

Our Deadly Secret: Viruses and Nerve Gas

Why this dangerous secret isn't told to the public — by McCarthy

Last February, Rep. Richard D. McCarthy's wife Gail asked him to look into a television documentary report that our military research centers have long been developing and stockpiling horror weapons of chemical and biological warfare. McCarthy, an upstate New Yorker serving his third term in Congress, asked some pointed questions around Washington that brought to light the fact that we have a germ weapon capable of wiping out 28 billion people (about nine times the population of the earth), and that this interesting virus is only one of 100 like it which we are developing. In addition, we are now trying to get rid of a substance of 1,100 railroad cars full of poison gas — while production and testing of many more are in the process of going on.

Congressman McCarthy is urging public discussion of that policy, and improving safety standards for open-air testing and for developing and shipping of deadly CBW agents within the United States.

TW: Congressmen, when you talk about CBW agents, are you talking about biological agents, chemical agents, and nuclear agents? McCarthy: I'm not talking about biological agents. People have been working on chemical agents for some time. Biological agents have been used in the past, and there is a possibility that they will be used in the future. Within the limits of national security, it is the right of citizens to know what is being done.

both are the same, and I'm co-sponsoring a bill to Kennedy that had other causes of rail accidents. But even under ideal conditions, trains moving no faster than 35 miles an hour would still have to pass freight and passenger trains traveling at higher speeds, with the risk of collision and derailment constantly present. No man can predict the outcome of such an accident involving some of our most spectacular nerve agents. A mere gust of one nerve gas we have could destroy all life within a mile.

TW: Why are you making a distinction to keep all that gas? McCarthy: I would be hard to blame them. In Denver it would be hard to blame them. Their city has grown so large it now practically surrounds the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Recall a huge depot of nerve gas produced almost in the heart of town. If the Army tried dumping that liquid in mile-deep wells, just the drilling of a few hundred wells would require the last few years of the life of a generation.

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undebatable economically, but injurious to health. We have antidotes for the nerve gases, but CWI Defense has not stockpiled them — again, in part, for reasons of cost.

Here at home, while we have developed an inexpensive but effective mask to shield civilians from both chemical and biological agents, we have undertaken no large-scale production, because Pentagon authorities feel a CBW attack is unlikely. But CWI resistance could be entirely likely.

TW: What kind of money are we spending on CBW weapons? McCarthy: The best figures so far indicate upwards of \$350,000,000 a year — more than we spend on all forms of cancer research. But we also have another figure of some \$490,000,000 a year for just Fort Detrick in Maryland, one of a dozen CBW research and development centers. The real total, then, and if we have what it is, should be something a trillion dollars.

TW: How much of that money is being spent on research? McCarthy: I don't know for certain, but we know that we are spending a billion dollars a year on the development of chemical agents. The only way we can keep that sort of money from being spent on the development of biological agents is by having a very strict control of CBW agents. Within the limits of national security, it is the right of citizens to know what is being done.