

J.W.J.

Energy independence: A nuclear choice?

By J.W. JOHNSON

through another semi-winteraverage annual snowfall here 35-43 inches; snowfall this winter less toward solar then is unlikely (even inherent with nuclear power use. than 18 inches—we would be wise unacceptable) in a society such as to consider energy and our future. Summer will come, and quickly rgotten will be the need to keep warm which lurks at the end of styles. each summer. This memory lapse is particularly true of the longrange and large-scale energy the short decades left in this cen-

Our participation in the Gulf War said that we value the continued flow of oil as being in our national interest. But the inescapable energy facts are these:

* fossil fuel supplies are dwin-

we are being politically and Imancially blackmailed to obtain the supplies which remain.

• the obvious renewable fossil source (trees) is too inefficient and too environmentally damaging to be used on a large scale.

Inefficiency on a large scale also holds true for wind, tidal and geothermal alternatives. The choice then comes down to solar or nuclear power. (Coal has not been distribution and potential environmental damage.

And wouldn't it be nice to wake up tomorrow to discover that solar itself. power was available to every citin cheaply and without much

A local solar expert candidly energy will never be an inexpensive solution. And what he didn't tell the civic group before which he design, the design itself), technicussion about the cost/benefit of

cally efficient solar energy on a nuclear power. large scale will necessarily mean a While we have now passed drastic change in lifestyles from revealed was the sorry state of individual prerogative to forced collective living. A placid move ours which is characterized by independent minds and spirits which eschew independent living

Society is then faced with the nuclear choice. Often the nuclear question is clouded by fear of its choices this country must make in awesome power. The same fear was present when electricity (or any other technology) first came on the scene.

> Ultimately, however, the argument against nuclear power boils down to two issues: operating safety of the power plants and disposal of the nuclear waste byproducts produced by those plants.

Ironically, the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island served to illustrate another point. After the headlines and hysteria had cleared, it turned out that the accident wasn't as severe as we have been led to believe by a news hungry media. There was no danger of a hydrogen bubble explosion, and on the whole, the plant performed within reasonable safety expectations.

No one died. And the after effects have not forgotten: it is lost somewhere in spelled tragedy. Persons who've the inefficiency of reclamation, complained of so-called 'nuclear anxiety' from living close to the plant would do well to read fewer headlines and study the question

In large measure, the media, particularly television, magnified the TMI accident to the point where one would have expected to find acknowledges, however, that solar mutant horrors and a hole in the earth all the way to China the following day.

And even after the hundreds-ofspoke was that because of the cost, times worse accident at Chernobyl, and in the case of passive solar there remains some room for dis-

nuclear plant personal preparedness, not necessarily the problems

these entrusted with such awesome power and potential for disaster is given a backseat to designing the plant to be foolproof? Is it because we all know that humans will make errors? Besides, machines don't make errors; people do, either in deisgn or operation of the machine; and particularly true if that person is poorly trained for

Following the TMI accident, I spoke to Dr. Edward Teller, a prominent nuclear physicist, and a man sometimes called the father of the atomic bomb.

said that had the pilot who brought him from California to Harrisburg (where we spoke) received a commensurate level of training as a TMI plant operator, then he would have walked from California.

nuclear waste has been overmagnified. The waste from one year's operation of a 1000 megawatt nuclear power plant would easily fit under a card table. The ashes alone from a 1000 megawatt coalfired plant would fill 40,000 trucks.

so do state legislatures who refuse driver on the highways, a far more likely way for you to die than from nuclear waste.

In other words, the nuclear tively attractive.

What both nuclear accidents

And why is it that the training of

And Teller was serious when he

And perhaps the question of

res...nuclear waste has the potential for harming humans. But to deal with the problems of drunk

question is relative. And with fossil fuels disappearing and other alternatives either too expensive, inefficient, or both for large-scale use, acceptance of the nuclear alternative would very well become rela-

Irem summer class to honor Elmer P. Chase

The 1992 Summer Ceremonial Summer Ceremonial will be held with the Irem Oriental Band since Shrine class of Irem Temple will be named the Elmer P. Chase, Jr., class in honor of the long-time Irem Oriental Band director. Announcement of the distinction was made by Irem Temple Potentate, Fred J. Dietrich, Sr. The 1992

at Irem Temple Country Club, Dallas on Saturday, June 13.

of Moscow and is retired from ons at the Ottawa Oriental Band Wayne Crushed Stone, Inc., Scranton, where he served as Secretary-Treasurer. He has been associated

Under his leadership, the band Noble Elmer Chase is a resident was judged international champi-Jamboree. He and his wife, the former Madeline Sprandel, have





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Back Mountain Dance recital



Mallory Carey and Amanda Reese performing 'Dance the blues

Dozens of students of the Back Mountain Dance Studio performed their spring recital last weekend at the Lake-Lehman High School auditorium. Hundreds of family members and friends watched and applauded performances by dancers of all ages.



Shanna Baker wowed 'em

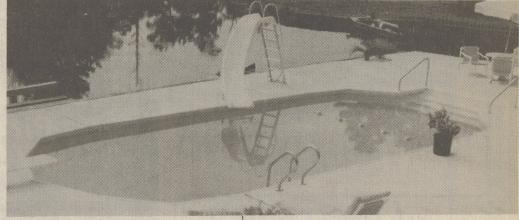


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