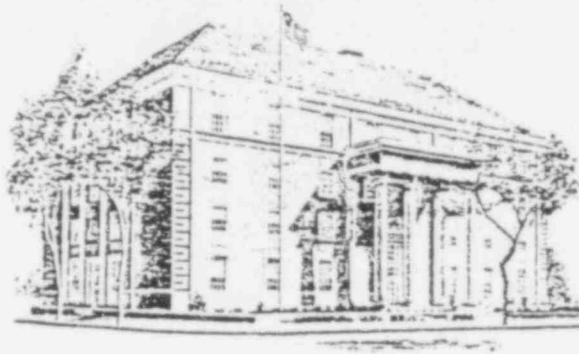


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## Commissioners of Cumberland County

COURT HOUSE, CARLISLE, PA. 17013

April 3, 1979

Metropolitan Edison Company  
Mr. Walter Creitz  
P. O. Box 542  
Reading, PA 19603

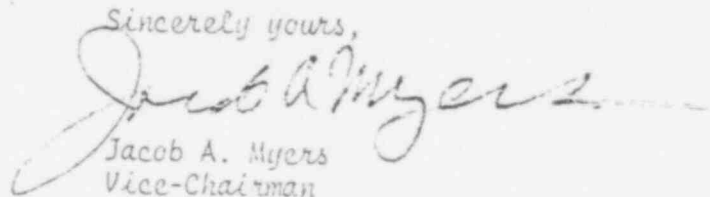
Dear President Creitz:

This morning's editorial in the Harrisburg PATRIOT NEWS states very well my sentiments of the conduct of you and your company throughout the entire crisis.

As a Commissioner who has had the awesome and painful responsibility of trying to insure the health and welfare of the citizens of Cumberland County, the most agonizing aspect of this entire affair has been dealing with the distraught emotions of the citizens. Consistently, Metropolitan Edison's position has been nothing more than to try and preserve its own position insuring, wrongfully and inaccurately, that there was indeed nothing to be fearful of; and, in general a very blatant posture putting your corporate benefits and concern for your company far above your concern for the public welfare.

Simply said, your company's actions make me feel, as a public official, that your presence in this area is no longer desired and you should think about evacuating.

Sincerely yours,

  
Jacob A. Myers  
Vice-Chairman

jd

cc: Mr. Joseph Hendrie, Chairman, NRC ✓  
The Honorable Dick Thornburgh, Governor

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# The Public Bubble

## Imperil Us Again and It Will Burst

THE DANGER at Three Mile Island has apparently subsided, but the name of Harrisburg will continue on as a word whose meaning conveys one of those watershed events that rattles the human perception of itself. No one has died at Harrisburg but a world has been confronted with the terrible potential of its unrelenting rush for a technocratic utopia at the expense of caution, conservation and individual control over our own destinies.

The implications of the accident at Three Mile Island are far-reaching. They involve not just the 100 million other Americans who live in the shadows of nuclear power plant cooling tower plumes but every American, because this incident will have repercussions in every aspect of the energy equation.

We cannot decide for other Americans what they should do about the nuclear plants that loom so ominously over their lives. Indeed, they will have to break new ground to be heard, to influence, because they were never asked if they wanted atomic power plants as neighbors in the first place. The growth of nuclear power was not a public decision; it was primarily a government and industry decision, and the rules of the game were and are devised in their favor.

But for those of us in the vicinity of Three Mile Island the decision is much more personal. We have been lied to about events that were vital to our security and well-being. We have been forced to endure a roller-coaster of emotion and fear. We have had to leave our homes and businesses not knowing when it would be safe to return. The lives of perhaps a million people have been disrupted in one way or another. We have seen the reactor

even before the fear of a meltdown had been reduced, government officials, nuclear industry spokesmen and the utility were talking about putting the plant back in operation after it is repaired and certified as safe. Never mind that it was certified safe before the accident. Never mind that Metropolitan Edison is "thin in technical talent." Never mind that next to no one around here has any confidence that M. Ed. knows how to tell the truth, let alone run a nuclear reactor. And most of all, never mind that the people of this region have just been faced with one of the most traumatic experiences that modern technology has to offer.

WHAT ANGERS us most are those who are so willing to once again risk our lives and property for the sake of company profits and the nuclear option. They would put us in the position of a convicted murderer sitting on death row, praying for a reprieve, a pardon, anything, while the prospect of execution stares him in the face.

Central Pennsylvania doesn't have to put up with that uncertainty and risk. All the rules of the game say otherwise because they are stacked in favor of nuclear power. But when you have been forced to walk across a hot bed of coals, when somebody's rules are putting your life in danger, those rules have relinquished their legitimacy because of their utter lack of morality. New rules are going to have to be written and the people of Pennsylvania are going to have a lot to say about what those rules should be. And for sure those new rules will not put us in jeopardy a second time by reactivating Three Mile Island or the world will see a bubble of pent up public indignation burst across this region as expected by the rules of the

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