that "the failure of the US nuclear power companies to win orders in America lies at the root of the fierce lobbying for orders in Britain - thus creating the most powerful industrial and political lobby in the UK that I have ever come across in my Ministerial experience."

Working Out The Inquiry

- Inspector Michael Barnes has been officially appointed to hold the Inquiry into the CEGB Combwich Compulsory Purchase Order. This is a separate Inquiry, starting on June 13th 1989, at 9.30 am at Cannington College.
- The Inspector has received Mr. Gammon's proofs (CEGB 16 and 17) on the stopping of footpaths and the Board's Compulsory Purchase Order for land to build Hinkley C. He will set aside time during Topic 5 to deal with these issues.
- A further Cardiff session has been announced for a Monday and Tuesday - plus evening session - to be scheduled after Topics 3 and 4 are finished at Cannington.
- The Inspector is considering asking the Department of Transport witness on Topic 3 to answer questions on the roll on/roll off facilities at Combwich Wharf - with particular reference to decommissioning. A further announcement is expected.

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- The Inspector has refused to invite British Nuclear Fuels to give evidence on Topic 3.
- Two recent contributions to the leukaemia clusters debate have become Inquiry documents. They are an article by Wakeford, Binks and Willie (S3194) and an article by Dr. Sarah Darby (S3201).
- On future programmes, which are produced by the Secretariat for about 10 weeks in advance, the Inspector said that "while we do our very best to help", there could be no guarantee to anybody of an "inflexible, fixed date" for appearance.

acres of greenhouses producing tomatoes.

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Passing mention was made by Arthur Scargill on Day 94 to the possible presence of "tappers and buggers" around the Inquiry. He was referring to the "First Tuesday" programme on ITV last week which extensively interviewed a freelance telephone tapper. The man admitted that his targets had included the Sizewell B protesters. He also said that one of his main clients had been MI5.

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A minor flurry among CEBG ranks on Day 91 when Brian Parkin (National Union of Mineworkers) asked whether the decision to cancel the Fawley B coal station in Hampshire indicated a "change of strategy" in the run-up to privatisation. The Board's economics expert Frank Jenkin, then giving evidence, had to admit that it was the first he had heard of a final decision.

"It doesn't sound the sort of announcement which would surprise you," commented the Inspector. "It is very common in the CEBG," said Jenkin. Lord Silsoe immediately rushed out to find a press release. This confirmed that the CEBG has withdrawn its application for Fawley - because the area electricity boards still won't commit themselves to buying its output before privatisation.

News From Stop Hinkley Centre

Jill Sutcliffe reports from the Cardiff session.

Alarm goes at 4.20 am in preparation for tea, porridge and boiled egg prior to crossing the Severn to get to Wales. On the way to the station, rescue two toads in amplexus up against the kerb and pop them somewhere safer and damp so they don't add to the road casualty statistics.

Arrive in Cardiff by 8 am and take a quick look at the church followed by a walk around the mock Roman castle. The City Hall is an imposing building next to the Museum. From the outside there is nothing to tell you that the Inquiry is being held there, but inside a small familiar sign, together with familiar faces from Cannington, act like a paper chase as we track down the Cardiff session.

March 22 brings a further 29 individual contributions from housewives, builders, miners, a professor, concerned parents and grandparents, plus a retired Inspector from the Health and Safety Executive.

The hall is not full, although the contributions last all day from 9.30 am until 4.50 pm. The acoustics are dreadful but a receiver intended for simultaneous translation from Welsh helps with speakers using English as well. The strong, fluent musical sounds of the Welsh language in full flow are tremendous, and the instant translation a much-appreciated bonus. I first heard Gaelic on a bus on Skye and fell in love with the intonation of the Hebridean islanders.

Speaking in Welsh were Ann England, Gwen Jones, who is a physics teacher, Sian Edwards from *Plaid Cymru*, Elwyn Griffiths from *CADNO* and, from Wylfa, Selwyn Williams and Elen Huws.

First, procedural matters were raised by Mr. Thomas and Ann England from *WANA*, focusing on issues which are making it difficult for individuals and small groups to take part - like lack of resources and the costs of attending a "public" inquiry. It had cost a builder £128 in lost work and would have cost a further £62.40 in creche charges to attend for four days.

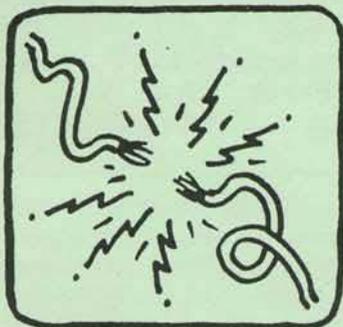
Evidence was given by several people who could see Hinkley Point from their homes, and by Alison Norris who had tried to find out the practical details of what to do in the event of an accident. Basically, no-one knew. Not reassuring.

Sian Edwards drew attention to the effects of the proposal on Wales as a nation: "We have faced extinction from a number of directions over the centuries, through military conquest, through being swallowed politically, through deliberate acts to eradicate our language and our culture, whether through legislation or an alien education system.

"Isn't the threat that faces us here that much greater? Having a reactor 20 miles from this spot, from our capital city, here in Wales?... There are less than three million of us." She went on to point out that at Chernobyl, 3,800 square miles are still poisoned, which is only just under half the area of Wales.

Professor Peter Harper from the Medical Genetics Department at University College is an adviser to *UNSCEAR*, the United Nations Standing Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. He popped in to make two points: there are genetic effects associated with radiation, he said, and any accident at Hinkley

Short Circuits



Mikhail Gorbachev wasn't the only important Russian to spread the message of Perestroika around Britain last week. E. A. Reshetnikov, Deputy Minister at the Soviet Ministry of Nuclear Energy, made a flying visit to the Inquiry accompanied by four colleagues and CEBG officials.

Reshetnikov is said to be spending part of his week's stay in this country considering how the British public inquiry system works, and whether it could be introduced in the Soviet Union.

The CEBG press release on the visit didn't point out, however, that the Russian expansion of nuclear power has already been somewhat curtailed - by the pressure of post-Chernobyl public opinion.

★ ★ ★

Cannington is almost equally divided over the Hinkley C issue, according to a recent poll carried out by the Parish Council. The voting was 608 in favour, and 606 against. This is the second vote in the village about the CEB's plan: the first showed a majority against but on a smaller turnout. Both votes were based on the electoral register.

★ ★ ★

More amazing facts from the Inquiry. According to Brian Parkin of the NUM (Day 91), the coal-fired power station at Drax in Yorkshire (apart from producing electricity) supplies "low-grade heat" to 200

could expose over a million people.

Christopher Gifford, newly retired from the Health and Safety Executive as an Inspector for the Mining and Quarrying Division, had sought special permission from the head of the HSE to give evidence as he was covered by the Official Secrets Act.

A man of known independence who has retained the respect of mine management and miners alike, he applied rigour to the contributions made to the Inquiry by the HSE based on his years of professional experience. He brought wisdom to an area not readily grasped by individuals. He also brought the audience to its feet in a standing ovation.

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

Facilities For Objectors

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.

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
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.

DIARY

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

Weeks 25, 26 and 27

NB. Starting time 9.30 am unless otherwise stated, finish about 5 pm. Starts 9 am Fridays. Finishes 3.30 pm.

After the May Bank Holidays the starting time on the Tuesday is: 1.30, ie May 2 and May 30. Note: Greenpeace appear on Monday April 24.

Tuesday April 11

Procedural matters.

Evidence from Dr. D. J. Fisk of the Department of the Environment on the Greenhouse Effect (DoE 3) followed by cross-examination.

Wednesday April 12

Topic 3 on On-Site Waste Management and Decommissioning starts. CEGB witness F. H. Passant to be cross-examined. (Gave evidence on March 16 evening session 85a).

Thursday April 13

The cross-examination of Mr. Passant continues. When it is completed it will be followed by Mr. Hannaford of the Health and Safety Executive (Nuclear Instal-

lations Inspectorate) on HSE (NII) 3.

Friday April 14

Cross-examination of Mr. Hannaford continues.

Tuesday April 18

Procedural matters.

Evidence from Mr. Ponsford for the Department of the Environment followed by cross-examination.

Wednesday April 19

When cross-examination of Mr. Ponsford is completed he will be followed by Mr. Blackman of the Department of Transport. Dr. Little will then give evidence and be cross-examined. COLA witness Mr. Cassidy will then give evidence (COLA 34). (CEGB is holding a 100-day party).

Thursday April 20

Evidence from COLA witnesses Mr. A. Martin (COLA 35) on radioactive materials on the Hinkley site followed by Mr. Large (COLA 36) on PWR and the radioactive wastes arising.

Friday April 21

COLA witnesses continue with Mr. Large speaking to COLA 42, On-Site generation and storage of radioactive wastes; COLA 43 PWR: decommissioning.

Monday April 24

Greenpeace give evidence and witnesses are cross-examined. Mr. Sands, Mr. Flavin and Mr. Knox, GP 3, 4 and 5.
NB. Starts at 2 pm.

Tuesday April 25

Procedural matters.

Evidence from Friends of the Earth, Mr. Kayes (FoE 7) on decommissioning of Hinkley C will be followed by Mr. Richardson and Mr. Roberts (FoE 8) on Nuclear waste management and geological disposal. When examination is completed Dr. David Lowry will follow for Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Wednesday April 26

Evidence from Stop Hinkley Expansion given by Lorraine Mann, Ian White prospective European candidate for Bristol and Bath, Brian Jones and J. Henderson, Frank Frisby, Sue Kelland, Mrs. Barker for Taunton Labour Party, Harry Horrobin for Roadwater and District Peace Group, Steven Seldon and O'Farroqui.

Thursday April 27

Evidence from Mr. Scott, Brian Rome of the Conservation Society in Bristol, May Morris, Mr. Vowles for Bristol Green Party and Mr. P. Staes, MEP for Sedgemoor Green Party. Dicken Fell, Celia Hadow and Tim Deere Jones for the Irish Sea Project.

Friday April 28

Evidence from Presteigne Green Party given by Mrs. J. Selley, Anna Morgan and Mr. R. Thomas from Camborne. Topic Four is presently due to open on May 2, ie emergency arrangements.

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Contributors to this issue:

Crispin Aubrey, Joanna Balcombe,
Danielle Grunberg, Brigid McConville

GREENPEACE

Elaine Mendoza, Susie Needham
Ron Preddy, John Sutcliffe

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