

Nuclear police. . .

JON STEWART



ATOMIC energy critics have frequently theorized that a nuclear energy-based economy could lead to a nuclear police state. Authorities could violate civil rights and engage in acts of repression under the guise of protecting society against "nuclear terrorism," just as "national security" is already invoked to justify a variety of repressive activities against critics of government policy.

Now there is evidence that this potential is more than theoretical. In a study begun in the summer of 1976, the People & Energy Project of the Washington-based Center for Science in the Public Interest has documented more than half a dozen cases of surveillance and/or harassment of citizen anti-nuclear groups.

And in addition to FBI, CIA, state and local law enforcement activities, the study has found evidence of a coordinated program of surveillance of citizen groups by the nation's major utilities and the nuclear power industry.

The People & Energy study uncovered, for instance, that the Texas Department of Public Safety acknowledged in August of 1974 having compiled a dossier on commercial airline pilot Robert Pomeroy. Pomeroy was the head of the Citizens Association for Sound Energy (CASE), a group that had organized opposition to a proposed power plant near Dallas.

Pomeroy's dossier included a report which quoted an unnamed source as believing that "subject is using CASE as a front group — possibly for a Ralph Nader action." Upon disclosure of the dossier's existence, the Department apologized to Pomeroy and subsequently destroyed the file. However the police agency has refused to say how many other persons or organizations opposed to nuclear power it has investigated and whether it continues to maintain their files.

Later that same year, local newspapers revealed that the Baltimore Police Department's spy unit had been compiling secret dossiers on, and had "watched, photographed and sometimes infiltrated a wide variety of citizen organizations." Targets included black elected officials and clergymen, and others the police considered political dissidents — including community groups that had been protesting electricity rate increases and fighting the nuclear power plant at Calvert Cliffs, Maryland.

The department's spy unit is the intelligence gathering section of the Inspectional Services Division, which works directly with the FBI, and the Army Counter-Intelligence Corp. At least some of the police unit's top members have also undergone CIA training.

In January, 1975, Virginia state delegate L. Ray Ashworth introduced a measure in the state's legislature at the request of the Virginia Electric & Power Company (VEPCO). The bill proposed to permit VEPCO to establish its own police force with the power to arrest people anywhere in the state and obtain the same access to confidential citizen records accorded to state and local police. All VEPCO would have to do, if the bill had passed, would be to obtain the approval of any city or county judge — a relatively easy matter.

The bill would also have exempted VEPCO's police unit from the proposed

private police regulations that had just been drafted by the state's crime commission. When asked the purpose of the bill, VEPCO security chief William Parker reported that such authority was needed to meet the Atomic Energy Commission's nuclear security protection standards.

At about the same time, a Washington DC-based citizen group, Organizing Committee for a Fifth Estate Counter-Spy Campaign, issued a short but disconcerting report. The study warned that the Atomic Industrial Forum, a nuclear industry association, had undertaken a program, in conjunction with the consulting firm of Charles Yulish Associates, to provide local utility companies with background information and regular progress reports on individuals and persons known to oppose the construction and operation of nuclear power plants.

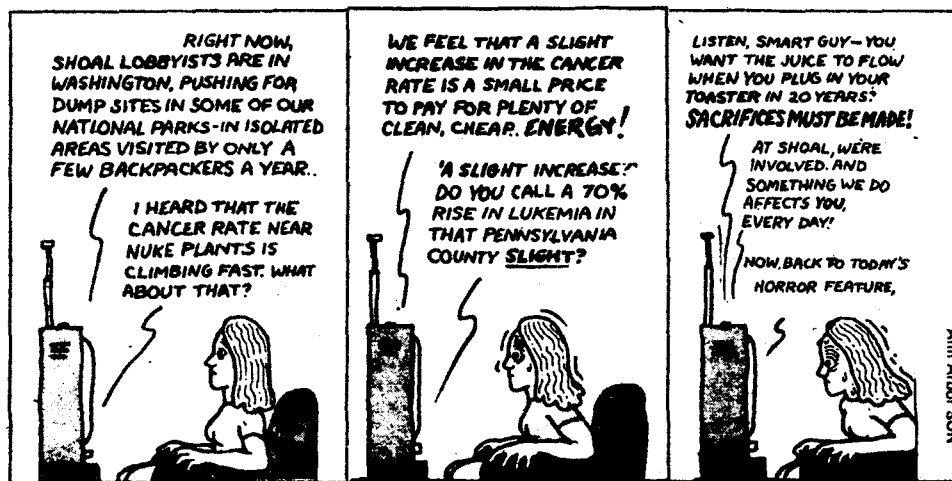
Target groups included the Sierra Club, Environmental Action, the Environmental Policy Center, Union of Concerned Scientists, Friends of the Earth, Another Mother for Peace, and Ralph Nader.

On the basis of memos reportedly leaked to the group, the Committee also charged that "it is obvious that dossiers are being kept and maintained not only at the national level but at the local level as well."

As an example, it cited the Washington area Potomac Electric Power Company as a utility that had built a file on environmental activists labeled its "anti" file. Maintained since 1972, the file contains names, letters to the editor, and articles mentioning any stripe of environmentalist.

(LNS)

Drawing at top from Bugle-American



. . .and nuclear fashions

THE renewed civil defense controversy has produced its first commercial spin-off: a personal, head-to-toe anti-contamination suit designed to get you through nuclear war or an atomic power plant meltdown.

The product, called NucleClean, is manufactured by Radiation Protection Corp., set up last August by Marlin Ebert, 37, a former nuclear engineer who fears nuclear holocaust but loves nuclear power.

From his Livermore, California, office Ebert and an assistant assemble and distribute at \$16.50 kit that includes baggy coveralls, boot covers, gloves, a particle respirator and special decontamination sponges, towels and detergents.

"It's a really super garment," says Ebert, "and with the respirator it will keep you in good shape."

The suit, which he designed himself, is made of DuPont Tyfex, a material with smaller pores than conventional clothing to protect against particulate fallout.

Actually, Ebert concedes that his NucleClean outfit wouldn't offer much protection from the thermal or direct radiation effects of a nuclear blast. It's in-

tended only to protect against secondary fallout from a nuclear explosion or atomic power plant accident.

"Those radioactive clouds that came over the U.S. after the recent Chinese nuclear tests are just a small sample of the threat the world faces," he says.

To critics who say the venture smacks of the fall-out-shelter mania of the 1950s, Ebert counters that nuclear hazards are far more real today.

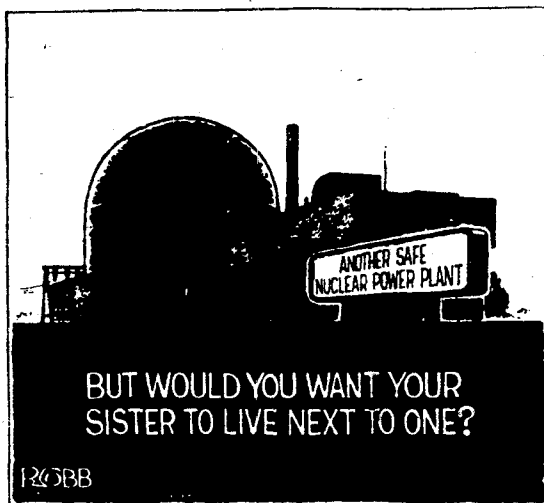
"I think the major danger," he says, "is that somewhere on this globe a couple of countries with nuclear bombs are going to start throwing them at each other and that stuff can spread across the globe. Well, heck's bells, you magnify that possibility by a couple orders and all of a sudden what you have is a real threat."

Ebert, who admits to being influenced by the John Birch Society, says he's particularly concerned about Israel's nuclear intentions.

He believes that a few simple precautions, including wearing his suit, could save millions of lives in a nuclear war, which he believes is inevitable.

(Editor's note: This article is based on research done by Bruce Edwards, and appeared in the September, 1976 issue of People & Energy in a longer version.)

"What people don't realize," he says, "is that they can handle fallout...and in fact, within a couple of weeks it's gone away."



Ebert claims that the U.S.S.R. has an extensive civil defense program (a contention disputed by some American experts)

and that all Soviet soldiers "spend three weeks of basic training learning to protect themselves from radiation."

Now he's trying to persuade the Pentagon that U.S. soldiers should be similarly prepared, not only with training, but with NucleClean kits. He claims the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency has already expressed interest in suits for civilians.

Ebert is also trying to sell Pacific Gas and Electric, a major nuclear utility, on a plan to stockpile thousands of NucleClean kits at sites downwind of nuclear reactors.

His consumer marketing so far has been aimed mostly at "the conservative types who buy emergency food supplies," he says.

Ebert worries about nuclear holocaust are matched in intensity only by his support for nuclear power. He says the idea for the company came to him last summer when he was working hard to defeat California's Nuclear Safeguards Initiative, an anti-nuclear ballot measure sponsored by what Ebert refers to as "wild-eyed rascals."

"Everywhere you looked," he says, "you saw abject fear whenever nuclear power was discussed. People don't understand it, so they're afraid of it."

Ebert does understand it, at least technically. He has a 15-year background of research and development in the nuclear divisions of General Electric and Atlantic Richfield.

But if Ebert is convinced that nuclear power is safe, he's equally certain that proliferation of nuclear weapons and America's military reliance on nuclear deterrence is not. He believes that America's weak conventional military posture makes nuclear war the only real alternative in a major conflict.

Those convictions, he says, led him to put his life savings on the line in order to set up Radiation Protection Corp.

Since he opened sales have been slow. But Ebert is boning up on the dimensions of Soviet civil defense, which he hopes will convince Americans that a NucleClean suit is an indispensable addition to the wardrobe.

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the other government

FOLLOWING their poor showing in the November elections, the self-proclaimed leftest U.S. Labor Party has launched an intensive drive to recruit support from the traditional American "right wing."

Since the election, U.S. Labor Party members have approached the Young Americans for Freedom; The American Conservative Union; The National Conservative Political Action Committee; the Conservative Caucus, The Young Republican National Federation; The Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress; and other similar groups.

The U.S. Labor Party and its affiliate, the National Caucus of Labor Committees, has long claimed to be a leftist, Marxist group. However, many of its critics contend that the organization is, in fact, financed by right wing groups whose real intention is to destroy leftist political organizations.

Morton Blackwell, the assistant publisher of the conservative newsletter known as The Right Report, says that U.S. Labor Party representatives have been making numerous contacts with conservative Republican groups in recent months, including the systematic telephoning of Young Republican state chairpersons in states around the country.

Blackwell adds, however, that despite the US Labor Party's apparent efforts to align itself with the conservative GOP against the new Jimmy Carter administration, its overtures are being "rebuffed" by virtually all Republican Groups.

WAS the attack on Pearl Harbor, which launched the US into World War Two, really a surprise attack?

According to the former governor of Hawaii, John Burns, the answer is no.

Governor Burns reportedly told The Honolulu Advertiser that he had been contacted by an F.B.I. agent, Robert Shivers, one week before the Japanese attack and was told: "We are going to be attacked before the week is out." Burns, who was then a police captain in charge of an espionage unit, recalled that Shivers "had tears in his eyes" as he passed along the information.

Burns also reports that the Saturday night before the attack, there was a sudden change in the military position at Pearl Harbor from an attack to a sabotage alert.

Burns, according to The Advertiser, explained that all of the U.S. warships were moved to the middle of Pearl Harbor, and every plane was moved to the middle of the landing strips.

The former governor is quoted as saying that when Pearl Harbor was attacked, none of the aircraft were near shelter and, consequently, were destroyed.

The Advertiser says the Burns interview was taped last year shortly before the former governor died.

THE BALTIMORE SUN has published a lengthy article suggesting that Lee Harvey Oswald may have been covertly connected to the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Sun points out that Oswald, during his stint with the Marine Corps in the late 1950s, received extensive radar training at the Atsugi Air Base in Japan — a major CIA training base.

During this period at Atsugi, Oswald not only maintained a military security clearance, but also learned to speak fluent Russian.

The Sun adds that Oswald was subsequently transferred to Taiwan where he was contacted by the Office of Naval Intelligence. Some of the records relating to his Taiwan assignment remain censored, the newspaper says.

In the fall of 1959, Oswald obtained a "hardship discharge" from the Marines, and turned up a short time later in England. According to The Sun, he flew from England to Helsinki, Finland, on a day on which there were no commercial flights scheduled. The Sun suggests he may have been flown by US military aircraft.

Oswald then "defected" to the Soviet Union for nearly three years, vowing at the time to give the Soviets every bit of secret US military radar information he possessed. However, after he returned to the US in 1962, there is no record of the US government taking any action at all against him for his alleged effort to surrender US secrets.

FORMER CIA agent Philip Agee claims that support is mounting in England against the British government's efforts to expel him from Great Britain.

The British government has announced that Agee would be expelled, probably back to the United States, for reasons of "security." The British Home Office, however, refused to give any details for the unusual deportation order.

Agee alleges the US government is behind the expulsion move; he claims US officials want to block his latest book, which he describes as an expose of current CIA activities in the Western hemisphere.

Agee is accusing the US government of using a pending \$1.75 billion loan, requested by England from the International Monetary Fund, as leverage to bring about his expulsion.

A defense fund to fight his deportation, along with that of American journalist Mark Hosenball, has been set up in London. The Agee defense fund address is "The Hosenball Defense Fund" c/o National Council for Civil Liberties; 186 Kings Cross Road; London, England.

THE US Defense Department has reportedly been studying the possibility of using human-made earthquakes as powerful weapons of war.

Counterspy magazine quotes the Pentagon's advanced research projects agency as admitting that scientists have been assigned to explore the feasibility of seismological warfare triggered by underground nuclear devices.

(ZNS)

