

United States Senate

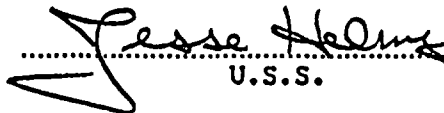
March 31, 1987

Respectfully referred to:

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Congressional Affairs

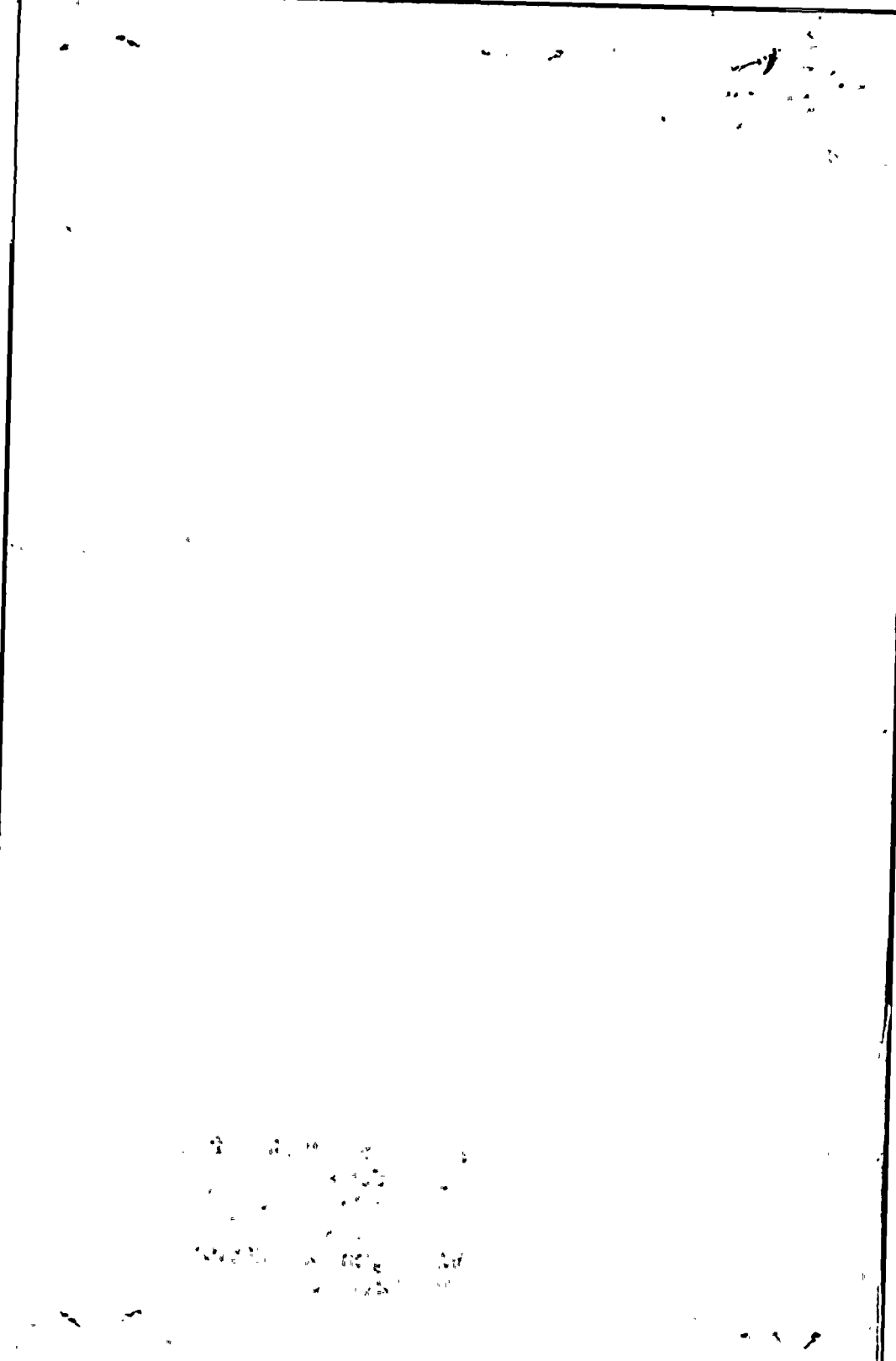
Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

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U.S.S.

Form #2

Direct to the attention of:
Don B. Barnes
Office of Senator Jesse Helms
403 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-8342



11 March 1987

My dear Senator Helms,

As a volunteer evacuee in the recent Shearon Harris Full Scale Evacuation Drill, I would like to report a very serious problem in the evacuation plan.

The Wake County Emergency Co-ordinator had instructed me ahead of time as to how to distinguish myself as an evacuation participant, where to report, and that the drill would begin sometime between 8am and 4pm on Saturday, February 28. By 8am, I was alert and ready to evacuate my home in Boylan Heights, which is located midway between Donthea Dix Hospital, NCSU, NC State Prison and downtown Raleigh. By 1am, I became concerned that perhaps due to the torrential rainfall we were receiving, the drill was postponed, and proceeded to call Emergency Services, where I was told the sirens had in fact sounded and the drill was proceeding.

I evacuated and reported to the Emergency Shelter as instructed, where I reported not having heard any sirens at all. I was told that there would be no sirens in Raleigh. How, I ask, would we know that there was a nuclear accident? I was told, by the State Emergency Management Official who was monitoring this drill, that "You would hear about it on TV". I pointed out the fact that I am a student and a working engineer, that I spend my home hours studying and writing programs, that I do try to watch the local news 4 or 5 times a week but that I could very likely go 24-48 hours without television contact. I was told my case was "rare" whereupon I replied that there are many - students, writers, musicians, programmers, home darkroom, laboratory and workshop "tinkers" who are busy with their own projects and do not watch television all the time.

The Evacuation Official conceded that I had a point and that I should bring this problem forward.

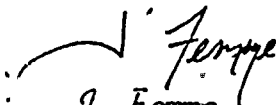
I believe that the report of a Nuclear Accident should not be the privileged information of only those people who watch television. Every citizen is aware of the Civil Defense Warning System, whereby sirens signal that radios should



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be tuned in immediately to see if they signal a test or an actual emergency to be acted upon. This same (or a similar) effective alert system should be required to notify all citizens that there is a problem which they need to check into.

Sincerely,



J. Ferme
3801-C Western Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27606

Governor James Martin
Senator Terry Sanford
Senator Jesse Helms
Representative David Price
Senator Joe Johnson
Senator J K Sherron
Representative Peggy Stamey
Wake County Emergency Co-ordinator
N R C
F E M A

