

Excerpts From 'Nuclear Power: Issues and Choices'

The following are excerpts from Nuclear Power: Issues and Choices, the report of the Ford Foundation's Nuclear Energy Policy Study Group, just issued in book form by the Ballinger Publishing Company.

"Plenty of Energy . . . At Much Higher Cost"

The debate over the future of nuclear power has become increasingly dominated by dedicated advocates and opponents of this source of energy...Imminent decisions with far-reaching domestic and international consequences must be made on the following issues: (1) the reprocessing and recycle of plutonium, (2) the breeder reactor program, (3) the management of nuclear wastes, (4) the expansion of uranium enrichment capacity, and (5) the export of nuclear technology and materials...

To put nuclear power in some perspective, it must be recognized that the world is not running out of energy...Further in the future, solar energy, probably fusion energy, and possibly geothermal energy can provide essentially unlimited sources of power. If these options are successfully pursued, the world can have plenty of energy in the future, although probably at costs significantly higher than those of 1976. Thus, the long-range energy problem is one of higher costs rather than one of absolute limitations on energy availability.

Over a reasonable period of time, the impact of increased energy costs on the world's economy in general, and the U.S. economy is particular, will not be as great as is often assumed...Economic growth can be sustained even with large increases in the price of energy. In any case, higher future energy costs, which are probably inevitable, are largely independent of the rate at which nuclear power is developed and deployed over the next 25 years...

"Substituting Human Energy for Energy"

The principal justification for nuclear power is that it can make an important contribution to the U.S. and world economy...

Specifically, our analysis indicates that the (social and economic) costs of delaying nuclear power would not be significant in this century...Plutonium recycle can be delayed indefinitely, at essentially no economic cost. Breeders can be postponed several decades into the next century at costs that are small...

For the long run, we can say with confidence that there is no direct relationship between energy cost and the number of jobs. It may be that unemployment will remain a serious problem in the future, as the composition of the labor force, personal attitudes toward work, and the availability of socially provided goods and services change. But gradual increases in real energy costs need not make the employment problem more difficult...If it becomes increasingly difficult to get safe, usable energy there will be work, producing what energy

we do produce, substituting human energy and other factors for energy, and continuing to deal with the other scarcities of life. Given time, jobs can be redefined, equipment can be redesigned, and habits can adjust to

What Is The MITRE Corporation ?

In his foreward to *Nuclear Power: Issues and Choices*, Ford Foundation president McGeorge Bundy praised the MITRE Corporation, the think tank administering this Ford Foundation-funded project, as "open-minded," "fair," and "objective." The Corporation's history and activities argue otherwise.

Created 18 years ago as a specialist in artificial intelligence projects for the U.S. Air Force, the MITRE Corporation is one of many private, research and development think tanks which interface with government-military-intelligence agencies. Their semi-official status and their links into almost every government intelligence agency gives them a unique capability for specialized operations.

MITRE is a haven for "former" officers from Military Intelligence, the CIA, NSA, FBI, and so on. MITRE's Boards of Directors and Trustees assemble individuals recruited from higher level intelligence posts, such as James R. Killian, who served on the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and Dr. Gordon MacDonald, the vice president of the Institute for Defense Analysis.

Although 80 percent of MITRE's work is done for the Pentagon, it is also an active advocate of deindustrialization and deschooling schemes, and has played a primary role in the creation and marketing of "nuclear terrorist" scenarios. For example, in May of 1976 MITRE's David Rosenbaum, billed as an "expert on terrorism," toured the U.S., Western Europe, and the Mideast to meet with police, military, and NATO officials on the danger of nuclear terrorism as a form of "surrogate warfare" emanating from the USSR.

MITRE played a major role in preparing the Energy Research and Development Administration's initial report, "Creating Energy Choices for the Future," has been influential in pushing that agency toward a zero-growth perspective favoring regressive energy projects, including oil-from-shale technology, propounding "energy conservation" and the creation of a national coal reserve, and advocating solar energy as a solution to the energy crisis.