

April 8, 1979

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To: President Jimmy Carter
Senator Alan Cranston
Senator S. I. Hayakawa
The Nuclear Regulatory Commission

When the evil genie blew out of the bottle at 3 Mile Island, it was clearly evident from the explanations, statements, counter statements, etc., etc. that nobody - Metropolitan Edison, Babcock & Wilson or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission - really knew what had happened - why it happened - or what was going to happen. It appears that nobody really knows what they're doing when they build the reactors.

Depending on whom one has listened to - from nuclear physicists, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or senators - this kind of accident couldn't happen for 10,000 years, 20,000 years or a billion years. But it did happen in 20 years and this country was faced with a reactor completely out of control and no one knew why. The next reactor could go in 5 years - or 5 minutes - who knows?

Statements regarding the safe levels of radiation which are being issued puts the credibility of everyone who issues them in doubt. It has already been reported that there is iodine in the milk. The pasture and crop lands have been contaminated and cows eat the grass and people eat what's grown on the land and drink the contaminated water. In view of the fact that it is conceded by most scientists and doctors that there is no safe level of radiation, the cocksure statements to the contrary are dishonest and a coverup for the industry.

I believe the nuclear industry has no essential regard for the welfare of the people of this country and that this was epitomized in an interview by Walter Cronkite a few days after the accident with Roger Lapp, a nuclear industry consultant and with Mr. Pollard from the Union of Concerned Scientists. Mr. Lapp, in a most callous and arrogant manner, stated that to get energy we had to accept these calculated risks. During the interview Mr. Pollard said that we had been lucky this time; the next accident could be catastrophic, and in answer to Mr. Cronkite's question - what did he consider a catastrophe? - Mr. Pollard answered there could be 10,000 dead - 100,000 injured and deceased, or worse. Mr. Lapp apparently considers that an acceptable risk and ridiculously answered that he considered a catastrophe a 747 crash killing 300 people - as if the dangers of the two accidents can even be compared. His answer and attitude during the entire interview were despicable but I do believe it represents the attitude of the industry.

In view of this most terrible accident, I urge our government to take the following steps:

1. Immediately close down all plants similar to the 3 Mile Island reactor built by Babcock and Wilson. The reasons given by the Nuclear

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Regulatory Commission for not ordering the Rancho Seco closure are irrational. How can they say that all necessary safety precautions have been met at Rancho Seco when they don't even know what the safety precautions should be since a thorough investigation of 3 Mile Island hasn't yet been made, and won't be for months, to determine essential and basic causes for the accident. It doesn't make good sense.

2. No new plants should be allowed to go 'on line' - specifically the Diablo Canyon reactor built less than two miles from the Hosgri fault.

3. All other nuclear plants in operation to be phased out over a relatively short period of time and development of the many alternative sources of energy be accelerated by using money diverted from our staggering nuclear overkill armament program and from nuclear research.

4. Since most of the members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission come out of the nuclear industry and go back into it, they can't possibly be unbiased or unprejudiced - i.e. there had been problems at 3 Mile Island from its inception which they had glossed over. The Commission has consistently shown more concern with the economic success of the industry than with people's health and safety, therefore, there should be a thorough investigation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's ability to regulate in the best interests of the people of this country and the composition of the Commission changed.

Very truly yours,

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