

8/15/79

Dear George,

Excuse the haste but I'm about to leave for a medical appointment.

Thanks for sending me your paper.

I wish you well with it.

Quotes fine.

Hope your regular job is interesting.. It is the best way to start with reporting.

Many use our local papers for their beginnings. Some move on to larger papers and some like it here and stay here because it is a good place to live.

Same thing with radio news. A young woman who started on a local station has been with the NBC station in Washington for several years.

Best wishes,

Aug. 8, 1979

Dear Harold,

Enclosed are two copies of
my interview with you on
pages 6 and 7.

I hope my transcription
was accurate and my apolo-
gies for the typos.

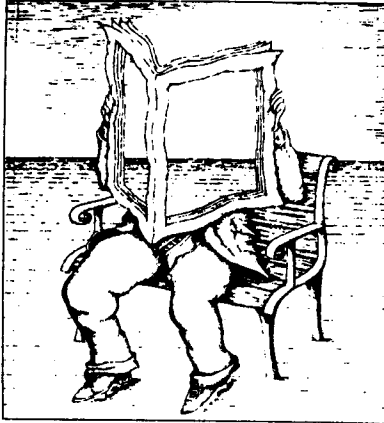
Thanks again

1505 College Ave
S.P. 54457

Sincerely,
George Leopold

free fire zone

the war has come home



"The setting up of a new, invisible and all powerful government in this country within the last twenty years, in open violation of fundamental and statutory law, could not have been accomplished under the steady fire of a free and independent press." Sen. Robert LaFollette Sr. "Fooling the People as a Fine Art," LaFollette's Magazine, April 1918.

"It is the business of newspapers to make money." Roy Thomson, founder of Thomson Newspapers, Inc.

By Mike Victor

This is the first issue of the ad rem, a paper that we bill as "an alternative community voice." A better explanation for the existence of our new paper requires a short history lesson.

At the beginning of the century, the American "press" was developing into a powerful institution. It was not only consolidating itself into what would become the "groups" or "chains" of today, but it was also becoming a business and consequently bound by the kind of corporate policies characteristic of business enterprises whose sole aim is profit.

There were some notable exceptions, such as LaFollette's Magazine and today called The Progressive. The Magazine was a haven for muckrakers and social critics including: Lincoln Stephens, Carl Sandburg, William Jennings Bryan, Upton Sinclair and Jack London. They were critical of the corporate trusts and the growth of monopolies; the United States entry into World War I and the attendant profiteering; and a government that was insensitive to the needs of the people while it served the interests of Big Business.

The philosophy behind the magazine was that the corruption and class structure would end only when the people were informed. The magazine's banner read; "ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set ye free." The idealism of Stephens, Sinclair and LaFollette forced them to go beyond presenting "both sides" of an issue and seeking the truth.

In contrast, there was the "legitimate press" of Scripps-Howard, Gannet, Pulitzer, Thomson, and Hearst. Their mastheads invariably included an American flag and a sales pitch like, "all the news that's fit to print."

In New York, Hearst and Pulitzer were engaged in a circulation war and with the likelihood of a war starting in Cuba they saw their chance to increase their readership and advertisement revenue. They did their best to inflame public opinion and called for military intervention by the U.S. against the Spanish. Hearst sent Frederic Remington to paint gory combat scenes from the upcoming war. When Remington telegraphed back saying that he wanted to come home because there was no war, Hearst replied: "Please remain. You will furnish pictures. I will furnish the war." When the Maine blew up in Havana Harbor Hearst and Pulitzer declared war before President McKinley and Congress had a chance to make it official. Circulation, ad revenue, and, of course, profits went way up. More importantly, the newspaper chains being formed became more influential -- "yellow journalism" was born, and critical journalism was lost to the vested interests of the money-making newspapers.

So the trusts are still here. They are now called multi-national corporations. The war profiteering is still here, too. The pentagon and the military-industrial complex are receiving ever increasing sums despite the fact that we are not even fighting a war with anyone. The Pentagon has amassed so much money that this year it has over \$522 billion that it could not find anything to spend on. This is because it is the only federal agency not required to return unexpended funds to the general revenue bin at the end of each fiscal year. By the next year it will have \$28 billion dollars.

And the press has consolidated itself into huge chains. Roy Thomson's operation includes 148 newspapers and 138 magazines on 5 continents with a hefty \$56 million profit for 1977.

Unfortunately, the 70 years since LaFollette started his magazine have failed to see the resolution of our basic problems. This idea is crystalized in the safe-energy movement that has swept the world and includes students, the elderly, farmers, consumers, and minorities, who understand that energy production and consumption will define the kind of life we all will lead. The nuclear option promises increased centralization and beaurocracy, more powerful corporations, and a loss of our civil liberties as police state measures are necessary to fight terrorists seeking the ultimate weapon -- the nuclear bomb.

Solar energy (a sloppy term which includes all forms of renewable energy), promises a return to small business capitalism, abundant job opportunities, and an end to class and caste. This is because anyone can manufacture the collectors, windmills and countless other devices for using the energy from the sun.

The Ad Rem is part of that people's movement in the United States that began with the colonists, to the anti-slavery Abolitionists, to LaFollette, the organization of labor and the struggle for civil rights, the protest against the war in Vietnam, and today, the battle against a corporate and institutional structure armed with nuclear weapons that threaten the very existence of our race. The war has come home.

stop the draft

By Mark Zanoni



More than 160,000 military personnel have been exposed to nuclear blasts. The damage is only now beginning to show.

On the surface, the present congressional attempt to reinstate the draft looks harmless enough. Many see it as simply an attempt to bolster a failing volunteer system. Some even go so far as to invoke civil rights or "equality in the ranks" in their support for the bill.

The real reasoning of its authors is far different. President Carter, Defense Sec. Brown and many others in both the congress and the Pentagon, are building a proposed 110,000 man strike force to be used to "secure our oil reserves" in the Middle East.

The thought of this brings back haunting memories of Korea, Viet Nam, Chile and a host of other aborted attempts at intervention on behalf of an elite American minority in the past 30 years. National security is the cloth they use to cover their crazy, outmoded ideas. Oil, they say is necessary for our security as a people. This is hogwash! Freedom is necessary for our security, and if we haven't learned yet, no amount of guns and rockets can make you free. They only make you poor.

The lesson we should have learned from Iran and Nicaragua is not that we should be tougher, better prepared and less hesitant to intervene on behalf of our friends. We intervened in Viet Nam as the best equipped fighting force in the world and like Samozza and the Shah before him, our new guns, bombs, planes and secret police did us no good. What happens is you get thrown out on your ear when the people say "we've had enough" and we have had enough!

throwing away our future

In 1975, \$5.4 billion were spent in our cities just to collect and dispose of our garbage. This figure is predicted to climb to \$7.7 billion by 1984, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Although these rising costs are most acute in larger cities, Stevens Point is going to feel the impact to the tune of \$400,000 a year.

According to Mayor Michael Haberman, Mid-State Disposal will soon run out of space and it is unlikely that they will be able to expand due to past violations. This means that the garbage will either have to be trucked to Madison or Green Bay. Other "solutions" include finding a new operator to expand the Mid-State site or the construction of a county landfill site.

But, these aren't real solutions. Portage County lacks an ideal site which means designing and engineering one, that will fill up eventually anyway. Expanding the Mid-State site will not stop the inevitable either.

Because we only have limited space, we must look somewhere else for the answer. Resource recovery is one part of it and something that we can implement in the near future. Another important part is simply reducing the amount of trash we generate. Throw-away beverage containers represent 7% of municipal waste and is rising faster than any other segment. Last year Stevens Point voted down a city bottle bill that would have significantly reduced the amount of containers in our garbage. The Economic Impact Committee (representing

the economic interests of the brewers and bottlers rather than the citizens) spent a lot of money fighting the proposal, claiming they could find a better way. It's been almost a year since they made that claim, but they haven't followed it up with a single proposal.

The University should clean up its act, too. It generates an enormous amount of waste paper that should be recycled. The student center cafeteria should eliminate the paper and plastic cups, plates and utensils. Throw-aways should be banned from campus.

Naturally this just scratches the surface and there are many things that can be done on the community level to solve our waste problem. Other problems will require more sweeping approaches; like McDonald's "gutbombs" wrapped in paper, laced in a styrofoam box, and then in a paper bag. Or throw-away Bic shavers and the hundreds of examples of packaging wastes that have created our need for the throw-away, ethic.

The bottom line is that we can not continue to throw away our future.

ad rem

an alternative community voice

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Adrem is published monthly by ad rem, 1505 College Ave., Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481, and printed by Community Industries, 3116 Algoma, Stevens Point.

CITIZEN'S INFORMATION RESOURCE GUIDE

The necessary key to action in democratic society is knowledge and information. If we are to act collectively and be effective, we must be well informed or the narrow but powerful interests opposing us will cut us to ribbons.

The following is a list sources from which information on nuclear energy may be obtained.

National organizations: (Write them for fact sheets and newsletters.)

*Union of Concerned Scientists
1208 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138*

*Friends of the Earth
72 Jane St.
New York, NY 10014*

*Clamshell Alliance
62 Congress St.
Portsmouth, NH 03801*

*Environmental Action Foundation
1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington D.C. 20036
(EAF publishes two magazines, Environmental Action for \$15.00 a year which examines all important environmental issues as well as energy; and, The Powerline, another monthly for \$15.00. EAF also maintains an extensive reprinting service and has a large selection of good books for sale. Write for a catalog from EAF Reprint Service.)*

*Mobilization for Survival
1213 Race St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107*

Local organizations:

*League Against Nuclear Dangers
Route 1
Rudolf WI 54475
(LAND has a very comprehensive research file and has been one of the premier research oriented anti-*



how radioactive is your milk?

By Mike Victor

Because of the rapid development of nuclear weapons and nuclear power, the past three decades have seen a rise in the level of background, low-level ionizing radiation. Radioactive material is one of the most damaging pollutants in our environment. It can't be seen, heard, or felt, and its effects are irreversible and pass from generation to generation through damaged genes.

The issues of exposure to low level radiation -- levels presumed harmless by the nuclear industry, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Dept. of Energy -- and the ability of the industry, and state and federal agencies to adequately monitor the release of radioactive materials from commercial reactors are examined in a critical study recently completed by Another Mother Fund for Peace Foundation of Beverly Hills, California.

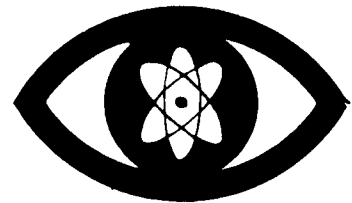
The two-year study discussed the radiological monitoring practices of the Wisconsin Dept. of Health, Radiation Protection Section (RPS), and a similar agency in Calif., concentrating on the Genoa reactor near LaCrosse, WI and the Humboldt Bay, Calif. plant. The Wisconsin data was compiled by Jeff Littlejohn of the Environmental Council and members of LAND, notably Neomi Jacobson and Gertrude Dixon.

The study reveals a lack of critical monitoring and possible corruption by the RPS. It concludes that:

nuclear groups in the country. They have independently researched and published several studies.)

*The Environmental Council
UWSP Stevens Point
Stevens Point WI 54481
(Contact the Council for information on local rallies and other events. The Council is also supervising the publication of AD REM and is active in organizing conferences on nuclear, disarmament and environmental issues.)*

*Northern Thunder
21½ South Barstow
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(Northern Thunder publishes Hard Rain, and is very active in organizing rallies, picnics and energy fairs. They are an excellent source of information on the solar alternative to nukes.)*



Periodicals:

*The Progressive
408 West Gorham
Madison WI 53703
(Founded in 1909 by Robert M. LaFollette the Progressive is one of the best journals of left opinion and the safe-energy issue. Subscription is \$9.87 for 9 months.)*

*Mother Jones
607 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(Subscription is only \$8.88 a year for this excellent monthly.)*

*In These Times
1509 North Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago Illinois 60622
(This weekly newsmagazine is \$19.00 a year.)*

. RPS relies on the assumption that the nuclear power-plant owners provide sound environmental monitoring. Consequently, RPS only considers their program as that of an "audit" function. They confirm rather than refute company findings. The absurdity of this assumption is underscored by the fact that the utilities, not an independent agency, collect, prepare and forward the environmental samples for analysis by RPS. In other words, the utility being "audited" by RPS controls the data. Certain data, such as the daily radioactive releases are proprietary secrets and the utilities are not required to make this information public.

. The proficiency of lab analysis, methods and basic mathematics for data extraction are sloppy, inaccurate, and often when correctly determined, these are ignored.

. Public accession to radiological data contained in the files of RPS are often blocked, restricted or prohibitively unobtainable due to high agency duplication costs.

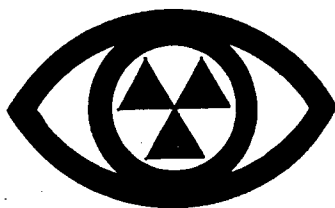
. Public inquiries either in person or in formal correspondence are often slow, in response or ignored.

One particularly interesting chapter of the study documents how the chief of RPS, Mr. Lawrence McDonnell, continually blocked researcher Jeff Littlejohn from acquiring public documents for ten and one-half months. In one instance, McDonnell asked Littlejohn, "If you want air sample data, why don't you do your own analysis?" When other documents were released, AMP was forced to pay 25¢ a page, 5 times the usual charge. In another instance of bureaucratic maneuvering, McDonnell apparently told an initially candid laboratory technician to "clam up."

. Reporting of radiological data is often slow, incomplete and meaningless. In many cases where high levels of contamination were found in milk samples, they were reported as lost or not reported at all. Sometimes the RPS simply substituted lower values. This is blatant falsification of the facts.

A nuclear powerplant produces gaseous, liquid, and solid radioactive wastes. Most of these are contained, but it is normal for a significant fraction of these materials to escape into the en-

vironment. The plants are designed to vent radioactive effluents as a normal, part of their daily operation. Monitoring is the only way of knowing how much radioactive materials get into the environment from nuclear sources. With proper records, realistic dose estimates can be made for the general population. Without this data, there is no way that a safe level of exposure can be formulated. In fact, studies by Graffman and others show that there is no safe level of exposure. The AMP study clearly shows that the Radiation Protection Section of the Dept. of Health and Social Services has neglected to critically monitor nuclear facilities in Wisconsin, has blocked public documents from being released, and has failed at every significant level to serve the public interest.



The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists
1020 24 East 58th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637
(Good source of "balanced" discussions. A subscription costs \$18.00 a year for this monthly.)

Critical Mass Journal
Box 1538 Washington D.C. 20013
(A Ralph Nader Citizens Group Weekly)

Books:

The Poverty of Power
Barry Commoner (Bantam 1977)

No-Nukes: Everyone's Guide to Nuclear Power
Anna Gyorgy (South End Press 1979)

Soft Energy Paths
Amory B. Lovins (Friends of the Earth 1977)

The Anti-Nuclear Handbook
Croal and Kaianders (Pantheon 1978)

The Menace of Atomic Energy
Ralph Nader and John Abbotts (Norton & Co. 1977)

backtalk

assassination critic blasts house report

Editor's Note: Critic Harold Weisberg is a former Senate investigator and the author of seven books on the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He resides in Frederick, Maryland. With the upcoming release of the final report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Mr. Weisberg's comments and criticisms are an invaluable aid in assessing the Committee's conclusions.

What will be the central conclusions of the report of the House Select Committee on Assassination (HSCA)?

Weisberg: With regard to the John Kennedy assassination, the House Committee will find basically what (Congressman Richardson) Preyer's so-called official investigations have found, with one minor difference. Their efforts to put down the critics kicked back with the tape recording of the Dallas police radio. Scientific tests proved that there was another shot. Yet they're going to say there was another lone-nut assassin. Not necessarily a conspiracy, maybe a low-level mafia conspiracy, and, of course, they can't prove that. But it's meaningless.

Now on the King assassination, there never was any question about what the Committee was going to do. It had a preconception, like all other official bodies, that (James Earl) Ray was the assassin, and that's what they're going to say. They never investigated the King assassination, all they did was try to make it appear the official story was correct. And thanks to (critic/lawyer) Mark Lane and James Earl Ray they're going to get away with it. Ray should never have appeared before the Committee. It was a stacked deck.

What reason would the Committee have

for pinning the Kennedy assassination on the mafia?

Weisberg: The mafia is an easy mark! Who is going to defend it except for somebody like me. I defended on this and not on other things. There is no reason to even suspect that they had any connection with the Kennedy assassination. People make up these theories and as long as you are going to make up theories there is no limit. You're not going to be helpful to the truth and you're not going to be helpful to the people.

In what ways did the Committee fail in terms of their investigation, methods, etc.?

Weisberg: There is no way in which the House Committee didn't fail. It's a frightful thing; it's an atrocity because it is once again an abuse of the trust of the American people. I don't care who does that, especially on a subject like this, it's an outrageous thing to do! These people practically intimidated the Congress into giving it the largest appropriation for any congressional investigation in its history. They did nothing with it except try to make the preconception appear to be of some viability. They spent most of their money on the John Kennedy assassination, on a very improper thing: trying to put down the critics. For example, (Representative) Richardson Preyer, who used to be a judge and one of the more respected members of the Committee, he actually got on coast-to-coast television on a talkshow, I think it was Face The Nation, and said the Committee was going to reverse the statistics. In other words, if 80% of the people didn't believe the story of the Kennedy assassination, by the time they finished, 80% would. Well,



he increased the statistics by ten, 90% of the people don't believe the official version now!

This is no credit to the Congress and it is no credit to a congressman, especially a former federal judge who was so blatant in saying his job is a propoganda job. That is not an investigation. But the fact that after this large expenditure and after all this propaganda effort, even more people don't believe this story is a really great tribute to the good sense of the American people. The people may not be talking about this subject but they're not being fooled from the beginning. Most people never even believed the official story.

What was your relationship with House Select Committee on Assassinations?

Weisberg: I had no relationship with them. (Chief Counsel Richard) Sprague asked me to come in a couple of times and I did. The first time I was there I told him exactly how he was going to ruin himself and the Committee if he did what I was sure he was going to do, because he came from a different world and didn't recognize that Congress is an uncommon animal. The second time was after I had had the first fight with him and he tried to con me and I wasn't conned, and I never went back. The third time I was there, I was there at John Ray's (brother of accused assassin James

(continued on page 7)

weisburg

Earl Ray) request and at his lawyer's request to assist in protecting John Ray's interests. And the fourth time I was there was to deliver, at the last minute of the very last day, a memorandum I was supposed to do for the record on the Committee's case against John Ray, which turned out to be even lower-grade fabrication, and it was fabrication.

What is your opinion as to the authenticity and/or the relevance of the acoustic tests conducted by the Committee upon which they base their conclusion of a "probable" conspiracy?

Weisberg: I'd like to address that on two

levels. I have no doubt of the authenticity of it. I have no doubt of the total dependability of the work of Professors Weiss and Oshkenagy. It might, had the tests have been done properly, have revealed much more. By that I mean that they had to take over work and tests that the Committee had had made which limited the source of the shots that were going to be recorded to the sixth floor window (of the Texas School Book Depository), and to one part of the grassy knoll. Of course that is no way to find out if any shots came from anyplace else. I think that what is overlooked in all of this is that there is an enormous amount of evidence that corroborates

it. My work on the medical evidence, for example.

So what the Committee has presented is by no means the best evidence?

Weisberg: No, it isn't. And they ignored all the rest and, in fact, they had to misrepresent some of it. So, if it (the acoustic tests) stood all alone, it would be quite dramatic and it has been very effective with a lot of people who, until that time, didn't believe that more than one person was involved. I think you can imagine what the impact would have been had the Committee done an honest job.

mining

These corporations could not exist without the aid and cooperation of the universities and states. Exxon and friends would never consider making a 500 million dollar investment unless they knew for sure where the electricity, roads, sewer, water, and technological support were coming from.

Who owns the land and its mineral wealth? Certainly not the corporations, although they would have you believe that they own the rights to just about everything. The land belongs to the people. It is wrong and immoral for any entity, big

or small to use our labor to remove our minerals from our land, pay us less than the value of what we produce, and sell it back to us for their own profit. We end up paying the external social costs which are written off by the corporation in the form of abandoned piles of mine tailings and radioactive milk. We are never even consulted, in fact the truth is hidden from us.

According to the law, core samples from any proposed mining operation, must be turned over to state geologists, but the state geologist cannot turn these

samples over to either the DNR or the people. Nuranda Mining Company recently won a court decision which states that they are not even required to turn over the samples to the state. When the truth is covered up, the information necessary for action is denied the people and another basic democratic right is trampled upon.

It is time that we stopped this unnecessary madness and began placing "people before profits"!

**FIGHTING THE
GOOD FIGHT**
**JOIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL AND HELP US FIGHT
THE GOOD FIGHT—
A BATTLE WE CANNOT
AFFORD TO LOSE.**





by Mark Zanoni

The history of uranium mining in Wisconsin is no different than the mining history in other parts of the world. Exploitation, boom/bust and environmental ruin are the necessary ingredients resulting in excessive profits for the corporations involved.

During the iron ore development era (1890-1940) in Iron and Ashland counties the ore from this area fed the steel mills of Gary, Pittsburg and Cleveland, providing large profits for the businesses. Very little of this fabulous wealth remained in Wisconsin, for when chances for the exploitation of cheaper labor and richer ore reserves opened up in Venezuela and Brazil the mining operations in Wisconsin were shut down and moved to South America. The northern Wisconsin area was plunged into virtual economic depression. The ore industry towns, totally dependent upon the mine for employment, taxes and services, experienced a huge out migration of active portions of the population. This created an increase in the welfare demands of the old, sick, and disabled, and lowered the necessary tax base for these programs. In short the mining colony created by the corporation and totally dependent on that corporation's reserves, was left out on a limb. The company exploited the area, sucked it dry of all life blood and tossed it away like an old shoe with total disregard for the people or the land.

The present situation in Wisconsin promises to be more of the same with an even larger price tag to be paid by the people. Aside from the fact that Exxon has discovered one of the largest copper reserves ever, near Crandon, Wisconsin, a major problem in itself, Nuranda, Kerr-McGee and Exxon have discovered large

uranium mining in wisconsin

uranium deposits in Barron, Rusk, Forest, Marinette, Waupaca, Marathon, and possibly Sawyer counties and are already taking out leases. President Carter recently changed several Chiquamagon and Nicolet National Forests from possible wilderness designated areas to multiple use areas (mining and logging allowed). The day after his action, these companies had representatives there taking out uranium exploration leases. Wisconsin may well become the second national sacrifice area after the Black Hills of South Dakota.

What will be the long term effects of uranium mining? Environmentally, this beautiful section of land may well be turned into a "biological desert." From the very beginning of exploration, radioactivity will be released into the biosphere. The protective mineral covering is broken by the drilling of test shafts and the uranium is exposed to oxygen causing the unstable element to react and form dangerously radioactive materials such as radon gas. Mine tailing, a fine dust or waste rock which is left behind by the mining process will blow and wash into the soil and ground water, contaminating rivers and lakes.

The long term health effects posed by the contamination will raise an already alarming cancer rate in this area (probably the result of the wind blown fallout from 1950's weapons tests in Idaho and Nevada). Our necessary milk production in this state could be all but eliminated by the addition of other radionuclides to the already excessive levels of such substances as Cesium 137, presently in our milk.

URANIUM MINING IS CONSIDERED AS THE FRONT END OF the nuclear fuel cycle. At the back end is the waste from reactors and bomb production. Wisconsin has been considered in the past, because of its geology (the Laurentian granite shield under-

lying most of northern Wisconsin) as a prime site for a waste disposal. As a national sacrifice area, because of mining, the placement of a dump here is almost certain. Further more a recent release by the United States Department of Energy, identified parts of Waushara county, by geological description as a number one or prime site.

If Exxon and Kerr-McGee continue with their plans for mining in northern Wisconsin, the first peoples to be exploited, recolonized and stripped of their land will be, as is typical, the Native Americans. A large portion of the land these corporations are seeking is Chippewa land, granted to them by an 1865 treaty. The treaty is still binding and the Chippewa refuse to sell their rights.

Traditionally the Native Americans have been the first to feel the axe of American internal imperialism. "We always have had something that you want," says John Trudell of the American Indian Movement (AIM). First it was the gold, then the copper, zinc, and iron and now uranium.

The Indian people are usually the first victims of the nuclear fuel cycle because of their exploitation as cheap labor in the mines. As miners they are continuously exposed to low level radiation, dust and are allowed to drink contaminated water. A 1975 study concluded that of the 100 Navajo uranium miners employed in a Southwestern mine, 18 are already dead of lung cancer, and 21 others are being closely watched.

What is happening at the present time? The University of Wisconsin no doubt is gearing up in the expectation of receiving benefits for their metallurgical, mining and engineering schools in the form of practical work experience possibilities and eventual grants. The state has begun sacrificing much needed schools for Indian children and redirecting it to local school boards so they can expand their schools to make room for the influx of outsiders when the mining begins.

(continued on page 7)