



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

MEMO

May 22, 1979

SUBJECT:

TO: Members, Select Committee - TMI

FROM: Representative James L. Wright, Jr. *JLW*  
Chairman

Public Hearings will be held on June 7, 1979 and June 8, 1979  
by the Select Committee - TMI, as follows:

June 7, 1979                      10 A. M.                      Minority Caucus Room

Thomas M. Gerusky, Bureau of Radiological Health, D. E. R.

William P. Dornsife, Nuclear Engineer, Division of Nuclear  
Reactor Review and Environmental Surveillance, D. E. R.

✓ June 8, 1979                      10 A. M.                      Minority Caucus Room

Robert Reid, Mayor of Middletown

Please note that both meetings will be held in the Minority  
Caucus Room.

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE - THREE MILE ISLAND

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Verbatim record of hearing  
held in the Minority Caucus  
Room, Main Capitol Building,  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on  
Friday,

June 8, 1979

10:05 A.M.

HON. JAMES L. WRIGHT, JR., Chairman  
Hon. Bernard F. O'Brien, Vice Chairman  
Hon. Nicholas B. Moehlmann, Vice Chairman  
Hon. Eugene Geesey, Secretary

MEMBERS HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE - THREE MILE ISLAND

Hon. James D. Barber	Hon. Ivan Itkin
Hon. Reid L. Bennett	Hon. Stanford I. Lehr
Hon. Kenneth E. Brandt	Hon. Joseph C. Manmiller
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Hon. William K. Klingaman, Sr.	Hon. Paul J. Yahner

**POOR ORIGINAL**

ALSO PRESENT:

Fred Taylor  
Marshall Rock  
Robert Hollis

Reported by:  
Carol J. Christy

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**POOR ORIGINAL**

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Good morning. We will call the Friday session of the Select Committee on Three Mile Island to order, please.

We are pleased to have with us today Mayor Robert Reid, the Mayor of Middletown; and I'd like to swear you in, if you don't mind, Mayor.

(Mayor Robert Reid was duly sworn.)

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Would you like to briefly relate to us your experiences, in particular in the areas of communications or lack of communications between yourself and the Civil Defense people within the state of Pennsylvania, what kind of problems that it created for you and, if possible, if you have any recommendations for future action on our part.

MAYOR REID: First of all, I can't say a lack of -- well, you could say a lack of communications. There was no communications whatsoever as far as I can see between Metropolitan Edison Company and my borough. I was notified of the accident at 8:45 Wednesday morning, the 28th. I was called from my job by my Civil Defense Director, Mr. Ryan. I was told that there was an on-site accident at TMI and could I come to my office. I went to my office. I asked Butch, I said, Butch, what's going on? And he said, Bob, the only thing I can tell you is that there was an on-site emergency at TMI, and there's nothing else.

**POOR ORIGINAL**



Now the only information I got between quarter of nine and 11:00 is the information I got from television and radio. And this was so confusing and contradictory, there was nothing concrete that you could really sink your teeth into and try to do anything for the community. If we would have known at, say, 4:30, because the accident was supposed to have taken place at 4:00 -- if we would have known at 4:30, we could have at least put something on the radio and, eventually, television warning people to stay indoors.

Now the time that I received the information, I estimate 99 percent of our people were in the streets. The kids were on their way to school, people were on their way to work. If we would have known this at 4:30, we could have at least warned the people and told them to stay indoors so if there was any amount of radiation in those first few hours, at least people would have been sheltered. They would have been in their homes, and there possibly wouldn't have been any radiation picked up by these individuals if there was any radiation picked up by these people.

I tried to get a hold of someone at the Island. I called down there. I eventually did get through and got in touch with the telephone operator, and she couldn't give me any information. She told me to call the home office in Reading. I called Reading, and I was supposed to talk to a Mr. Fabian. He was in a meeting at the time, and he couldn't

get to talk to me. But the secretary there said that she would have him call as soon as he got out of the meeting. Well eventually a Mr. Garin (phonetic) called, and he assured me that no radioactive particles had been released and there were no injuries. This was fine.

I walked out to my car, which took about 20 seconds. I turned on my radio, and the announcer said that radioactive particles had been released. Now that's 20 seconds after the man told me that there --

REPRESENTATIVE MOEHLMANN: What time was this, roughly?

MAYOR REID: I guess I got in contact with Mr. Garin -- I guess this was about 11, quarter after 11. But I was told at that time that there were no radioactive particles released.

So I went back to work. And at 4:00 that same afternoon, Mr. Garin called me again. So I told him, I said, Mr. Garin, are you going to tell me now that radioactive particles did escape into the atmosphere? He said yes. I said, well, I found that out 20 seconds after you told me that there were no particles released. From that point on I knew that the people and the elected officials in this area were going to be in the dark as far as information.

Now I'm not saying that Met Ed was trying to hide anything or anything like that. But that led me to believe that they were hiding something at that time.

And the confusion that you had with the lack of information allowed too many people to use their imagination. Now the average person associates nuclear power with the atomic bomb that was used in World War II, and this is what these people were starting to do. They were starting to use their imaginations. They were thinking of bombs, thinking of little green men walking up 441, anything. And this was due mainly because of the lack of communications. The information that was being given out was contradictory and very confusing.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Did you talk to any CD people at the county level? Did you have any instructions, did you have a plan?

MAYOR REID: Our Civil Defense Director, Local Civil Defense Director, was in constant contact with the Dauphin County Civil Defense Director. But what we did when we couldn't get any information, I did dispatch my radiological team, which consisted of six people, and they went throughout the town 24 hours -- a 24-hour period checking the air to see if we could pick up any radioactive particles. They had to write the time, the place, and the amount of particles that they picked up. And they didn't pick up anything the first day except for two hours. That was at 6:00 in the evening. The wind shifted and blew back across the town, and we did have a low reading on the low side of the Geiger counter.

According to officials that I talked to, this wasn't

damaging. But any time you pick up any radioactive particles, regardless if it's low level or not, it's damaging in the long run. You pick it up over a long period of time. It's something you really don't need in your system.

But during the whole incident, this was the only time that any radioactive particles were picked up in the town.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: That was on Wednesday?

MAYOR REID: Wednesday, the first day.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: You picked up nothing on Friday?

MAYOR REID: Nothing.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Tell us more about your radiological team. I think it's unusual for a community to have one, isn't it? Who are they? Who pays for them?

MAYOR REID: No one pays for them. It was a group of people who are qualified to do this type of operation, and it goes along with our Civil Defense Program.

At one time I think we had something like 80 people involved in this type program. A lot of these people have moved, some of them have died; but we still have some people who are qualified to do this type of work.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: When was this program initiated?

MAYOR REID: Oh, that was long before I can even remember it.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Did it come about during the construction of TMI?



MAYOR REID: No, I think it was before that. I'm not sure.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: But the CD concern probably existed. Did the radiological concern exist before TMI?

MAYOR REID: I'm quite sure it was. Quite sure it was. But that's another thing. I feel that every community within a five-mile radius -- I don't know who would have to purchase these devices. I think it should be left up to the companies since they --

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Well who did in your case?

MAYOR REID: Our Geiger counters, they came through Civil Defense.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Civil Defense?

MAYOR REID: Right. But I think the company, Met Ed, should be responsible for setting up stationary monitoring devices in all communities within a five-mile radius of the plant. And these readings should be made by independent concerns or agencies, not the Met Ed people. I think communities should have people trained, such as ours, to go out and read these monitoring devices and have what they find, the readings, printed in our local papers every week, the same as you do for the pollen count, because people are concerned with what is in the air. I have an understanding that they do have some kind of stationary devices in different areas, but to me there is not enough of them. In fact, I am going to



demand that Met Ed put three in my town, strategic locations.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Can you tell us something about the qualifications of the people who do the readings? There was some concern shown yesterday by DER officials regarding the experience and qualifications.

MAYOR REID: My people attended school for that.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: They did?

MAYOR REID: Right.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Do you know who conducted the school?

MAYOR REID: No. That's all handled by my Civil Defense men.

BY REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN:

Q Mayor, your Civil Defense Director, is he full time?

A He's also our Communications Director, so he's on the job at all times, at least eight hours a day, except for his days off.

Q Has he set up any plan at all -- you said that when this accident happened, no one from the company got a hold of you. But Civil Defense in Harrisburg was notified at 7:00. What I'm trying to find out is the chain of events and what happened in local government.

A According to the offices, Dauphin County Office of Preparedness, there is a disaster plan prepared. And in this plan it shows the steps that has to be carried out. In other

words, I -- from what I read and according to what my Civil Defense man told me, Met Ed must have notified the County Director, the County Director, chain of command, notified the local Civil Defense man.

Q Do you have a copy of that plan, because that's not -- the way we are told here yesterday, and we're told by Colonel Henderson, is that Met Ed immediately notifies Civil Defense in Harrisburg. Civil Defense notifies all governmental agencies plus the county Civil Defense.

A Well that's possibly the way it was, but I'm saying from the county level, and that's as far as I'm going up the line.

Q All right. Let's move back to your area then, Middletown. Your Civil Defense, does he work with the county Civil Defense?

A Yes.

Q Do you have meetings? Do you have any set plans in case of something like that, and why wasn't he notified by the County Civil Defense --

A He was notified at 7:37, I think, by Kevin Malloy.

Q He was notified at seven?

A Right.

Q Why didn't he notify you then as the Mayor?

A He followed the procedures that he had to go through. He had to notify the councilmen. He had to notify

all of his department heads in the borough. He had to notify --

Q But you're the top. You are the Mayor.

A That doesn't matter, as far as I'm concerned. I was notified.

Q Yes, but when -- I'm not defending the company, but you're critical of the company because the company did not notify you. The procedure that we get is that the company has to notify Civil Defense in Harrisburg.

A Right.

Q You're saying that they, in turn, notify the county at 7:00, and at 7:10, or something like that --

A I didn't say that.

Q What time would --

A All I know is that my Civil Defense man was notified at 7:37 according to our communications log.

Q In other words, the records show that your Civil Defense was notified --

A At 7:37.

Q Then what did he do?

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: Gene, go ahead.

REPRESENTATIVE GEESEY: Wednesday morning.

MAYOR REID: Then he went through the process of notifying the department heads of the borough, our fire chief, our chief of police, our council and me.

BY REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN:

Q In other words, everything was put on alert as far as he was concerned according to the record time then?

A Right.

Q Do you feel that Civil Defense and state government worked with you and kept you informed and your Civil Defense Director at all times?

A From the information that they had. And as I said before, the information that the county was getting was nothing.

Q Well, where were you getting the county -- we were told here yesterday by three employees of DER who had a direct line into the plant. Their opinion was that they were getting the right information from the plant. Now I'm not defending the employees of the plant, because I have mixed feelings about information that came out. But the witness did testify yesterday that they felt that they were getting the honest information and the accurate information as far as they knew was given to them. Where were you getting the information from? Were you getting it from Civil Defense?

A From the County Civil Defense through my Civil Defense man. And the only time, the only information that we got was that there was an on-site emergency, and that was it. Now what DER was getting, I don't know; and what the county was getting, I don't know. But what they were giving us was --

Q You don't know what the county was getting?

A No.

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: Mr. Chairman, I think we have to follow up on the county part.

BY REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN:

Q Are you receiving special rates from Met Ed for power?

A No special rate. There was a contract signed between the borough and Metropolitan Edison Company in 1906. There's no special rate.

Q Well, didn't Met Ed at one time try to take it to court to knock it out so that they could get a higher rate?

A Twice.

Q So it's like a special rate?

A It's not a special rate.

Q Is it a low rate?

A It's a low rate.

Q Okay. I just want to get that on the record.

REPRESENTATIVE MOEHLMANN: And it's not a rate that anybody else gets?

BY REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN:

Q It's a lower rate than anybody else gets?

A This contract was signed in 1906, and the contract states that they will sell electricity to the Borough of Middletown for a cent a kilowatt forever until the Borough of



Middletown decides to break that contract.

But you must remember this now. From 1906 until 1972 we didn't try to break the contract. All other municipalities were buying electricity for a half cent a kilowatt; so we were being taken from 1906 to 1972. In 1972 when they had the escalation and the fuel costs increasing and so forth, then they wanted to break the contract. Today the shoe is on the other foot.

Q Well let's keep on that. I want to tell you why I --

A Well, I just wanted to straighten you out about this special rate. There is no special rate.

Q If Three Mile Island is completely shut down by the federal government, who do you think is going to foot the bill then?

A First of all, I want to correct you. I don't think it's going to be shut down, my own opinion.

Q I don't want to put you on the spot, but do you think it should be shut down?

A As far as I'm concerned, there is no need for nuclear power in the state of Pennsylvania. We have enough coal to last us for 200 years, and I think that should be developed. I think it should be developed. I think the money that went into TMI, millions of dollars, if just half of that would have been put into research to clean up coal, the federal government, I feel, should be involved in research to clean up coal. If

they can spend billions of dollars in the space program, they can contribute a certain amount of money to clean up coal to make it clean and safe to be used to generate electricity.

Q Let's you and I get together for about two hours on coal. We won't do it here, but I'll convince you otherwise.

A You can't convince me.

Q What's your feeling about nuclear as a town official? Do you feel that you'd like to see that plant with the rate you're getting and everything else shut down completely by the federal government?

A Would I like to see it shut down?

Q Yes.

A Like I said, my own opinion, it's not going to be shut down, so why should I say shut it down or keep it open.

Q Well, I'm trying to find out if it's shut down by the federal government, in your opinion, who should foot the bill?

A If it's shut down?

Q That means that that special rate that you're getting --

A Then we're going to have to pay the --

Q -- will no longer be there, and it will be at least triple. What do you think that people then back in that area are going to say when they are taking part of Gene's bill that Gene's financing now and you'll have to pay your own rate?

A Well then, we'll have to pay our own rate.

Q You don't think they'll mind it?

A I know they're going to scream, but what can we do.

Q They will scream?

A Well, sure.

Q Do they realize this?

A I think they do, the people I talked to.

Q I want the record straight. In my opinion I don't think we have any other way to go but nuclear. I think in the United States we have 15 percent of our power being supplied by nuclear. And while you're saying the coal can be made clean, I think that nuclear can be made safe.

If Three Mile Island is allowed to continue to operate -- well, you sort of answered this anyway. Do you think that the bills now should be paid by the stockholders, the utility customers or the state -- the interchange system? How do you think that this bill should be --

A The stockholders benefited from the profit that they received from that plant over the years. I think they should be responsible for paying for the damages. Why should we? I didn't go down there or you or anyone else go down there and cause that problem. It was a problem with the plant. Now like I said, the stockholders collect their profits over the years, and right now they have a problem. The stockholders should be held responsible for it.

Q Okay. Then if you feel the stockholders should be

responsible for paying it and the stockholders put in another hundred million dollars to rebuild the plant and get it in line, would you be in favor of then renegotiating that low rate instead of having Gene pay it?

A No, sir. If I have a business and my business burns down, I don't go to the stockholders or the people, my customers, the consumers, and say, hey, look, you're going to have to help me to rebuild my business. That's on me. And I feel the same way as far as Met Ed is concerned. The stockholders have been benefiting over the years. They just had a sorry situation here. Then they should be responsible for that situation.

Q Would you invest in stock in any company that will not pay a dividend?

A Would I invest? That's the chance you take.

Q Do you have any Met Ed stock?

A No, I do not.

REPRESENTATIVE O'ERIE: Okay. No further questions.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Bob Hollis.

BY MR. HOLLIS:

Q I have one question. There was an article in the newspaper, the Patriot, just toward the end of the incident, where it appears you have a little internal problem within the borough, fire chiefs or something, one saying he wasn't informed and lack of -- he wasn't told by the county what was going on. It is my understanding you have two fire companies

and --

A Now he's the overall chief.

Q Okay. Well what was the -- was there --

A His problems --

Q Frankly, did you have internal --

A No. His problems were the same as our problems; in other words, lack of information. He couldn't act in any way whatsoever because he wasn't getting the proper information. Now I couldn't give him any information because I wasn't getting any.

Q Now it's my understanding after -- and I talked to Malloy and the county, that he indicated that he was feeding as much information as he knew to the borough and any other boroughs or cities within his area of responsibility. If he wasn't submitting anything down, it was not because he was holding back, it was because someone else had not informed him.

A Right.

Q But he said that he was dealing with your Civil Defense Director, and I gather his name is Ryan.

A Right.

Q Your fire chief is --

A O'Donnel.

Q And you have another -- you have two fire companies also?

A We have three companies.



Q Three companies. Have you found as a result of this incident, accident or whatever you want, that internally the borough is going to have to rethink their emergency plan? Not only for nuclear disasters but just overall.

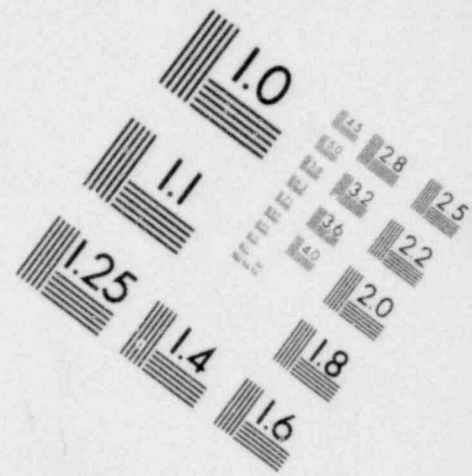
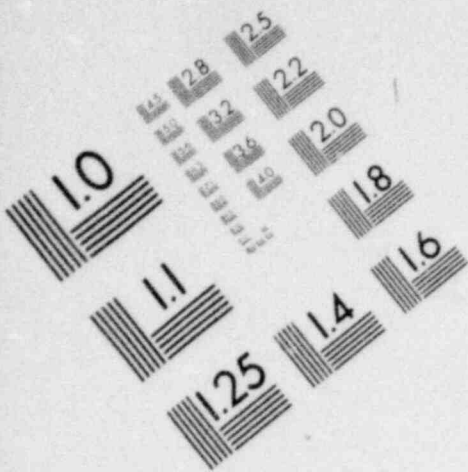
A I really don't think there was internal problems. The internal problem, if we had one, and you said we had one, came from the fact that we did not have the information. I don't care what kind of people you have. If you're not getting the proper information, you're going to -- there's going to be bickering among yourselves. And this is what happened now, if this is what you took from his article.

Q I'm just saying what was in the paper.

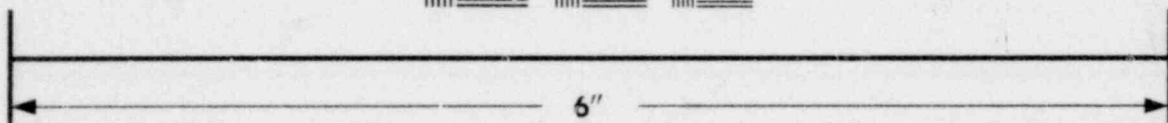
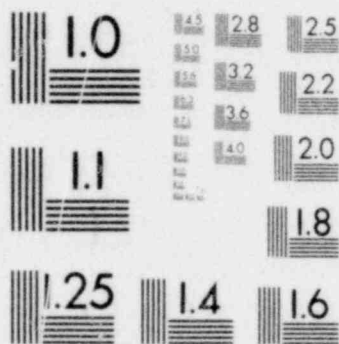
A I didn't take that from the article, because I was with him the whole time and I knew how he felt.

Q Well the news media, as you know --

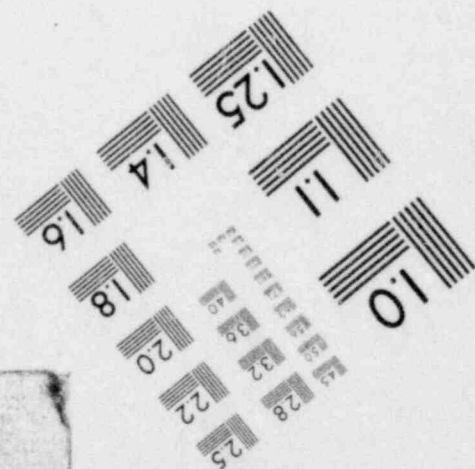
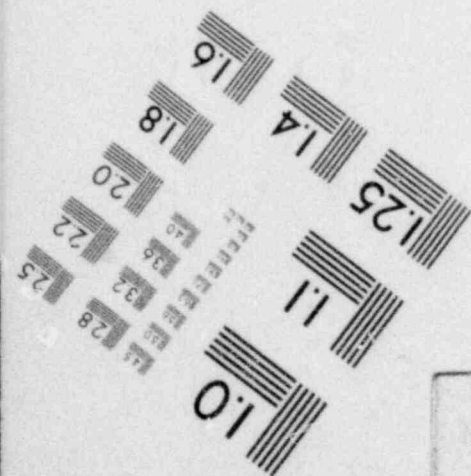
A We have changed -- my first three months in office I felt that we needed a disaster plan. And I sat down and started to write one. In fact, I had meetings with a number of communities, Londonderry Township, Royalton, Steelton Highspire, Lower Swatara and Middletown. And the first two meetings they were well attended, and then the people started not to show up. But I continued to work on a disaster plan, and included in that plan was an evacuation plan, not mainly geared to Three Mile Island. As you know, we have a chemical plant in town. The thing scares me half to death. Penn



**IMAGE EVALUATION  
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



**MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART**



Central lines go right through town. I was afraid of a derailment of the chemical car. The turnpike is right there. Tankers with chemicals use that highway. Route 283 is there and Harrisburg International Airport. So I felt that we needed a disaster plan, and it was just too big of a project for me to do myself.

Now I did have some help with my fire marshall, John Blessing, and my Civil Defense man, Butch Ryan. They felt I was right.

But I never finished it. I had a lot of material collected. I had ideas and things that I wanted to do, and this is the reason why during the entire emergency things weren't too difficult for me because I had something in my head. I knew exactly what I wanted to do. But I didn't get the help, and the plan was not completed. But I can say now that I am getting a lot of volunteers who want to assist me to put this plan together. We had a meeting on the 22nd of May. We had more information and more volunteers and put things together more in that one meeting than we did in all the meetings that we had. In fact, in this week's Journal I put an article in. I wish I would have brought it along with me. But it's for the people of the borough to follow. They are supposed to cut it out and keep it handy in case of an alert or an evacuation. But I explained to them about certain industries in the area that could jeopardize their safety and so forth; then what to

do in case of an alert, stay indoors, turn off fans, air conditioning, what radio station and television station to tune to for information. Then another part of it, in case an evacuation, there's 13 points to pick up points, what to take and this sort of thing. So we're moving along with this plan. I don't think -- I think we are in very good shape at this time. We have means of transportation. We're not giving that information out, because what happened during the incident, we had 100 buses available to us in case of an evacuation. As the Governor moved the area out as far as five miles, we were in good shape. Then when he moved it to ten miles and then other people took some of the buses that we had available to us. Then when it went to 20, we were almost down to nothing as far as buses. But we have buses and we have other means of transportation. In fact, I'm writing a letter to Amtrak to see if we could possibly move some of our people by rail out of the area should there be an evacuation.

Q For the record, sir, could you submit a copy of that article to the Chairman that you said was in the newspaper?

A Yes.

Q And also when you complete your plan, it appears that this is going to be one of the finer local plans. I think for the record we should have a copy of it.

I have one further question. It's been stated and used in the news media that Middletown, as a result of the

accident/incident, that Middletown is turning into a tourist attraction. Have you noticed any --

A We're getting a lot of people from out of the area.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Are they spending any money?

MAYOR REID: They're spending money.

I guess it was three weeks ago -- three weeks ago, it was odd. I was in the business district, and there were five groups of people that I talked to, all from California. And I asked them why did you come here? They said we just wanted to see Three Mile Island. I said, well, there's nothing to see. They said, we know it. They drove down 441, passed the Island, turned around and came back into town, bought some T-shirts, took some pictures. The one man had a big van, one of those big travel buses, and a big sign on the back, we're going to Three Mile Island. I said to myself here are people trying to get out of here, and you're trying to get in.

But there are cars you can see with license plates from Virginia, Texas; and we're quite sure people will be coming. You know, people come to Hershey, and they'll cut their vacation short in Hershey just to come through our town to get to Three Mile Island. And you have to do it that way.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you, Bob.

Representative Foster.

REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.



BY REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER:

Q In the early part of your testimony you referred to the conflicting statement that you received, and one continuing threat I think through the hearing have been that there should be one authoritative source to speak. Would you concur that that should be someone from NRC?

A Well, true, NRC, I think -- I think the federal government really flubbed it up in this whole situation.

Q I realize one thing, we had no one available from NRC for a period of time.

A They should be made available at all times, because they're there to protect the lives and property of the people living within close proximity of that plant. Now if you take any butcher shop of any size in this country, they have an inspector inspecting every carcass that's hung. Yet they didn't have one inspector down there at a plant that had the potential to kill thousands of people. That's unheard of.

Q I think that's one point that we've developed previously, and I wanted your thinking on that.

A If I had to place the blame on anyone for this whole situation, I'd have to place the blame on the federal government to give that plant a license. And according to the newspapers, give that plant a license to go into operation when it wasn't ready to go into operation. So you can't fault Met Ed completely. They would have never started up if they

would not have had a license. The NRC okayed, gave them a license to go on line. According to the papers, they knew it wasn't ready to go on line. So if I had to place the blame on anyone, I'd place it on the federal government.

Q Would your people be willing to pay the increased costs to have an NRC Representative on spot at all times?

A Are you trying to put money against the safety or the lives of the people? If they can pay -- if the federal government can pay \$500,000 to check the sex life of the tsetse fly, they sure can pay out some money to put an inspector down there at that plant.

Q I agree with you. Now one other point or -- you were questioned by Representative O'Brien as to the re-opening of Three Mile Island. I would be a little bit more specific. What would be your opinion on reactivation of unit one?

A Unit one? Like I told the Representative, I don't want to see any nuclear power plants in the State of Pennsylvania, because I feel there's no need for them. This is my feeling.

Q Would that be shared by the residents of your borough?

A I can't speak for all my residents.

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: Are you saying there's no need for nuclear power now in Pennsylvania?

MAYOR REID: Not at this time. Now if they can work

with nuclear power and make it safe, make it safe, then I might have a different opinion. And I'm not saying about Arizona. Arizona may not have the resources that we have. Maybe Arizona needs it. But even there, plants should never be constructed in populated areas.

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: The only thing I want to get straight is 15 percent of the power in Pennsylvania is nuclear power. Where can we get that other power?

MAYOR REID: Develop our coal.

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: It would take ten years to put another power plant on.

BY REPRESENTATIVE POSTER:

Q Your problem is the time lag there. I think all of us want safe nuclear power. Everyone does. For example, you can't convert -- you can't convert these plants to coal firing plants.

A Well what they should have been doing, they should have been researching coal all along when the environmentalists started to scream ten years ago. Then they should have been at that time going into research. Just the byproducts from coal alone benefit man. Even the waste could be used by communities to spread on the streets in the winter months. What do you do with nuclear waste?

Q That's the biggest problem.

A Stored on site. Then you have a problem. Then you

have some nut that could probably get into a place like that and do what with that waste.

Q That is an unanswered problem. The federal government doesn't have the answer yet, and they will admit they don't have the answer. I'll agree with you we should be developing our resources of coal, but it isn't something that you can --

A The thing that gets me is you people who are Representatives of this state have some of the greatest coal deposits in the world. Right now you should be harping to the federal government in getting state funds together to research coal, to use it, develop our coal. We have areas in our coal regions who -- the towns are almost ghost towns, people unemployed. You people, as Representatives, should be working right now to get that coal developed, to put these people back to work, to bring up the economy in the coal regions. And I'm quite sure some of your people represent people from coal regions. And what are you doing as far as developing the coal in your areas?

Q There's been legislation passed in the last session, for example, which would emphasize the use of coal, especially in public buildings and construction.

REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER: That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Representative Itkin?

BY REPRESENTATIVE ITKIN:

Q Mayor Reid, you mentioned that you had your own radiological team in your borough and that that particular team did go out, in fact, on Wednesday, the 28th, to make readings and that you stated to this Committee that there were very low readings ascertained for about two hours late Wednesday afternoon.

A 6:00.

Q And that on Friday you did not have any readings after the release on Friday.

A No. And that was due to the fact that we are in a strange position as far as the prevailing winds are concerned. In other words, the Island is below Middletown, and the winds blew over the town and then over the Island and then south and southeast.

Q Were these teams -- you said they were out for 24 hours?

A Twenty-four-hour periods, right.

Q Were these teams out during --

A From Wednesday on.

Q 'Til about what time?

A I guess we -- Sunday they were out when the President was there. I guess until about Monday.

Q Did they coordinate -- did this team coordinate its efforts with any other monitoring teams in the area? There



were several governmental agencies involved in the monitoring.

A No, we felt we weren't getting the information and we had an obligation to the people of our town, so we worked on our own. They weren't coming to us with anything. We weren't going to them because we didn't know who to go to.

Q Did they keep any records of the readings?

A Yes.

Q Could you make that information available to this Committee?

A I imagine I -- I talked to one man who was the -- I think he has his records. In fact, he's going to write a book, and I'm quite sure he has his records.

Q And the records would show radiation intensity at a given location at a given time?

A In fact, I talked to him Monday or Tuesday, and he showed me his little book where he kept the information.

Q On the basis of testimony that you provided the Committee this morning, it would appear, and I want you to state affirmatively if it's true, that there was little, if any, radiation exposure to the residents of Middletown as far as your own particular monitoring ascertained?

A All right. The thing that you must remember is we do not have the sophisticated type of monitoring devices that DER should have and that Met Ed should have. So the only thing we have are the small Geiger counters.

Q But they do measure, in fact, gross --

A But they don't measure everything.

Q That may be true. But, in essence, they do measure if anything is there. Maybe not to tell you what is there, but that something is there.

A Right.

Q Could you reiterate, if you haven't done so to the Committee, that you discussed evacuation plans with your Civil Defense Director?

A Before the incident or during?

Q During the incident.

A We talked about -- in fact, that Saturday night at 12 midnight we were running off a handbill to be passed out Saturday morning. Now we had our pickup points that we had set up for the people to go to be evacuated. We had our buses gassed up. We had our drivers. We knew where we were going to go. We knew the route. At midnight Saturday we were printing up handbills explaining to the people what they were supposed to do and where they were supposed to go. We handed those out, passed them out door to door Sunday morning. Monday we were still passing things out in case there should be an evacuation. Let the people know what they were supposed to do.

Q You were instructed to take the residents of the borough to some specific --

A Halifax.

Q -- specific site.

A Halifax.

Q The question arises in your responsibility in the evacuation procedure as to how you would then get the residents to the site. What would be the pickup? How would you deal with the pickup of residents?

A I just explained that to you.

Q You passed out handbills. What did the handbills state?

A The handbills stated exactly where people were supposed to go.

Q Some people on their own initiative were --

A Those people who had automobiles, and we were glad that 35 percent of our people had left the borough. So that 35 percent we didn't have to worry about. We had the nursing home that evacuated before that, Frye Village, so those people we didn't have to worry about. Those with their own transportation, we didn't have to worry about them. The people we were concerned with were those people who did not have transportation and the people who were handicapped. They were told to call in to the borough if they were handicapped or bedridden or anything like that. Then we would have procedures to transport these people who couldn't get to the pickup points. And those pickup points were listed on the handbills.

Q So people were basically instructed where they should

proceed under their own initiative if they had transportation. If they didn't have transportation or were incapacitated and they could not provide transportation for themselves, then you had a number for them to call where they could --

A No. Now how these people were to be warned, we have nine sound equipped vehicles. And these people were to go through the neighborhood in these sound trucks. They would have firemen along with them knocking on doors for people who couldn't hear the sound trucks. And these people were told -- in other words, where they should go. Not really told -- all they had to do was look at the handout. If Mr. Jones lives on Grant Street, the nearest pickup point was at Katherine and Market Street maybe a block and a half away if Mr. Jones didn't have transportation. Now if Mr. Jones is bedridden, then we'll have to make other arrangements to get you out of there.

Q Did you communicate your radiological findings to the residents of your community? Were they aware of the fact that you only had very modest --

A No, we did not. In other words, have it published in the papers?

Q I don't necessarily mean published in the papers, but that the community could feel a sense of relief knowing that, in fact, they were not being bombarded by radioactive particles?

A No, I really don't think that should be our responsibility. I think that should be a responsibility of Met Ed and

DER.

Q But they did not have knowledge of your information.

A Well, they should have been in town themselves with devices.

Q But don't you think you have a responsibility to --

A We did our job.

Q I understand that you did it and you received information that told you and perhaps others in the official circle that there did not at that time appear to be any --

A If we would have felt there was any danger, then I think that we would have let the people know.

Q Well the question is do the people have that type of faith in their local officials to feel --

A I think they do.

Q What percentage of the community evacuated?

A Thirty-five percent.

Q Well doesn't that indicate that there was some concern?

A Not concern from their local officials, concern from Met Ed.

Q If you would have said to them we have done these tests, we have done this monitoring and we cannot find any radiation around --

A We did not do that.

Q But if you had, don't you think that people would have



had a greater sense of security in remaining?

A With the devices that we had, I really don't think that we should have done that.

Q But you felt secure that there was not?

A Right.

Q What do you think were the, as major elected official in the community, the immediate psychological effects of the residents in your community? Did they -- it's a general subject of question I recognize, but I think you are probably in the best position to answer. How did they react? Did they panic?

A No, that's one thing that I can say. The people were rather calm, cool and collected. Why, I can imagine there was in the back of their minds a lot of resentment for the company. There was a lot of people upset, afraid; but they didn't show it. They didn't show it.

Q And when did most of the people come back to the community?

A Most of the people -- Wednesday things were kind of lively; but Friday, when the second incident and the bubble was announced, then people really got upset. Most of the people moved out Friday. Being that there was a weekend, the kids would be off school. Most of the people moved Friday afternoon. And they came back Monday morning. A lot of the people returned. Most of them were just the fathers, because they had to come back and go to work. A lot of the people left

their wives and children in other areas.

Q As a local official, in view of this incident, have you personally learned something as far as what you or others in your community should be doing in the event of --

A Sure. I think we all have, to be prepared, which I felt we were not.

Q And what plans are you developing in terms of --

A Our disaster plan at this time with the evacuation plan.

REPRESENTATIVE ITKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Representative Cole.

BY REPRESENTATIVE COLE:

Q Mayor, what was your relationship with Met Ed prior to the accident? Were they in contact with you from a public relations standpoint as one of the community heads of the major community in the area?

A That was one of the things that I found fault with with my own local government. I don't think the elected officials in many of the communities of the area took enough interest in Met Ed and Three Mile Island. The company came to town. They held hearings. I didn't attend, and I can place some of the blame on myself; because when they had the public hearings before they even turned a shovel of dirt, I didn't attend any of the meetings. And when they were under construction, I didn't attend any of the public hearings that

they were having. So I place a lot of the blame on myself. I should have been involved.

Q You say it's a lack of communication between the local communities in that area --

A The main thing is everyone was assured by the federal government and by Met Ed that this plant was safe and there would never be an accident.

Q Do you classify Three Mile Island as a major industry to Middletown?

A No doubt it helps. But I imagine we have only about 100 people from Middletown working at the plant. I'm quite sure they come in and buy products from our businesses, but really being something that's adding a lot of money to the economy, I'd say no.

Q How about indirectly to the economy of Middletown?

A The only thing that I can really point out that Middletown benefits, and that's from the service that we are getting. But they were a good neighbor. I can imagine they still are. But we have never had problems or anything of that nature, just this incident.

Q You stated that you weren't -- you seemed to be a little upset of the fact that you were not notified by Met Ed officials concerning the accident and that your Civil Defense Director was notified at 7:37 on the morning of the accident, Wednesday. When were you notified, and by whom?

A I was notified about quarter of nine.

Q That morning?

A Around 8:45 by my Civil Defense Director.

Q Civil Defense Director. Do you feel that the relationship -- I know you're unhappy with Met Ed now.

A No, I'm not really -- wouldn't say I'm unhappy. I said disappointed.

Q Would you want to use a stronger word than that?

A Well, no. Disappointed, very disappointed.

Q You feel that the plant is going to re-open?

A I know it's going to re-open. The federal government, they feel as though this is the power of the future. Now nuclear power has a black eye from this accident, but I'm quite sure it's going to open because Uncle Sam wants it open. They feel this is the power of the future. They say to me, well, suppose Met Ed goes bankrupt, what's going to happen then? And this is my belief, and I always tell them do you ever hear of Boeing? Did you ever hear of Lockheed? Did you ever hear of Penn Central? All these big companies went bankrupt. They're still there. Why? Because Uncle Sam pumped millions of dollars into those companies to keep them open. They want them to go bankrupt. And that same thing I feel is going to happen to Met Ed.

Q Do you feel, and you seem determined in your observation, that it is going to re-open. Don't you feel that

out of every bad situation such as Three Mile Island that a lot of good also comes out of something that happens bad? Don't you feel that if it's re-opened, which you say it's going to be, that it will probably be the safest plant in the United States?

A In the world.

Q Because of the accident and that the NRC is going to make doubly sure that it's a safe plant?

A Right.

Q Would you personally feel if it's re-opened that that will happen?

A I think it's going to be the safest in the world. Like I said, if I'd have to live near any nuclear power plant, that's the one I'd like to live close by.

Q Then you'll feel safe?

A I'll never feel safe, because it's man-made; and anything that man puts his fingers on, there's always the possibility of --

Q I know that you're very pro-coal, and you know the problems involved in that.

A As far as pollutants and --

Q Pollutants and the number of people that are killed.

A I mentioned here that money should --

Q People have been killed.

A People have been killed in mines. This is their job.



The job that they're doing is not possibly going to cause deaths of thousands of people.

Q Then there's no easy answer to our energy problem?

A No, none.

REPRESENTATIVE COLE: Thank you, Mayor.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Representative Geesey.

REPRESENTATIVE GEESEY: I would, for the benefit of the Committee, like to put some things in proper perspective. The Mayor indicated that his CD Director was given a call from the county CD Director at 7:30 Wednesday morning. Yesterday we had Messrs. Gerusky and Dornsythe tell us that the initial call to the state for a warning was for York County because the prevailing winds at the time of the accident were going west into York County and not east into Dauphin County. We have the officials at Goldsboro Wednesday night from the communities directly across from TMI tell us that they were not advised by the county CD Director of a problem until Friday morning.

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: Are you saying that the wind was blowing not toward Middletown but --

REPRESENTATIVE GEESEY: When it initially occurred, the wind was going west into York County. Gerusky and Dornsythe told us that the initial call for a warning for possible trouble and possible evacuation was for York County. And that was at approximately 7:00 Wednesday morning.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Let me butt in at this point. Excuse me. I understand the plan. Correct me now, Bob. I understand the plan or the state's plan requires the first call to be in the county in which the plan is located.

MR. HOLLIS: And the state simultaneously.

REPRESENTATIVE GEESEY: That may very well be the case. But they testified that the warning, because of the winds, should go to York County. Now I have no quarrel with Dauphin County being advised. No problem. They certainly should be. But the point is that York County officials in the face of the prevailing wind and right across from TMI testified Wednesday night that they were not warned until Friday morning by the county CD Director. And all I want you to do, as members of the Committee, is to understand exactly what's happening here.

And we talk about a breakdown in communications, and there certainly was a breakdown in communications.

And another thing I'd like to throw out that I was mentally observing yesterday was in spite of all of the information to the contrary that we have had on the failure of the NRC to carry out regulatory role, particularly as a result of the federal hearings we've had a lot of testimony to that effect, that we had Mr. Dornsythe sit here and say that he had absolutely no problem with the plant. He had no problem with the NRC's role; and he, in fact, helped to design

the plant. And I just got the impression that maybe what we're looking at is one great big cozy club, and that just bothers the hell out of me.

End of comment.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Any questions for the Mayor?

REPRESENTATIVE GEESEY: No.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Representative Brandt.

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRANDT:

Q Basically I think my attitude about Met Ed and the community and so forth is basically like yours, being in the same area.

I'd just like to ask one further observation from you. You stated your personal concern and ideas about nuclear energy. Now could you tell for the benefit of the Committee the issue about the Crawford station and possibly what concerns you had about the Crawford station and through its closing?

A Well, I had --

Q Can you tell what the Crawford station is?

A The Crawford station is a fossil fuel station. In other words, they burn coal. This plant is two blocks away from my house. And I got some of the dust and the dirt. It didn't bother me. If it got on my car, I washed my car. When my wife hung up clothes and it got on, then we just washed the clothes. But we did have environmentalists, some of the people in the town, who wanted to close it because of the dirt.

They closed it -- and it's odd. Some of these people now are screaming and hollering to close Met Ed, the Three Mile Island plant, some of these very same people.

Now I don't know as far as Crawford station whether it will ever be put back on line. I doubt it at this time. But it was an old fossil plant where it burned coal, and many of the people in town, some of the same people were hollering, like I said, about TMI now, hollered to close the Crawford station down. So you don't know where to go.

Q Would you agree that DER made a bigger issue about the Crawford station than it did about Three Mile Island?

A Yes, it did. I think the Crawford station had to pay a fine every day it was in operation when it didn't have the proper filters on the stacks. They were there all the time. They were being sued -- I think they had to pay \$10,000 a day.

Q A big figure every day.

A DER was there every day complaining. Yet did DER do its job down there? I don't know.

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: Just a minute. Do you feel that to live in that area and breathe that dust and dirt, that that's not going to hurt your health? Children --

MAYOR REID: We have some people that lived to ripe old ages in that town with the stacks there.

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: But you get cancer, you get

miner's asthma, and everything else. I've lived in the area, and that's what I'm getting at. It's not a healthy --

MAYOR REID: What I'm saying is DER -- when DER jumped on Met Ed about the Crawford station, they should have gone right into research.

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: I want to communicate with you. I'll get a hold of you later.

REPRESENTATIVE BRANDT: That's it.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Representative Lehr.

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEHR:

Q Mayor, you made a statement a while ago that we Representatives should do something about the development of coal. Well I can remember two or three years ago the Mines and Energy Management Committee met at the Hershey Convention Center with the heads of utilities and the PUC members. We encouraged utilities at that time for the development of the gasification of coal. Now they told us that after they would invest hundreds of millions of dollars for this investment to have the gasification of coal, that they were fearful that the market and the oil market would drop. So they would be holding the bag because of the hundreds of millions of dollars invested, and they'd be stuck with the high cost of gasification of coal. I think that is why that has not happened in the past, but I think that they had poor planning and poor foresight. I think,



as our Committee, the Mines and Energy Committee, now that people are trying to encourage utilities to do this. But had they done it then, they could have saved a lot of money. So I think we did our part three -- I think that was about three years ago, wasn't it, Bernie?

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: Three years ago.

REPRESENTATIVE LEHR: So we did try.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Is that it, Bud?

Representative Schmitt. Come up front.

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHMITT:

Q Mayor, you appear to be very knowledgeable about the whole situation, and we appreciate the help you're giving us. I'd like to ask you a few questions, and perhaps you can guide us in the right direction. We've spent a good deal of time at these hearings on the chronology of the events. I think we are pretty familiar with what happened there, and I think we are tightening up on our safety regulations. But what about the garbage that's lying around the atmosphere that's due to land almost any day now, and every time a satellite goes off, it puts some additional garbage in the atmosphere which has to come back to earth, and it's got to hit somebody. It may be my home or your home, or it may be Shippingsport or it may be Three Mile Island. But something's got to be done about the garbage in the air. What about a plane with the

bolt that shears off like the DC-10, and it lands on the cooling tower? What about the Japanese kamikaze who drives down into one of those towers. I can go on and on and on with illustrations, but I'm sure you recognize the fact that we are pretty well protected now that we know what to do, protected on earth. What the devil do we do with the atmosphere? To me it's a very serious problem, and I don't think too many people think about that something is likely or possible to happen in that vein.

A I thought about that.

Q What I think we ought to do is pour concrete over the whole damn thing and start all over again without the nucleus -- the bomb.

What were you going to say?

A I thought about the particles, the sky lab, and I -- when they talked about that a few weeks ago, I said I'll bet it will be our bad luck just to have that thing fall on Three Mile Island.

REPRESENTATIVE GEESEY: That's not so darn funny, is it?

MAYOR REID: No, it isn't funny, because it could be very serious.

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHMITT:

Q Maybe down in Texas they can build a dome over the whole thing, I don't know. But it seems to me that we can't

defend ourselves from the air. I think that this augments and supports the people's position that they don't want these nuclear plants in their neighborhood.

A Well, this shouldn't be in any populated area.

Q But this thing that we are talking about here, there isn't any way to control it. It's liable to land on the White House.

A I can't answer your question.

Q No, seriously, it's something we have to think about. I'm talking to the Committee now. We've got to think about this as part of our report. And what are we going to report, that there's stuff lying around in the air that might fall on us?

A That's true. I thought about that. But what can you do? Can you put up a big net or what?

Q That's true.

A According to the way the plant was built that a 727 could crash into the reactor building and nothing would happen.

Q They say that?

A As far as an airplane.

Q They say that, but they also said this accident couldn't happen. But it happened.

A That's true. It's something we should think about. What do you do?

Q Well, if you come up with any ideas, I'm sure we'll

appreciate having them. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Representative Cohen.

BY REPRESENTATIVE COHEN:

Q Mayor Reid, you said you believed that the Three Mile Island plant is now going to be the safest in the country. Do you think it's going to be safe?

A Do I think it's going to be safe?

Q Yes.

A To a certain extent. It's the same thing with an automobile. They ride good, you enjoy it, and then eventually something happens. It's man-made. Same thing at any nuclear plant.

Q If we took a referendum about Middletown about whether that plant should be closed down or not, how do you think the people of Middletown would feel?

A An awful lot of them would like to see it closed, but then there are some that could care less.

Q Are you aware of approximately how many jobs the Three Mile Island plant has?

A I estimated maybe 100 people from Middletown.

Q Out of what total?

A Eleven thousand population.

Q When the plant at TMI was built and those 11,000 jobs were filled --

A Eleven thousand residents.

Q How many jobs are there at the TMI plant?

A I couldn't tell you. I don't know how many people work there. An awful lot.

Q Under normal circumstances before this incident, do you have any idea of approximately how many jobs or what percentage were filled in the metropolitan area or were --

A By Middletown people?

Q No, by people outside -- I mean to what degree did the plant coming produce jobs for Pennsylvanians and to what degree did it produce jobs?

A It gave a lot of people -- we're talking about a large area. It gave a lot of people jobs and also brought in people from out of state.

Q Okay. To what degree were you in contact with the Governor's Office before or after the incident at Middletown?

A I have the Governor's number; and any time I needed any information, I called his office.

Q So you're satisfied with the cooperation you received from the Governor's Office?

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A Any time I needed anything, if I had a problem I called his office.

REPRESENTATIVE COHEN: Thanks very much.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Did you have another question,



Representative Foster?

REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER: Just more of a comment than a question. I recently attended an inter-governmental inter-municipality conference. And the point of discussion was a new EPA regulation on air pollution. And they are going to be very tough on coal fired plants. So we don't have any easy solution to the energy problem today. And as far as whether it's a coal fired plant, oil fired, any type of utility, it seems like everyone wants it built somewhere else, some area where the inhabitants all have to live somewhere else.

MAYOR REID: Well, let them take TMI. They'll take coal.

REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER: I'm sure anybody that lives in your area would mostly agree with that. But there are no easy solutions to it.

MAYOR REID: No.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: That's it^

REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Representative Klingaman.

BY REPRESENTATIVE KLINGAMAN:

Q Mayor, I think number one is a comment on coal, and number two I just want to get into the disaster plan a little bit. Part of my representative district is in the anthracite area and, of course, we are all 100 percent in favor of the

economic advantages that might accrue from a resurrection of the anthracite industry. As I say, we are 100 percent in favor of that. Of course, in my home town the only plan that the state has starts right under my basement for the production of anthracite. That's from Schuylkill County west. And there I'm sure we could find as many people who are as -- who lack the enthusiasm for the big hole and the blasting and the 100-ton trucks rumbling down the street perhaps as you lack enthusiasm for Three Mile Island next door. So it isn't a problem that's easily solved. We have to find a clean way to produce at it as well as to find a clean way to burn it. When we get to that, then we'll swap you for your nuclear plant.

The other comment is I, and this Committee, am more concerned about the disaster plan and the evacuation as I am about the technological aspects of what happened at Three Mile Island, because I don't understand it and probably never will. I'm not an engineer. I guess it was Representative Bennett yesterday who disclaimed knowledge. I guess I am more knowledgeable than he inasmuch as I can spell it, and I'm not sure he can.

When it gets to the disaster plan, Mr. Reid, I'm worried about a time lag between the actual moment of the occurrence and the time that you can get a disaster plan into effect. For example, I assume that it would not have done the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to have an evacuation plan.

POOR ORIGINAL

For example, I have a railroad going through my town, and I'm worried about the derailment of tank cars. What do you do in a case like that? There I assume you have a little time, don't you, to effect an evacuation?

A Right.

Q What would have happened in Middletown if there had been the type of disaster that we feared? You wouldn't have had time to evacuate the community anyway, would you?

A No, I doubt it very seriously if there would have been a complete meltdown.

Q So we're not sure that we have a 100 percent --

A But it wasn't a meltdown, and we still weren't prepared. Now any work that they would have done, and I was hoping that any work that they would have done -- say, for example, open the containment building. Look, we're going to open it at 3:00 tomorrow afternoon. That's 2:00 the day before. You have almost 24 hours to get your people out of town with this sort of thing. The evacuation plan would have been marvelous. Next week I'm going to New York to their meeting, the City Council of New York invited me up. And three days, the last day, the 13th, is on evacuation of New York City. Can you imagine that? Three bridges and two tunnels to move 8 million people.

Q Then time here. I don't think --

A You just have to teach everyone to learn how to swim

POOR ORIGINAL

a bng way. That's the only thing you can do.

Q In other words, we are just about prepared minimally even on that degree.

A I think this area would be in very, very good shape. Once we get all the communities to set up their evacuation plan and make sure --

Q And coordinate it.

A -- and make sure we don't run over one another getting out.

Q And everybody is going to Mom in the west while somebody's going to Mom in the east, and nobody gets out. It has to be coordinated. We can't have a Middletown plan and a Goldsboro plan and a Harrisburg plan.

A And according to the county Civil Defense, this is the way they have it set up. We have a certain route to follow.

Q And it should be arranged on a state level?

A Yes, it should.

Q And that's the area which we should travel.

A In fact, people ask me about evacuation. I think once the program, everything is settled down, I think maybe we should go through with an evacuation plan, maybe a five mile area, have it underwritten by the federal government. Then sit down and look at the strong points and the weak points. After everything is set down so that we don't have strokes and heart attacks and accidents and this sort of thing, because I

could imagine all these things taking place should there have been an evacuation. The number of people dying from heart attacks and strokes, accidents on the highway. Maybe after everything is settled down, we could go through it, send the people to the areas where they're supposed to go. After two hours or three hours in that area, the people who are supposed to accept these people, they go through their operations and things they're supposed to do, put the people back on the buses and trucks and trains and send them back home.

Q You're suggesting a sort of fire drill?

A Oh, yes. That's after everything has settled down.

REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER: In one of my communities we had such a mock disaster drill about six weeks ago. And a goodly number of my friends wound up theoretically dead.

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: Do you think that it's workable then? It would be good, because this is one of the things that the General Accounting Office and one of their societies of nuclear power specifically said that never occurred because the utilities and the NRC never wanted to interject there might be a problem with nuclear power. So therefore, they never actually had an evacuation plan and where they actually moved people. And I think it's appropriate that they try to do this. And you say you think they should also.

MAYOR REID: Sure.

REPRESENTATIVE GEESEY: Well, I might interject at

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this point that when the various committees traveled the state in '76 examining the problems that we had as a result of the snow, the cold, the lack of heating oil and those kinds of things, one of our recommendations was that we indeed do have this kind of practice evacuation. At least from the upper echelon, so everyone knows what they're doing. And that's one recommendation that was never carried out and, obviously, should have been. But that's been stressed time and time again.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Are you finished?

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: I just have one other question. There was some statement as to the economic effects of this incident/accident. Has there been any noticeable movements in or out of the Middletown borough -- I'm talking about --

MAYOR REID: Real estate?

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: Real estate. Any decentralization or --

MAYOR REID: I talked to our real estate people, one in particular. I feel he's the biggest in the borough. And he assures me that more people are buying. That's what I get from him. People are buying. There are some homes for sale. Then you see an awful lot of sold signs. Now I don't know. This is what I'm getting from him. Are you getting something else?

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: Contradictory to what the initial reaction the people thought the economic effects of this would have on the area.

MAYOR REID: We had, as far as our businesses are concerned, certain businesses were effected. During the incident, the height of the incident, businesses were effected. But I talked to businesses since, and they said it's greater now than it was before the 28th. So I don't know. Now that's just certain kinds of businesses. Maybe they're not telling me the truth. I don't know.

REPRESENTATIVE O'BRIEN: I think they'd be honest with you, because --

MAYOR REID: I like to do this. I like to check every once in a while to find out exactly what's going on as far as property and business.

BY CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:

Q There were some reports that there was a run on the banks and the banks ran out of money. Can you confirm or add anything to that?

A I also talked to one local bank manager. A lot of people were getting money out of the bank to travel, not to take all their savings and run out of town. But if you had a family of four and you wanted to get them out of the area, it was going to take 4, \$500 to go for a couple of days. And

this is what people were doing. They were taking money out to move to different areas.

Q Did the banks run out of money?

A I couldn't tell you. In fact, one banker said they did have to call in for special money or extra money. But, like I said, these were people who had to have money to travel.

Q Did he have to close his doors while he waited for additional cash?

A No, I never saw any banks closed.

Q Did the borough incur any bills, and have you been compensated?

A No.

Q And will you be compensated?

A No. We are hoping that the federal government comes through. Our police department budget is shot. I wanted a new car for next year and new uniforms, but I -- the overtime was -- I guess we must have paid about 5, \$6,000 in overtime alone just for a few days.

Q Middletown's located how close to the plant?

A Three miles.

Q Any provision under this Price Anderson Act or --

A The insurance?

Q The insurance that Met Ed people are counting on the area of paying out money --

A Well, the only thing they're going through now maybe

are class action suits, but I don't know.

Q Is the borough involved in any class action suits?

A No, none that I know of at this time.

Q Any other problems in your area that we have not discussed today that you think might add to our knowledge?

A Psychological problems such as I talked to one doctor and he feels as though a lot of the young people have been effected. These are six to ten or six to twelve, younger people have been effected. He says he can see this. The people who visit his office, some of the younger children and a lot of the mothers, especially the pregnant women.

REPRESENTATIVE MOEHLMANN: Did he give you any idea about what he meant by effected?

MAYOR REID: Regression. Kids he knew came to his office who were six years of age and acted like six year old youngsters had a tendency to try to hold to Mom, not letting her get too far away, this sort of thing.

BY CHAIRMAN WRIGHT:

Q Are you a schoolteacher?

A Yes.

Q And you teach in Middletown?

A Yes.

Q How about in your own classroom? What's your experiences there?

A Well, I teach in the high school, and the guys are

more interested in the cars, and the girls in the guys. So they're not -- maybe some of the boys will be 20 years from now. There was some concern.

As Mayor, one of the social studies classes -- I think we had four classes that had to write letters to their State Senator or their Representative or Congressman or the President. Evidently, you guys don't qualify too highly, because very few of them wrote to their State Representative. Most, 95 percent of them, wrote to me. But I would say 90 percent of the letters mentioned something about Three Mile Island. And I would say half of that number asked to close it down.

Q Did any of them ask to have it stay open?

A No, I didn't get one mentioning anything about keeping it open.

Q Now tell me about the communications between you, Civil Defense and the school district.

A I have an understanding that they have their own emergency disaster plan. From what I saw of it, I'm not too happy with it. I think there should be something more to it.

Q What school district is this?

A Middletown. In fact, I talked with my principal and told him I want to sit down and talk with him. He sent up something a little more concrete than what I saw in the policy book.



We have a problem also the Borough of Royalton across the creek from Middletown is generally included in everything we do. Now in an evacuation situation, they -- I think their area is Scranton, and we are Halifax. But what happens during the day with school children, because their children come to our school. The same with North Swatara. They go somewhere else, but their children are in our system. So if an evacuation would be called, we'll say, at 2:00, there's going to be mass confusion. So in this article that I put in the paper, I tried to impress upon parents not to come to school to pick up your children. They will be re-united with you at a later date and that they would be under constant supervision by an adult. Now what I'm saying is that these children will all go to the area that Middletown is supposed to go to. And then we'll get buses, take them from there to the areas that they are supposed to go to.

BY MR. TAYLOR:

Q Mr. Chairman, I'd like to get some clarification on a statement he made. Are they from students, you said?

A Not my students.

Q Students --

A I teach ninth graders, and these were eleventh and twelfth graders.

Q From Middletown School?

A Right.

Q That wrote you?

A For a class project.

Q On any subject, but you said 50 percent of them mentioned Three Mile Island in their letters?

A More than that.

Q How was your mail from outside the area, out of this area? Did you receive a lot of mail and comments about Three Mile Island?

A Quite a few every day.

Q What would you say some of those general comments were?

A Most of them are against nuclear power.

Q Thank you.

A But a lot of them asked about shooting the looters and so forth.

Q Where to buy T-shirts --

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: How many did you shoot?

MAYOR REID: We didn't have to shoot any, because we didn't have any robberies or attempted robberies. Maybe it was due to the fact that I mentioned shooting the looters.

I had one lady from Maine that said I went against due process of law so far as making that statement, but I'd like to say that it's about time someone looked out for the due process of victims instead of the -- this I couldn't see people leaving the town and afraid and then having to return

to nothing where someone who won't work and will go in and take everything that you have and you have to start over, businesses going into bankruptcy. I just couldn't see that, because you have people who sit back and wait for situations like that and will come in with U-Haul's, trailers and carry away the town, and I didn't want anything to happen in this town, my town.

I wanted these people to come back and find everything that they left intact. We didn't have a burglary or an attempted burglary. I think we had a curfew that was set for 9:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. At 8:30 you would find people -- well, the streets almost bare. So it might have had a psychological effect on some people, but it worked. So the lady -- I said I'm sorry. You're 500 miles away in a small town in Maine. You don't have a nuclear plant near you, and you can leave your front door open, your back door open, walk away and never have to worry about anything. But I said I had a different situation. So due process, somebody has to start looking out for the due process of victims instead of the people who are too darn lazy to go to work. They want to drive off someone else, parasites.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Mr. Klingaman.

REPRESENTATIVE KLINGAMAN: One explanation just occurred to me with respect to the restraint on the part of the looters. Maybe they thought the stuff was all contaminated.

MAYOR REID: Maybe they were afraid to come in.

No, you have people who -- in fact, I had a man who said he was a member of the House of Representatives in Maryland, and he thought that -- well, he felt that if he would have had enough nerve to say that back when they had the looting in Baltimore when they had the heavy snows, maybe this wouldn't have happened. So he said you must be a special type of person to be able to say something like that in public. He said he didn't have enough nerve to say it. Maybe I should have.

BY MR. TAYLOR:

Q Without putting you on any kind of spot, do you have any observations -- I don't know whether you know it not, but Middletown had worldwide coverage. Did you have any observations as to the conduct of the media, the news media, during the whole situation? Do you think that they contributed to a calm response on the part of the citizenry, or do you think they might have exaggerated the seriousness of it as you thought --

A The local people I thought did a marvelous job. The local people did a marvelous job. There were some people, press, who were rather pushy. It was something that really took Middletown by surprise. They have one local paper that puts a paper out once a week, and then all of a sudden you have three, four, 400,000 people from the press and television coming in and -- people just didn't understand it, the borough.

Some of them were pushy. Like I said, hey, these people have a job to do. If they don't get the news, someone else is going to take their place. They have a job. But if I had to rate the press on a scale of one to ten, ten being high, I'd have to give them an eight.

Q Is that overall?

A Right. The thing most of the time where you got the people where they sensationalized the whole darn thing where people who didn't come to town and had to write from a guess. In other words, they had to take it out of their heads. San Francisco, for example, didn't send anyone. Well, that was news all over the country, so they wrote what they thought was going on. But then you had some people who were here who also did a pretty poor job.

Q I know headlines in my area, and I live 75 miles away, were scary. I had one son who was packed up and ready to leave 75 miles away.

A The further away you got, the more --

Q The more serious.

A I had a call Saturday morning from Australia. A man called me and said I understand central Pennsylvania has been wiped out. I said who are you talking to? He said the Mayor of Middletown. I said didn't you call my home? I said I'm three miles from the plant. He said oh, that's right. So the further away you got, the worse the stories were.



CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Marshall Rock.

BY MR. ROCK:

Q Mayor Reid, the Chairman asked you a while ago the evacuation of schools, and you said you were going to sit down with the Superintendent. Did their evacuation plan come from the Secretary of Education, do you know?

A I don't know where it came from. It's in our policy book, and I'm not sure where it came from. I don't like what I see. According to the notice that I have in the paper that these children will be evacuated the other night to the area we are supposed to go to.

Q At our public hearing at Balmbridge, the Mayor of Elizabethtown said that their school superintendent got his direction from the Secretary of Education, which seems strange, rather than from Colonel Henderson.

One other thing. We had a little discussion here before the meeting. Could you give the Committee your observations on parents coming in and taking the young pupils out of school and some of them not?

A It caused a problem. To me this was one of the biggest psychological effects we had on any of the kids, because parents came to school, and they were -- they had a right to be afraid for their kids and even for themselves. And they came to school, and many of them were a little hyper

hollering and screaming come on Johnny and taking the kids out of classes. They had a right to do it. It was their child. But this had a problem. It had a psychological effect on the other kids. For example, Johnny's mother comes for him and she's screaming and she's afraid and dragging him out the door. Then here's little Billy sitting there. His mother can't get to school, so what's going to happen? I'm going to die. Where's my mommy? She didn't come for me. This sort of thing. And this had a psychological effect on kids, and it -- they still think it. I know they do. My boy's twelve, and he asked me, Dad, do you think I'm going to die from radiation?

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: What did you tell him?

MAYOR REID: I said no, I don't think so. That's all I could tell him.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: We have a guest with us today who is not a member of the Committee, but Representative John Davies has a class in his district, and John might like to make a comment or ask a question. Would you introduce your class?

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIES: The class is from the West Wyomissing Grade School. They are here for the day, so we thought we'd get them in. Of all the Committee meetings, this was their choice. They wanted to get in to see this. They're here for the day studying government. They were privileged to get in to hear part of your hearing, and I certainly

appreciate your allowing them to get in.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Did you want to ask a question?

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIES: I have a question for the Mayor, yes. They're on their way to the rest of their obligations, but I want to ask you two questions.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Ask him.

BY REPRESENTATIVE DAVIES:

Q Mayor, you said about the business of your son's concern. Should there be a health monitoring program that starts right now with, let's say, specific age groups for the entire five or ten mile area as an ongoing thing with some kind of setup by experts where they would have a testing program to check the health of the individuals?

A The only thing they've done so far is a whole body count, and that's where they lay you down -- they look like a casting couch -- and they run this thing over you. We had 700 people who went through this, maybe even more. And I think they found higher radioactive findings. But there is a program now that's going to start, I think, the 18th through the Health Department and the HEW are coming in and taking a census, people involved who were in the area, this sort of thing. I think there is a program being developed now.

Q One other thing. Should there be some kind of credit card that goes for those people in the five and ten mile area

that instead of their having to stop for any bank or anything else, that if you say go that they can have an extension of, let's say, five or \$1,000 to their credit that would be recognized in any of the areas that they're going to as part of legislation; or has somebody already addressed themselves to that?

A I haven't heard -- that sounds good, but --

Q I mean established on a regular line of credit, but something that they're not going to have that concern, that if they go to Chester County, they're going to have a line of credit for maybe a limited amount of money in an emergency.

A That's true. But how do these people pay it back? How do they pay it back?

Q How do they pay it back? I don't know. But I --

A Unless you feel that --

Q I think rather than having them stop and have anything jam up, any type of program, that it would be better to have something of that nature than --

A I think you are -- you have a lot of people in that area who are not rich. This sort of thing is good if you're in an affluent area. But I don't think it's going to work in that area. It sounds good, but I really don't think we --

Q I think we even have to look at it based on possibly need and --

A Yes.

Q One other thing I want to state for the record. Every time I have seen you on television or some other place, you've certainly been both a credit to your position and to your community. I want the record to show that, because I think --

(At this point the audience applauded.)

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Representative Geesey.

BY REPRESENTATIVE GEESEY:

Q Just a quick hypothetical question. What do you think or where do you think we would have been had this thing occurred in the middle of winter with eight inches of snow on the ground?

A I hate to think of it. Oh, I hate to think of it.

Q Are you saying it would have been impossible?

A The carryout of program, I think it would have been.

Q I agree.

A That means total shutdown according to the grid system that they use -- really, I don't know if this is true, but I was told that this area uses very little electricity produced by that plant, that most of it is shipped out of state to Delaware, Virginia. So with the grid system, I'm quite sure they could have put electricity into this area.

Q Electricity, but could we have got everyone out?

A Evacuation, then you'd have a problem.



CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I can add something to your information about the electricity. We were down at -- my Committee was down at PJM. PJM is the power pool for most of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C. and parts of Virginia. And they basically operate as a company. You have a master dispatcher at Valley Forge in an underground system. They knew exactly when TMI went off the line. And at the point it went off the line, it had about a five percent effect upon the power needs of the whole pool at that particular time in the morning. They said at most it was an effect in the frequency at 60 cycle for about two seconds before they cut in what they call -- I think they call spinning reserves.

REPRESENTATIVE GEESEY: That's pretty quick pickup.

But from the standpoint of an evacuation had this occurred in the winter with snow on the ground, as a guy in Goldsboro pointed out the other night, and as we mentioned on other occasions, it just wouldn't have happened.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Two points I was making there. Number one, they were aware of the fact that the accident -- why the accident. But they were able to compensate for it almost immediately. I think on the other side of the coin, even at 4:00 in the morning it had a five percent effect on the power needs of what, three or four or five state area.

Mayor, it's been a pleasure having you with us. We

thank you. We thank you for the opportunity of meeting with you. We've seen you on television. It's been a pleasure. Thanks very much.

(The hearing terminated at 11:45 A.M.)

I hereby certify that the proceedings taken by me before the House Select Committee - Three Mile Island are fully and accurately indicated in my notes and that this is a true and correct transcript of same.

*Carol J. Christy*

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Carol J. Christy, Reporter