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TRANSCRIPTION
PRESS CONFERENCE - THREE MILE ISLAND INCIDENT
GOVERNOR DICK THORNBURGH
APRIL 9, 1979
3:00 p.m.
Media Center

GOVERNOR THORNBURGH'S STATEMENT:

"I have just concluded a meeting in my office with Lt. Gov. Scranton, Harold Denton, Robert Adamcik and other appropriate state officials. I have also been in contact yesterday and today with Chairman Hendrie of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"I am pleased to be able to announce this afternoon that, based on the information and advice given to me by these persons, I am lifting all my previous recommendations, advisories and directives.

"This means it is now considered safe for pregnant women and pre-school children to return to their homes within a five-mile radius of the Three Mile Island site.

"This means that schools in that area around the site may reopen tomorrow.

"This means that state offices can return completely to business as usual.

"This means that I am ordering our Civil Defense and Emergency Preparedness forces to shift from a full alert status to an on-call status. This does not mean that we will relax our vigil. We will continue to monitor the entire situation on a 24-hour basis.

"I am also assured by our state DER and Health officials that there remains no threat to public health in the milk or drinking water of central Pennsylvania.

"In my address to the people of Pennsylvania last Friday, I announced that Lt. Gov. Scranton would chair a Central Pennsylvania Recovery Committee. That effort began almost immediately, and we will keep you apprised of its progress.

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"Also at my side today is an individual to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. Bob Adamcik is the Philadelphia-based regional director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration. And, just as the White House designated Harold Denton to be the authoritative voice on technical matters at the plant site, so was Bob Adamcik designated to coordinate the overall federal support effort.

"I must tell you that that effort, while extremely low-profile, was extremely effective. The 30 federal and volunteer agencies led by Mr. Adamcik provided assistance and advice on the whole range of matters related to emergency preparedness, and stood ready to assist if a large-scale evacuation had become necessary. These agencies did so without fanfare, and in a spirit of total cooperation with state and local agencies.

"Just as I have commended Harold Denton for his help, I am pleased to commend Mr. Adamcik and his people for their effective support, and I thank the White House for sending them to us.

"We will now turn to Mr. Denton for a briefing on conditions at the plant -- after which Lt. Gov. Scranton, Mr. Denton, Mr. Adamcik and myself will be available to answer your questions."

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ANSWERING QUESTIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR WERE:

Lt. Gov. William Scranton 3d
Robert Adamcik
Harold Denton

DENTON:

My advice to the Governor is based on the much improved situation at the plant over the past few days in a number of areas. I now think that the likelihood for an event or a release requiring special precautionary measures is very remote. While I'll do is walk through the five areas that we've paid special attention to and in just give you in summary form the situation to date. Let me first start with the reactor core. The reactor is now producing about 4 megawatts total heat. There's one -----that's running above 400 degrees and it's running about 404 degrees. The first stages of the preferred plan are now being implemented, this is the phase that concerns degassing. We've taken the reactor pressure down to as low as 400 psi in a series of planned degassing measures. This has been very effective in removing from the primary coolant the dissolved hydrogen gases. We may attempt further steps to reduce gases. The next step in the preferred plan would be to lower the temperature of the primary system. This step won't be taken for several more days, we're still looking at the natural circulation mode that we hope to place the core into. I may remind you that the preferred plan involves cooling down the primary system to a benign state such that you're not relying on instrumentation inside the containment and you're not bringing contaminated water outside the containment. Let me mention next, the containment is still at a negative pressure. It's doing it's job just the way it is intended. We pumped back into the containment the gases from the waste gas storage tanks. I don't see a potential there for a release from the containment. Noble gases have continued to drop in terms of their off-site exposures as a result of the pump back that's going on. The off-site exposures now along the river bank range from .1 to perhaps 1 mr per hour at the maximum. At the site that I'm at, dosimeters indicate a maximum dose of about 20 mr for the duration of the accident. Iodines are being brought under control. The plant has decided to do both a replacement of the existing filters and the installation of a second filter bank. These filters are about a foot square and 6 inches high, and six feet long or so and weigh about 120 pounds each and there are almost 100 of these. So the operation to take out these filters, replace them with the new ones which were flown in from a plant in Washington '11 probably not be completed until tomorrow night. The insulation of a back up filter bank will take several more days. We're very encouraged by all of the engineering management support going into control of both noble gases and iodides. With regard to liquids there has not been any releases from the plant in excess of those which would be permitted under normal operations. In total, looking at the entire picture, looking at the fact that even if there were -----events with regard to the reactor core it would be 30 hours or more before there would be any potential for any release. I've come to the conclusion that the potential is sufficiently small that I can give the governor the advice I have given him.

REPORTER:

Mr. Denton, -----it seems here the -----problem as far as the persons who have been evacuated is concerned is the risk of radiation. Are you now satisfied that there is no risk of radiation?

DENTON:

The releases from the plant are moving rapidly down toward those which would be permitted during normal operation of the plant. Some of the pathways have already reached that level. The others haven't quite reached it, but there's no magic threshold about radiation, this level versus that level.

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DENTON: (con't) The total dose for anyone drinking milk from the plant we calculate to be on the order 1 - 2 mr total. The maximum inhalation dose from breathing air containing iodine is on the order of 5-10 mr for the entire course of the accident. The maximum off-site dose of the North Bridge, for anyone continuously present there over the course of accident remains less than 100 mr.

STAROBIN: You talked the other day about making an overt move toward a cold shut-down. And you were going to wait for advantageous wind conditions among others. Let me ask you, what would be advantageous conditions, when will you make that move and what inherent risks are there with that?

DENTON: At the time we were contemplating a move that might require activation of the emergency core cooling systems. The type of move we're talking about now would be more of a phase in through the existing steam generator that's now being used to remove the heat from the core and would just be a change in the way that water is circulated inside the reactor vessel. So I no longer couple this type of change with the potential that I saw when we were going to go to activation of the safety systems.

REPORTER: Mr. Denton, are you satisfied now after all this evaluation of the B & W plant that the core of the reactor is damaged to the extent that it would impede the natural circulation that that plant calls for.

DENTON: We're reasonably satisfied. We haven't quite completed our evaluation. That's still going on. I hope to have a firm handle on the natural circulation option by Friday. There are several other attractive looking options. All of which would minimize the release to the environment of the contaminated water inside the containment.

AMIG: Then you are planning on staying here?

DENTON: I do that on a day by day basis and it looks like I'll be here at least through this week.

REPORTER: Mr. Denton, as long as there are some emissions of radiation that are above naturally occurring background levels, are you saying that nevertheless it is safe to go back to that area within the five mile area?

DENTON: The plant is permitted to release certain amounts of radioactivity during normal operation. What I'm saying is that the amounts that are now being released are rapidly dropping toward those and in some instances are at those that are permitted under normal operation. I want to distinguish between those types of normal release and extremely -----times now that would be available for evacuation in the event of a complete walk away from cooling systems inside the core.

REPORTER: Mr. Denton, if I may follow up, we were made to understand that the reason that pregnant women and young children were kept away was not because of the imminence or the potential imminence of evacuation, but because of their high susceptibility to low level doses of radiation. Are you saying that it is now safe for those high risk groups to be back there?

DENTON: Yes, in my view it is.

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REPORTER: We were told the other day perhaps by you or another NRC official that we would not be able to determine the effect of iodine emissions on cows milk until they began to pasture. At that time the statement was that most cows in this area are eating stored feed. What's changed that you can make a . . .

DENTON: First off, the iodine releases from the plant have dropped steadily as a result of the actions taken to add chemicals to the water in the auxiliary building, some parts of the building have been sprayed with these chemicals to tie up the iodine. The filters will be all changed out by tomorrow night which will really cut back on potential future releases. Probably even more importantly, the environmental samples show dropping levels in iodine. I think the latest results show very few if any milk samples with detectable amounts of iodine in them. There's been a dramatic drop off in the iodine detected in the environment. It's not entirely, you can't say it's been completely eliminated. We are going to continue our sampling program and perhaps an occasional milk sample will still show iodine above detectable levels. But I want to emphasize that the maximum dose that we've calculated to date for anyone consuming milk at the concentrations that we've discussed is on the order of 1-2 mr, which is within allowable limits.

REPORTER: But the point you made the other day was that the iodine went into the grass and therefore there would be no way of knowing that effect until some future date. Are we in the future now?

DENTON: I think we now have a much better feel for the amounts of iodine being released from the plant. I less there is less than one tenth of a curie of iodine that went out yesterday and reactions that are being taken are going to drop those levels right down----- is going to reduce it even more. Our own sampling of pasture grass indicates concentrations below detectable levels.

REPORTER: Can you explain the details of why the federal government was encouraging that the antidote be distributed and the state felt it should not be -----?

DENTON: I guess I could leave that one to the state or I could discuss my view of the situation.

PLEASE PICK UP WITH PART TWO OF THE TRANSCRIPT.

DENTON: We were involved in the preparation of the original document concerning the use of iodine blocking tablets. We would like iodine blocking tablets for ----- doses when large releases are likely to occur. The document concludes that when you are likely to be exposed to a ----- that would result in a thyroid dose on the order of 10,000 millirems you should attempt to take the tablet 30 minutes in advance. They are meant for puff releases from the plant not for continuous exposure. You can't block your thyroid for long durations without side-effects. So in my own view the situation and the potential for puff releases resulting in 10,000 millirems to the thyroid was sufficiently remote and I didn't see any advantage to taking the tablet. The tablets are not intended to be effective for routine exposure to very low levels of iodine.

REPORTER: You said that you would have some decision on the B and W cooling plant by Friday or so. That is later than the original schedule. Is there some new information you have.

DENTON: No as I mentioned earlier we have turned on several states, review committees, I have sent some people here back to Bethesda to have more access to have more to our calculational capabilities. The core is being cooled perfectly adequately the way it is. Everyday that goes by the -----level drops a little more. We obtain achieve more de-gassing of the primary coolant. There is no rush to move towards the five day or this ten day period. And I want to be sure that we have looked at all the possibilities before we agree to a change in the mode of cooling at from the present status. So what we are now doing is lowering the pressure down, raising the pressure back up in an attempt to bring out of solution all the gases that we can that are in there and I think we have de-gasified the coolant down to a level of about 400 psi.

LIVINGOOD: Yesterday when the operator dropped the pressure in the primary coolant system down to around 400 psi you got some noise within the system and you got some pump vibration which I assume indicates that there is some gas bubbles.

DENTON: Yes. That is the type of criteria that we use to determine how low we can bring the pressure. We have acoustic monitoring instrumentation on the plant. We watch levels, and remember when the indicators bring the plant down to 50 psi step. The lower you bring the pressure the more gas you can get involved into pressurizer space ----- . So you have to have a carefully planned program to bring down the pressurizer as low as possible with the gas coming out of the solution so it can be exhausted into the containment.

LIVINGOOD: Now today you are going back up to the 900 and 1000 ...

DENTON: It appears to be most effective to cycle pressure back and forth to put back in the solution gases that may be hidden out in odd places of the primary system such as control rods and other to dissolve back in the water as much gases that are in there and lower pressure back down again so that you can evolve those gases by lowering pressure. We will probably go through several more pressure cycles like that between now and the time any other change is made.

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LIVINGOOD: Does it make the gas easier to get to, easier to...

DENTON It puts the gas back in the solution at high pressures in case there is gas hidden out in crevices or pockets somewhere in the plant. Goes back in solution and if you lower the pressure back down again it makes it easier to evolve those gases in the pressurizer space so they can be vented.

STAROBIN Governor throughout this entire week and a half how close did you ever come to issuing an evacuation (a) and b) what was your contact or relationship with members of the nuclear establishment, if you will, particularly those nuclear experts in Pittsburgh, your home town. Did you have contact with them.

GOVERNOR: No. My source of advice for appraisal of the situation since his arrival a week ago Friday has been Harold Denton. I think there may be some confusion about that because of speculation somewhere when I directed immediately upon hearing of the accident at the site that all of the private and public sector input that we could get in state government from whatever source could help us get a fix on the situation and take the proper actions be accumulated. Most of the private sector support that has come to the crew that is at the island now has been as a result of Mr. Denton assembling this all-star team of technicians at the site and that includes as I understand, Westinghouse, GE, B&W various power companies and the like. I have had no contact with them directly.

STAROBIN: inaudible

GOVERNOR: That is hard to say. I think from the very moment I heard of the accident on Wednesday morning, I began to realize that an evacuation was a potential. But that was designed really to get our response in order. And as time went on that response became more realistic and with the help of the federal and local people involved became less and less of a concern as to the mechanics. But, obviously, like all of us has varying levels of perception of what the nature of the danger was. I don't think there was ever a point when we were poised on the edge of ordering an evacuation.

STAROBIN: I remember the Sunday night directly after the Wednesday incident we were at the mansion, everybody's temper was kind of short. At that time the hydrogen bubble was prominent in all of our consciousness', at that point what was your feeling about evacuating.

GOVERNOR: No. As I recall that was the night we gave the legislators a briefing. I think my temper was on edge because I was tired

REPORTER: We were made to understand that people over 60 are just as susceptible to low-level radiation as pregnant women and pre-school children. Is that true, and if it is true why wouldn't they have to leave.

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GOVERNOR: I don't know if it is true, I received no advice from any of our medical, environmental, or technical people to that effect. I just have to beg off on a definitive answer.

SCOTZIN: Governor, you said you will continue the monitoring on a 24 hour basis. How long will this monitoring continue and who in the state will conduct it. Are you equipped with the proper instruments?

GOVERNOR: The DER people in concert with the appropriate federal agencies will continue the monitoring of radiation, obviously. Our emergency management people will continue to keep on the alert. We are not dismantling that apparatus. In other words, I think probably everybody who has been involved in this effort will continue to devote a substantial amount of time to keeping an eye on the situation. But obviously, with the advice and information that we have been furnished with in the last 24 hours we have seen fit to relax some of the advisories that we had in effect and I think that has an effect throughout the entire...

SCOTZIN: -----thinking well beyond the total shutdown, months from now, will we keep our vigilance up?

GOVERNOR: Well I have secured a commitment from Chairman Hendrie that the NRC will undertake prompt inspection of all the nuclear facilities in Pennsylvania and report to me in a matter of weeks, as to what that status is. That will include the two units at TMI and we will in that sense be apprised by those people who have the responsibility for licensing and regulating these facilities, as to what potential there may be for recurrence of any kind of accident of this type, but the monitoring will be carried out in the normal course insofar as the state is concerned, by DER until we are satisfied that there is no further need for it. I think again, we will exercise as much caution as we can.

REPORTER: -----a disagreement between yourself and federal officials on this point as to whether TMI or any other plant should be allowed to operate again or continue to operate. What sort of recourse do you have?

GOVERNOR: Well, I don't know that it is fruitful to speculate on that when we don't have any of the facts. I have not received the results of any of those requested inspections - until I do -

REPORTER: Is there any structure, or legal recourse that you have to demand or require that the plant even if it is a political -----

GOVERNOR: Well, we certainly have standing with regard to facilities within our Commonwealth to make known our views on it. There is no question about that and any licensing procedure or any procedure relating to facility, but I think we are well in advance of any adversary posture here until we have a determination of precisely the results of these inspections are.

REPORTER: Governor, what is your posture on GPU's expressed intent to pass along their losses to -----

GOVERNOR: Well, that is a matter that is before the PUC. At the present time I don't know that we have taken a position on that. I would like to see how that develops in terms

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(GOVERNOR CONTINUED) of how best to deal with a totally unprecedented event in terms of its effect on levels of consumer charges and the financial status of the utility. It is a vexing kind of a problem, but I am not prepared to state today any position we would have.

JENSEN: This may be for Mr. Adamcik, I am not sure. We have a long list here of preparations that were made in the event of an evacuation or a more serious situation to help people in the area. Is there any program now in place to compensate the merchants and employees for losses that they incurred because even though there was no official evacuation, an estimated 200,000 took it on their own. Is there any way those people can be helped financially or otherwise.

ADAMCIK: Well, this is an area beyond the scope of the immediate evacuation planning. However, we stand ready to do everything we can, and have already made some contacts with federal agencies and the federal regional council, who can come in and provide the Governor and his staff with information on how to assess the economic impact, and perhaps to suggest some ways in which he might work together to resolve that.

JENSEN: In other words, you couldn't tell an individual what to do right now?

LT. GOV: I think the posture that we are taking, and this will be part of the recovery effort, is first to make an assessment of exactly what kind of economic hardships central Pennsylvania has experienced. Before we have that, we can't go to the federal government and say, this is what we need, and this is the first step in our recovery effort - we are currently taking, trying to find out from the various business people involved in the area, what their problems have been, what their losses have been, and under what circumstances those losses have been incurred. So that when we have to go to the federal government and say this is what has happened, this is how we need relief, we can do it on a factual basis rather than trying to make it up out of thin air.

JENSEN: Governor, who is on that central Pennsylvania Recovery Committee?

LT. GOV: We are currently putting it together and the final group has not been made up, but it will certainly be made up of the cabinet, myself, and of course, the cabinet officials, that are most immediate involved, Department of Health, DER, Commerce, etc., and over the next couple of days, I am sure you will hear an announcement fairly soon about the final determination of who is on that committee.

BRUTTO: Will you make any effort to secure reimbursement for individuals who sustained a loss, if they were outside of that 5 mile area?

LT. GOV: I don't know if that would come under, if there is a federal program that allows that, yes. I think you run into problems of insurance. I think you run into problems of exactly what the plant is liable for, what the federal government is willing to assume and at this point, not knowing all the ins and outs of the federal government, I think it would be premature for me to make a judgement on that.

BRUTTO: If the plant closed, it lost money, and perhaps the employees lost wages? Is there any way they can be reimbursed for that?

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LT. GOV: Perhaps, but we would have to look into that. Bob, do you know...

GOV: I think we can say that we are going to leave no stone unturned. As I indicated in my remarks on Friday night, that to secure the maximum amount of relief for an area that has suffered a totally unique kind of experience, and whatever there is in the way of assistance we are going to ----- our utmost efforts to see that those people who have suffered loss are dealt with appropriately.

LIVINGOOD: For 11 days, pregnant women and mothers of small children have followed your advice, ----- have stayed out of the area, but for two-and-a-half days prior to that, based on assurances that came from a lot of sources including yourself, many of them remained in that area and I guess a lot of them understandably now have some concerns about what might be the long term effect to the fetus they carry and to the small children they are rearing. What do you say to them at this point?

GOVERNOR: Well, I am not medically or technically qualified to make an assessment on the health questions involved. I think that is something that they will have to regretably deal with with their own physicians or with testing and diagnostic facilities that both we and the federal government will make available. With regard to the uncertainty surrounding the situation during that two-and-a-half day period, I think that was probably the single biggest frustration, to me in trying to pass on every relevant bit of reliable information that we had to the public, only to find that as I told you in this room, I believe on Thursday night, we were being beset with all kinds of conflicting data and information and the difficulty in separating it out was extremely troublesome. I think that clearly there is a consensus that improved data gathering and communications capability at the site of these types of plants is at the top of the list of needs that must be dealt with in the future and I for one would do that view without any question. The most important component of the decision making process is facts and until you have facts, you are left somewhat at ----- with regard to the propriety of decisions that have to be made. I am sure that now that the facts are all known, or when they are all known, that there may be instances where judgements might have been made differently if those facts had been known at the present time. But that was the only game in town..

HAMILL: Governor Thornburgh, despite your advisory today, there may be some pregnant women and preschool age children leary of coming back into the area. Are you saying they have no worries whatsoever to be leary about coming into the area?

GOVERNOR: No, I am saying precisely what we said when we advised them to leave. The advice that I am passing on today is based on the information recieved from Mr. Denton and the technical people factored into the expertise of our environmental and health people, that we no longer feel that it is necessary for them to absent that area.

REPORTER: Governor, you said there, I think Mr. Denton said there was a possibility offsite of 1 mr an hour. Was that the figure you used?

DENTON: I think that number, I tried to quote incremental values and total values and some of the values I quoted earlier were total kinds of numbers. For example, the maximum

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(DENTON CONTINUED) exposed individual at the North Gate if someone had been there continuously present, would be less than 100 mr. But the survey, the last survey of 8 hours showed levels from 1/100 to 2/100 mr per hour up and down the east and west banks of the Susquehanna. The maximum concentration in the cloud measured by our ---- helicopter in the past 24 hours is about 1 mr an hour -- but that is in the plume.

REPORTER: What is normal background for the area do you know?

DENTON: Normal background is a little larger than 1/100 mrs per hour.

WIGGINS: Mr. Denton, in regard to the reactor, do you have any new, revised ----- for when you would hope to see it shut down, first part of the question, second part -- do you have any new figures on the radioactive levels inside that containment?

DENTON: We are still attempting to bring it to a cold shutdown state with dispatch. There is nothing magic about the ten days we picked. The first part is the degassing phase that we have gone through. All that is going very well. As soon as we can complete our evaluation of the best option for getting the reactor in a state whereby it is immune to manmade or equipment errors and where it doesn't involve pumping back outside the containment any contaminated water. That time period I am still trying to move toward completing our evaluation by Friday. Until that time we will continue removing heat from the reactor through the steam generator, the same mode that we have been in for several days, and continue to remove as much gas from the primary cooling system as we can. The next step after degassing is to bring the temperature down to about 220, 230°, the point at which you are not able to maintain steaming conditions in the steam generator. The preferred plan calls for them filling the secondary side of the steam generator solid water. That would enable heat removal from the primary system, in a very efficient sort of manner, to bring the temperature of the reactor then down to perhaps 160° through heat removal. And the final stage would be to either run the pumps at the temperature of 160° or perhaps trip the pumps and go to a natural circulation mode at that time. So our timetable is still relatively close to the ten days, but is not...I am not, I would say we are into the ten day period, but there is nothing magic about it and as long as everything is functioning the way it is, there is no pressure to move forward with extreme rapidity, but to make sure we have looked at all the options examined, all the possibilities. Someone mentioned the technical capabilities on the site I found that the company is now bringing in my predecessor, Mr. Ben Rusche to take over the task of long term ----- control.

JENSEN: He is your predecessor?

DENTON: Yes, in this job.
The company is bringing him in he is now...

JENSEN: He left NRC to ...

DENTON: He left a year or two ago and went into private industry.

JENSEN: Did you participate in the licensing of this plant?

DENTON: Mr. Rusche?

JENSEN: No, did you?

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DENTON: I am sure I did. At the time before I took this job, I was responsible for environmental evaluations.

REPORTER: Did you anticipate this?

DENTON: No, sure didn't.

REPORTER: Who does Mr. Rusche work for now?

DENTON: He works for the energy research institute of South Carolina. But I mentioned that just to illustrate the depth and competence of the industry, power company, individuals you have been incorporated into the recovery team of GPU.

REPORTER: What are the alternatives----- do you have any new ones?

DENTON: Well, one that the staff is looking at is why trip the pumps to go to natural circulation, for example, as long as the pumps run why not continue to let the pumps run -----original concept was that we tripped the pumps and go into natural circulation, but with the way things are performing there is the thought perhaps that is an unnecessary step and why not continue to run the pumps until they trip for some other reason and then we will go to natural circulation at that time.

CRITCHFIELD: Could we just have one or two more questions please?

BRUTTY: Governor, is it within your power, power of the state, to prevent the reactor from -----can you close it down?

GOVERNOR: I don't know. That is one of the things that we will be reassessing in the aftermath of this situation. I have already expressed my view with respect to the burden that I feel is imposed on those who would make a case for reactivation of this facility.

PANYARD: Could you respond, make some type of response to the resignation of Mark Widoff, Consumer Advocate... during that time he ...

GOVERNOR: He resigned some time ago.

PANYARD: Well, he -----made his official announcement today to the media, and at the time he said he was afraid the Attorney General -----inaudible-----

GOVERNOR: Well, we were faced with a situation I think by common consent that was unprecedented -- Mr. Widoff, some time ago had submitted his resignation effective April 25, I directed the Attorney General to assume charge of coordinating all of the legal aspects of this matter. Mr. Widoff, last week, announced an intention to take certain legal actions which I asked the Attorney General to review because of Mr. Widoff's impending departure from office. That review was carried out by Attorney General Biester consistent with my directive that he be in charge of coordinating all of the legal response of this state to this totally unprecedented situation that we had to deal with. So we are now of course left without a consumer advocate. We are looking for a successor to Mr. Widoff. In the meantime, those actions will be coordinated by the Attorney General.

JENSEN: Governor, he went further. He said that he did not believe that Mr. Biester had the right to tell him what to do because he was responsible only to you and he told us

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JENSEN: in effect that he is going to continue in a course which you could only describe as insubordination or rebellion to Mr. Biester.

GOVERNOR: Well, I think it is regrettable that Mr. Widoff took certain actions without any notice to me, without any notice to the Attorney General, after I had asked the Attorney General to coordinate our overall legal response but I don't see any problem in that regard. His resignation takes effect in a couple of weeks, and we will go forward with whatever actions are necessary under the new consumer advocate. But those actions will be coordinated with our overall response as a state government to this totally unprecedented situation.

REPORTER: He said further that the staff would not cooperate with the Attorney General's Office and would not keep them advised...

GOVERNOR: I think that would be a mistake. I hope that is not true.

AMIG: Mr. Denton: one question, the Saturday of the bubble problem, and Met Ed said the crisis was over, you came back and said the crisis wouldn't be over until there was a complete shutdown. Do you still stand by that statement?

DENTON: Well at the time, I guess I used cold shutdown to be a blanket term to describe an activity that I now perceive to be multi-faceted. There are lots of different issues that remain at the plant. There continues to be a lot of radioactivity. But when I look at the entire spectrum across the board, from containment to noble gases, iodines, I consider the crisis over today with the, with regard to the status of the core.

CRITCHLOW: Thank you very much.

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