

# Industry Coalition, Unions Condemn Sunday

"The U.S. is on the verge of becoming a second-rate nation — a country which just two decades ago was the most advanced industrial nation in the world, with the highest overall standard of living and the mostly highly skilled workforce in history . . . Our nation was founded by the visionaries who knew well the importance of growth and who forged the Republic which for decades was the standard bearer of humanistic notions . . ."

## ENERGY

With these words, the Chief Energy Planning Engineer for the State of Colorado, Bill Sommerville, opened an April 26 press conference called by the Colorado Science and Industry Coalition which he chairs. The press briefing's purpose was to condemn an "environmentalist demonstration scheduled for April 29 at the Rocky Flats nuclear plant in Colorado, a demonstration organized as part of more general "Sun Day" festivities and terrorist acts planned for May 3.

Somerville described "Sun Day" spokesmen against nuclear power as persons who "take positions unsupported by facts." He referred to James Schlesinger's support for inefficient solar power as Energy Secretary, but said "there is hope that the current Administration is groping for a new policy. This fact is reflected in the ascension of Robert Strauss (Special Trade Negotiator for President Carter) and the descent of Blumenthal (Treasury) and Schlesinger. Do you want to stop the attacks on the dollar? Start developing nuclear technology, and start exporting it," Somerville declared.

Somerville was followed by Jim Kelley, President of United Steelworkers Local 8031, Rocky Flats. Kelley read a prepared statement which said in part:

The United Steelworkers of America, while always in support of the right to free expression of views, also feels the obligation to respond when those expressions by others appear to have a detrimental effect on the nation.

The upcoming demonstration at Rocky Flats has as its aim the closing of the Rocky Flats operation which would be a serious, if not fatal blow to the defense capabilities of the United States and the Free World. . . We cannot jeopardize our security and the freedoms we cherish so dearly by such a decision. . . While the Catholic Arch-bishop of Denver is a very fine person who

has done many good things it is my opinion that his decision to support the demonstration to close Rocky Flats is a mistake, and I would call upon him to reconsider his decision, and to urge instead an appeal by Pope Paul for all world leaders to mutually agree to the cessation of the world's arms race . . .

. . . On a related issue, we must continue to pursue the use of nuclear energy as a very viable source of energy if we are indeed to become a self-sustaining nation in the energy field. Nuclear energy can be safely developed and utilized — and this must be done because coal, solar, oil, wind, and the rest cannot fully continue to meet our future needs.

*Mr. Kelley distributed a news release from the Denver area Labor Federation (Central Labor Council) which reads:*

The Denver Area Labor Federation has adopted a resolution condemning the intent of this weekend's announced demonstration at the Rocky Flats nuclear plant. While the resolution addresses the problems of nuclear proliferation, it strongly opposes any unilateral weakening of the nation's defense.

Delegates discussing the proposal spoke of the potential loss of 4,000 jobs which result in an annual payroll in excess of \$44 million and an additional loss to the Denver area of \$90 million in goods and services. The Federation is the Denver metropolitan arm of the AFL-CIO and is comprised of 85 local unions having approximately 50,000 members throughout Denver and Jefferson Counties.

The following is the text of that resolution:

WHEREAS Rocky Flats is an extremely vital link in the defense capabilities of the United States;

WHEREAS these groups in the above demonstrations would have the U.S. disarm itself unilaterally;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Denver area Labor Federation condemn the intent behind the April 29-30, 1978 demonstrations and give their support for the mission of Rocky Flats until such a time as all nations of the world reach an agreement . . .

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this federation shall continue its support of nuclear energy as a necessary source of energy in this nation along with solar coal gas and oil, and those others which may be safely developed.