

Hinkley INQUIRER

The only complete and clear account

Hinkley Cancer Cluster

As we go to press, a new report from Somerset Health Authority reveals evidence of a significantly raised incidence of leukaemia and non-Hodgkinson lymphoma in the vicinity of Hinkley Point nuclear power stations.

See report from Jill Sutcliffe inside.

CEGB Admits Coal Cheaper

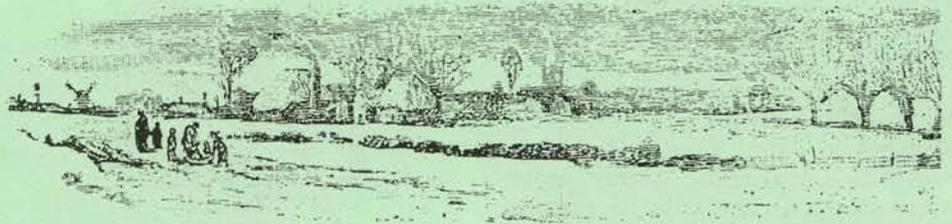
The CEGB has admitted that a coal-fired power station would produce cheaper electricity than a nuclear Hinkley C.

The admission came on Day 37 in a 43-page statement written by Frank Jenkin, the Board's Director of Strategic Studies. Jenkin shows that under the commercial regime expected to operate in a privatised electricity industry, a coal station would be the best investment.

According to a table of generation costs in the report, Hinkley C would be cheaper than a coal station if the current 5% "required rate of return" on investment was maintained. But when the rate of return is increased to 8% (the minimum level expected under privatisation), Hinkley C becomes "clearly less economic" than a coal station.

The table shows electricity from

Gathering Winter Fuel



The poor and the elderly would suffer should Hinkley C be built, argued Dr. Brenda Boardman during Week Nine of the Inquiry. Not only did her evidence win praise and congratulations from the CEGB lawyers, but she was applauded three times by her audience - a record for the Cannington proceedings.

Boardman is an energy consultant and academic who spoke as a witness for the *Bristol Energy Centre*, which advises on energy problems, largely to low income homes.

Warmth through efficiency
"Building the PWR would result in further disadvantage to low income households," Boardman told the *Inquirer*, "especially through price increases. It is more cost effective for the CEGB to invest in energy efficiency in low income homes than to build Hinkley C. If they put in loft insulation and draught-proofing, plus more economically efficient methods of heating (i.e., night storage heaters rather than bar radiators), then people could afford to be warmer."

This would also benefit the CEGB, said Boardman, by spreading the load so that there would be less demand in peak times and more at night.

Efficiency = two PWRs
The savings of power from energy efficiency would be "roughly twice" the output of a Hinkley C, she argued. There are a million low income households using on-peak electricity - like bar fires. By displacing this demand "we could replace 1.7 times the output of Hinkley C at 78 % of the cost - even using extremely conservative figures."

Boardman would like to see the electricity industry in this country drawing on American expertise in efficiency to obtain new supplies of power at the minimum cost.

Odd

She was questioned by Lord Silsoe for the CEGB, yet Boardman believes he didn't challenge the basis of her case. The Inspector also questioned Boardman, and implied that - given the evidence on energy efficiency - the CEGB did not seem to be making decisions in their own commercial self-interest. "It does seem to me odd," remarked the Inspector.

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► Hinkley C at 3.09 pence per Kilo-watt hour, from a coastal coal station at 2.97 p/kWh and from an inland coal station at 3.03 p/kWh.

Adverse figures

At a 10% rate of return, "the economics of a new nuclear station are significantly adverse against all the alternatives", Jenkin says.

These comparative figures on coal and nuclear costs have been produced after considerable pressure from the Inspector and objectors, and were originally requested on Day 4. However they are unlikely to be fully debated at the Inquiry, with objectors having the chance to question the figures, until some time next year, probably in late January or early February.

The CEBG still maintains that this extra evidence is not necessary for the Inquiry to consider since it relies on the government's "non-fossil fuel" policy to justify the PWR.

New coal sites

Meanwhile, the *Coalfields Communities Campaign*, which represents 79 local councils in mining areas, took the argument one stage further on the same day by suggesting three specific sites for new coal stations. These were at Thorpe Marsh, near Doncaster, Hams Hall, Warwickshire, and Uskmouth, Gwent.



All three sites could accommodate 1800 MW stations, are adjacent to existing power stations, and would be welcomed by local planners. Two of them are also closer than Hinkley Point to the major concentration of electricity demand in the South East. "There is no reason why development on these sites could not proceed swiftly and unimpeded," the CCC says.

In other evidence the *Campaign* showed that a number of collieries might have to close if Hinkley C was built and there was no new demand for coal. About 2,600 direct mining jobs would be lost, with a further 5,400 among suppliers, contractors and dependent services. "The development of Hinkley C

constitutes yet another threat to the long-term survival of coalfield communities," it concludes.

Cheap and secure

During cross-examination by the CEBG and the Inspector, both the *Campaign's* main witnesses, Stephen Fothergill and Dr. Stephen Witt, made it clear that they were opposed to coal imports to provide diversity of fuel supply. "The UK coal industry has served the electricity supply industry and the nation as a whole very well indeed in the past," Fothergill told the Inquiry. "It has provided reasonably cheap and secure supplies of coal, and can continue to do so."

Civil Liberties Threat



The nuclear industry is a threat to civil liberties," Terry Mulvihill of Tiverton CND told the Inquiry during Week Nine. He was introducing his witness Judith Cook, author of *Who Killed Hilda Murrell?*

Hilda Murrell was a witness at the Sizewell Inquiry who returned home unexpectedly one day, surprised an intruder and was later found dead in a wood. Mulvihill quoted a former captain in military intelligence who said that her death was "caused by private investigators or security consultants acting on behalf of a government department" who reacted with "utter panic" at her unexpected return.

When Judith Cook was researching her book on Hilda Murrell she became the target of threatening telephone calls and her post was opened, she told the *Inquirer*. When she sent her manuscript to the publishers, "I sent it recorded delivery, carefully packaged, and rang Hodders to say I was posting it. It arrived four days later, unwrapped and out of order. The Post Office investigator told me that if it had been unofficially tampered with, he couldn't tell me anything about it. But if it had been officially tampered with he also couldn't tell me anything!"

Surveillance

"The burden of my story is that because the nuclear industry is so obsessed with secrecy and because civil and military nuclear are so linked, this poses a threat to civil liberties."

During the Sizewell Inquiry, according to Cook, "all individual objectors were under surveillance. This time, everyone is still under surveillance, but they are so much more careful since Hilda Murrell's murder. They couldn't afford another."

Rome Records

Brian Rome of the Conservation Society presented his proof (CONSOC 3) during Week Nine. At 195 pages (single spaced) his is the longest proof so far. It is also widely appreciated as being packed with expert knowledge: a CEBG lawyer has commented that it is the best researched proof that he has ever seen at an Inquiry.

When the *Inquirer* asked Rome if he could sum up his evidence in two paragraphs, he replied he could do it in two words: "Nuclear bad".

Double standards

But his evidence describes in great detail the "load factor game" - a series of statistical deceptions practised by the CEBG to justify their continuing commitment to nuclear power.

Rome has worked out that the pro-nuclear case is based on double standards. In order to get consent for a nuclear power station, its proponents argue that the power station is a good deal - based on the date they have scheduled to begin operating and the power they expect it to produce.

Yet once they've got consent and started up their nuclear station they change their method of measuring its success - using the actual date (always later) it began operating and the actual quantities (for the CEBG, almost always lower) of power it really does produce.

These two sets of figures are wildly different, and yet the CEBG are never called to account for this difference.

Rome will be giving his next proof of evidence in the New Year - and plans to break his own record.

Historic Flop

Hugh Richards of the *Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance*, architect, town planner and veteran of the Sizewell Inquiry, gave evidence (WANA 4) on Day 37.

His theme was the "intricacies of the history of nuclear reactors throughout the world" (as the Inspector, clearly impressed, put it).

The Westinghouse PWR, he argued, is a "failed technology that has been abandoned in its country of origin and has not received an order anywhere in the world for the last 10 years with the single exception of Sizewell B". To date, these PWRs have delivered "less than half the electricity that was expected by investors... There is no possibility of the proposed station being built to time and to cost."

He called Rhodri Morgan, MP for Cardiff West, as a witness. From his experience on the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy, Morgan was able to shed light on the electricity privatisation proposals and the uncertainties that these add to the prospect of Hinkley C.

Ordinary Girl?

Rachel Baird, at 17 one of the Inquiry's youngest objectors, spoke during Week Nine.

"I have two chief moral objections," she told the *Inquirer*. "I object to the disposal of radioactive waste when we don't know what is going to happen to it several million years from now. And if weapons material is being syphoned off this is morally wrong."

The Inspector questioned her on whether she suspected that "nowadays some plutonium produced in CEBG reactors is deliberately diverted to be used for military purposes?"

Uncorrupted

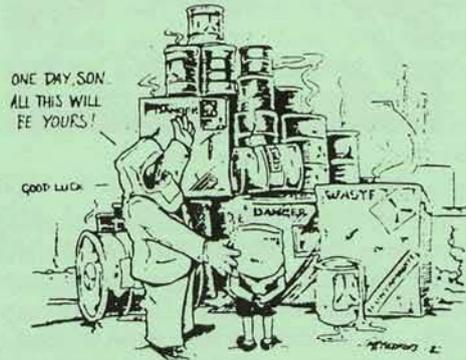
Baird's view is that this may not be happening now, but it had happened in the past. The Inspector went on: "What you are really saying is, if the government has got nothing to hide, why does it not come out with the full facts?" Baird agreed.

Was she intimidated by the Inquiry process? Not at all: "I'm the one that's uncorrupted by money, power, the old boy network and wanting a job. I'm just an ordinary girl. I've got the moral high ground."

Plutonium Problems

Dr. Frank Barnaby, nuclear physicist and ex-director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), gave evidence on behalf of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze on Day 34.

A PWR at Hinkley Point could not be seen in isolation from a decision about what happens to the plutonium produced by that reactor, Barnaby said. Because of its potential use to make nuclear weapons, its toxicity and health hazards, plutonium should not be reprocessed, but left in irradiated fuel elements to be permanently disposed of.



Proliferation

The Hinkley C PWR would produce approximately 8,000 kg of plutonium in a 35-year lifetime. The CEBG has "made no clear statement that spent fuel from the PWR programme will not be reprocessed, thereby compounding the risks of proliferation and nuclear terrorism," argued Barnaby.

Reactor grade plutonium produced by a Hinkley PWR could be used to produce a nuclear weapon. A determined terrorist group could take advantage of this. There was also evidence of an existing international black market in plutonium.

Good Gas

Colin Jefferson, a chartered electrical engineer from Bristol Polytechnic, gave his evidence on landfill gas during Week Nine.

"Gas is naturally given off from every refuse disposal tip," he told the *Inquirer*. "It can be collected through bore holes or tubes. It's all good clean energy, and they're already obliged to collect it."

"Using landfill gas will be cheap - and it will help the greenhouse effect. If you discharge methane

directly it does four times the harm (to the greenhouse effect) as if you burn it first.

"Given improved technology, this resource could be expanded to a steady 720 MW", he said, "which is worth roughly half a PWR."

South West Sources

On Day 35, George Pritchard gave evidence on behalf of his family.

"It is our intention" he said, "to prove that there is a strong economic and environmental case for the use of renewable energy sources, hydro, waste and wind, for the production of electricity in the South West."

Pritchard brought five witnesses with him who presented their evidence.

Peter Bunyard, editor of *The Ecologist* magazine, said that recent studies on the Greenhouse effect had shown that a programme of intensive energy conservation, covering all aspects of energy use, would be up to 10 times more effective in reducing the carbon dioxide (CO₂) problem than would a massive global investment in nuclear power.

Private Choices



On Day 26 Martin Ince, author and journalist specialising in the electricity supply industry, gave his evidence for the *Town & Country Planning Association*.

"So far" Ince told the *Inquirer*, it has been argued that "providing the non-fossil fraction is the responsibility of Big G (the larger part of the privatised electricity supply industry). But it is the (post-privatisation) Transmission Company's responsibility to buy it. And they could choose power other than nuclear - such as from renewable sources."

Too risky

"From the point of view of Big G," said Ince, "it will be inclined not to buy nuclear because of the financial risks - like the costs of waste, decommissioning and financial overruns."

Welsh Women Object

The CEBG's estimated construction period for the PWR is "too short", according to Dr. Mark Bernstein, "and I don't believe they can do it. US utilities take at least 10 years (120 months) to build a PWR, so I would add a year, or even two, to their prediction of 72 months."

Bernstein came from the University of Pennsylvania to give evidence for the *South Wales Women's Support Groups* on Day 38. He previously worked for an American engineering company, evaluating the construction costs of nuclear power plants.



He was followed by Ann Lee of the SWWSG, who said that the whole Hinkley argument was hedged about with uncertainties and unresolved questions. "There is general chaos as far as planning for the future is concerned," she said. "Privatisation should not proceed and neither should Hinkley C, because people do not want it."

Hardships

The PWR would also bring further social and economic hardships to South Wales, which has already been hit by unemployment in the coal mining industry. This was the view of Dr. Kim Howells, Research Officer for *South Wales National Union of Mineworkers*, who also spoke as a witness for the SWWSG.

Hinkley C would "endanger seriously the continued operation of the integrated coal-mining/power generation industry in South Wales and limit severely the possibilities for developing that industry over the next 20 years," he said.

Tunnel Vision

Dr. Brian John, geographer and independent energy consultant, gave evidence on Day 33. He claimed that the CEBG's strategic thinking in the run-up to privatisation "is in a state of total disarray". He said he had no option but to "present his evidence with due seriousness while remaining aware that on another level, a game was being played to a set of rules that have not been made known to this Inquiry."

The CEBG was using its enormous financial and political strength in order to devalue the Inquiry procedure and pressurise the Inspector ultimately to force a "favourable" decision from the Secretary of State whatever the outcome of the Inquiry process, he said.

Danish wind

On Day 38 Dr. John returned to give evidence on behalf of the *Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance*. He introduced material from Denmark relating to the beginning of the Danish wind power programme which represented, he said, "a stage very similar to that in which the CEBG finds itself at the moment."

Initially, the Danes thought that their electricity system was not well suited for wind power, but that the economic value of wind was probably worth looking at.

Yet by 1987, the Danish experience showed 100 MW of wind capacity installed on the grid with a further 20 MW installed on wind farms. The commitment for the next year is in the region of 200 MW additional capacity. This should be seen in the context of the Danish government's rejection of nuclear power (1983) and its commitment to the development of renewable resources.

Renewables

In the UK Dr. John suggested that an integrated strategy for the privatised Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) could be met by modern fossil-fuelled plants, fitted with flue-gas desulphurisation equipment, an expanded programme of CHP plant, energy conservation and integration of renewable electricity generating capacity. Such an integrated strategy had been largely disregarded by the CEBG - "The Board was suffering from a serious case of tunnel vision," he maintained.

Talking In Taunton

Compared with the emotional drama of the visit to Cardiff, the "informal session" of the Inquiry in Somerset's county town of Taunton (Day 39) was a subdued affair.

Despite the best efforts of a stall and loudhailer set up outside by the local *CND* group, the seats inside the Queen's Suite of the three star County Hotel remained mostly empty.

Several reasons for this were given by the very first speaker, Elaine Mendoza. She blamed the lack of advertising, the fact that people were working during the day, and a reluctance by many to believe that the Inquiry was relevant to them. "I cannot blind you with science, but I hope I can make you aware of my feelings, and I implore you to take notice of them and of the thousands and thousands of people like me who are obviously not present today," she said.

Safety concerns

Even so, there was a succession of well prepared and effective presentations from about 30 individuals and organisations, mostly concerned with safety.

Mr. W. Alsop said his kitchen window was 40 yards from the rail collection yard for spent nuclear fuel flasks in Bridgwater - and he had no faith in the CEBG's safety precautions. "Children have played cowboys and indians on those flasks for 10 years," he said. "What effect will the radioactivity have on them?"



Frank Poole, who lives in one of the closest houses to Hinkley Point (1½ miles away), said it was unacceptable to build another station until the waste problem was solved. "Because I live so close I feel very strongly about this," he said.

Drawbacks

Another local resident, Major General Errol Lonsdale, spoke as chairman of the *Hinkley Area Interests Group*, listing safety and the many disruptions of construction as the main concerns of this group of people living near the power station. "If Hinkley C is built, the local community would have to accept, for the third time, the substantial drawbacks without any corresponding benefits," he said.

Several speakers said their main worry was for future generations, including their children. Ms. Southwell spoke on behalf of four mothers from Cullompton with eight children between them, "all concerned about our environment". Harry Horrabin from Minehead detailed 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild. As a blacksmith he pointed out that the iron age, with the potential for re-using metal, had lasted 3,000 years. "We have had enough of the nuclear age already after a little more than 30."

Detailed statements on safety and the alternatives to nuclear power were read by David Cooper and Councillor Southcombe, representing *Chard Town Council*.

LAMENT

Words multiplying under each lens in the lab,
Such eager words out of their hutches and boxes,
So much fission of words,
Such QC'd elocution!

Over salmon buffets given by the CEGB,
Over nightingales at Hinkley Point,
Between plausible pin-stripes and cufflinks
The words disperse.

You catch a glimpse of them:
They become dead gulls at Ravenglass
Or wads of cash
Or cancer in sea-spray.

They become sirens in each village,
Policemen at the door.
One evening, under a sky
Like gentian violet in the burns ward

I saw a man
Rising from his graphs and papers
In a funeral suit of data.
History blew on his embers

Coaxing enlightenment for a minute -
"The atom was my bride," he said,
"She wooed me and I fell for her,
Her words thrilled my marrow
But her kiss dissolved my bones."

Graeme Ryan

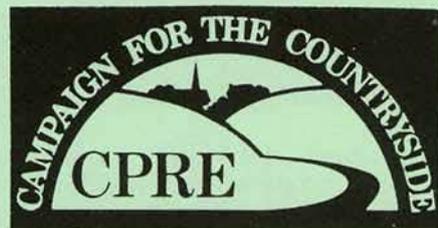
Instincts, Inspector

There were several dramatic moments. Objector Ian Trainer walked up to the microphone wearing a gas mask - to emphasise that he didn't want his "children and grandchildren to suffer from nuclear cancer". Mr. Wasnage, who is spastic, spoke with difficulty from his wheelchair, but his message that "nuclear power should be scrapped" was clear enough. Graeme Ryan, a teacher from Taunton, quoted poet Ted

Hughes and urged the Inspector to "listen to the other parts of yourself, the instinctive, the intuitive, the emotions, when making your decisions" He also read out his own poem.

By the end of the day, about 200 people had signed a petition against Hinkley C outside the hotel, and £50 had been collected for a fighting fund - some indication that disinterest hadn't ruled the day.

Higher Bills, Soaring Costs Warns CPRE



The whole of Week 11 of the Inquiry was taken up by evidence from the national conservation group, the *Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)*.

This was the first time that the so-called "back to back" procedure had been allowed, enabling the CPRE to first cross-examine CEGB witnesses, and then immediately afterwards present their own evidence.

The main points to emerge from three proofs of evidence presented by the CPRE (3, 4 and 6) were:

- The CEGB has set its demand forecasts too high, and "many factors could lead to demand being lower than has been anticipated". These include energy efficiency measures, which reduce final energy use, and a decision to limit the "planning margin" left for periods of peak demand. Whereas the CEGB has argued that 15 GW of new capacity could be needed by the year 2000, the CPRE says the figure could be as low as 1 GW.

- Even if there is increased demand, the CPRE points out that it could be better met by smaller scale plants than Hinkley C. It lists a series of proposed power stations already put forward by major companies in advance of privatisation. The total capacity of these would be 5 GW, all fuelled by either gas or coal.

- New fossil-fuel technologies (such as combined cycle gas and combined heat and power) are more efficient in using fuel and their environmental disadvantages can be contained, especially if linked to energy conservation.

- The government is not pursuing a full range of effective measures on energy and electricity efficiency - in spite of the fact that such measures would be consistent with its broad market philosophy.

- With the likely rates of return required by private investors after privatisation, "Hinkley Point does not appear to be an attractive economic option." At a 10% rate of return, the CPRE's figures show Hinkley C at 3.7 p/kWh and a gas station at 2.25p. The group also warns that "consumers may be asked to pay an additional £20 - £40 per annum on their electricity bills for the cost of a PWR programme."

The CPRE says its purpose in producing an "alternative scenario" to Hinkley C is to "demonstrate that there exist ways of developing the Electricity Supply Industry which do not include the construction of such stations, and which offer advantages in terms of consumer costs, profitability and financial security for generators and distributors."

Its alternative also offers the environmental advantages of lower levels of both carbon dioxide and flue gases, as well as less radioactive waste. At the same time, "between now and the year 2030 the pursuit of realistic energy efficient goals could reduce the need for new power station capacity by approximately half."

Costs out of control

In a separate proof (CPRE 5), figures are produced to show that the costs of building the Sizewell B nuclear station in Suffolk have already soared over budget by £136m. "These revelations throw doubt on the CEGB's ability to control the costs of constructing nuclear power stations at a critical time for the industry's future," the group argues.

Witnesses for the *Council* were Dr. Jim Skea of Sussex University (Plant need and selection), Gordon Mackerron of Sussex University (Security of supply), Robin Grove-White of Imperial College (Capital costs of PWR) and Mark Lintell, a land use consultant (Environmental dimensions of the economic case).

Non-Starter

On Day 40, the economist Dr. Dieter Helm put his considerable authority behind those who say no one will want to build Hinkley C - even if it gets consent.

Helm has been a consultant to the CBI, to government departments and to private electricity producers, and is now associate Editor of the *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*. He appeared as a witness for the *Town & Country Planning Association*.

Won't be built

"No private sector generating company would build this sort of power station", he told the Inquiry, without long term guarantees which have not been provided. "In these circumstances", said Helm, "it is not economically sensible for the CEGB to proceed, and... they may not proceed even if granted permission."

He also dismissed the CEGB's forecasts of future electricity needs, saying it has underestimated the contributions which could be made from conservation, private companies and French imports.

Short Circuit

A translation may be required for those confused about certain features of the Inquiry transcript on Day 34. For "Mr. Anna-Gram", the CEGB barrister listed as cross-examining an objector called P. C. Fuhri-Snethlage, read Michael Humphries, who chose to adopt this disguise for the occasion. Further clarification can be obtained from studying page 76, where Mr. Snethlage is asked about a newspaper report that people in South Yorkshire had complained about a new wind generator being a "huge tin flasher". Now go back to the name of the objector, who is apparently Dutch, and all will be revealed. A pre-Christmas jape from the CEGB legal team, apparently.

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The record number of objectors to Hinkley C has kept the Secretariat's photocopier going at a thumping pace. During the month of November alone roughly two million copies were produced. This may be a good sign in terms of objecting activity, but not very good for the ecology.

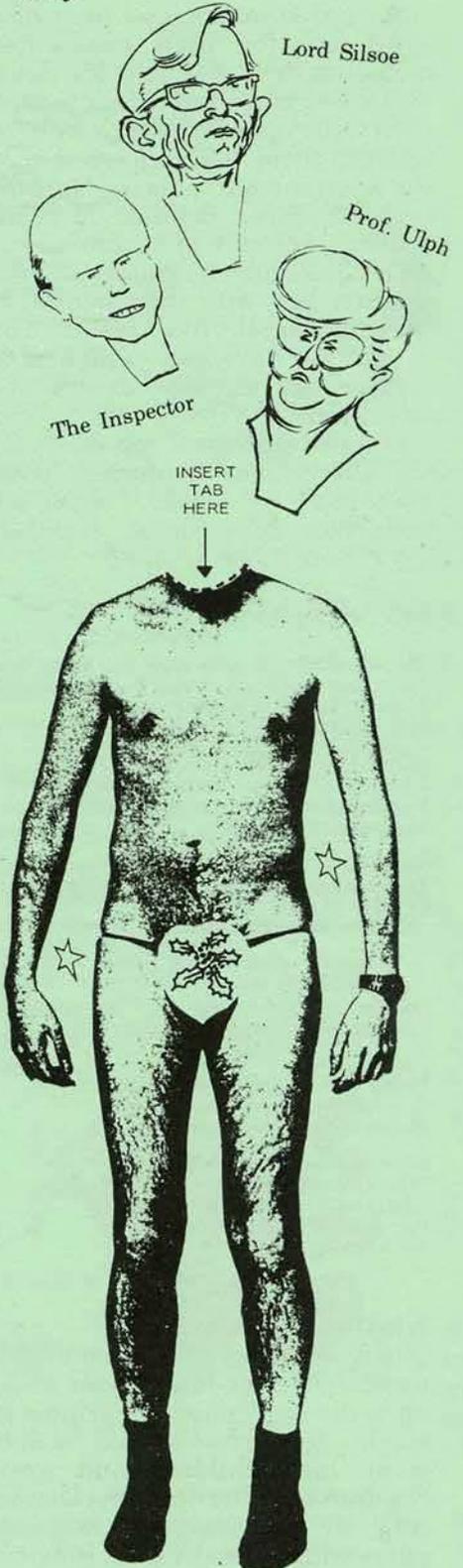
Working Out The Inquiry

The Inquiry Secretariat is no longer automatically sending out registration forms to people who write in objection letters or cards. This is partly because of the sheer pressure of objectors, whose numbers are now pushing the magic 20,000 mark, but also because the response has been poor in the past. So anybody who wants to participate in the Inquiry should remember that a card or letter is not enough; they must also make sure they get themselves registered, and therefore ensure that they are sent all the relevant information, timetables, etc.

A new eight-page guide has been produced by *Stop Hinkley Expansion*, giving guidance on the Inquiry for all objectors. If you would like a copy, please send an A4 self-addressed envelope to the Stop Hinkley Centre. The leaflet costs 10p to produce.

Those who find the formality of the Cannington proceedings an inhibiting factor in presenting their evidence may like to take the recommendation of the mother of one objector: "Just imagine those men in the altogether, dear," she said.

As an aide memoire, the *Inquirer* offers its readers the following exercise. Simply cut out the heads and stick onto the body.



Some hilarity in Cannington Court car park on Friday December 2 when there was a loud bang. It turned out to be a prang - the Senior Consents Team Manager for the CEGB had engaged his car with that of the barrister for the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

Rumours abound. Will the NII now refuse to grant a license for Hinkley C? Does this manoeuvre explain why the NII is so short staffed? The estimate for repair to the Audi is £120.

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At last the CEGB win something. Yes, a five-a-side football match against a combined COLA/NII team at Cannington.

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"Hubble, Bubble, Toil and Trouble" runs the slogan on some T-shirts showing Margaret Thatcher brewing up a nuclear pot containing NIREX, waste etc. Along with a batch of anti-nuclear badges, these have been bought up for the Inquiry Christmas Party - by the CEGB.

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Thanks to Imogen Young for her photograph in issue 5

The *Hinkley Inquirer* wishes a very happy Christmas and New Year to all its readers.

Lengthy Tail

The Inspector: "Supposing that somebody - a company - applied to the local planning authority and there was an appeal to the Secretary of State for consent to build a factory in order to manufacture and sell on a substantial scale tinned rattle snake. I give that as a somewhat frivolous example... and the Secretary of State looked at it and he said, 'Well, there is no environmental objection to it, or they can be overcome, and I cannot see anything, on the face of it, wrong with it. The only thing is that everybody tells me that this company are crazy. They are never going to sell their product.' But would that be a reason for him to refuse his consent to them?"

Martin Ince (TCPA): Probably not, but I think electricity is a bit more important than that.

Lord Silsoe: Before Mr. Ince departs, could I just say, sir, that I personally have eaten a tin of rattle snake meat.

Inspector: I would never doubt you did, Lord Silsoe. (*Laughter.*)

Looking Forward To Topic 2

Health and Safety (Topic 2) starts in the New Year. Jill Sutcliffe examines the issues.

A new study published in the *Lancet* (10.12.88) highlights some new developments in the struggle to understand what causes leukaemia and the emergence of clusters. Dr. Leo Kinlen of the Cancer Research Campaign Epidemiology Unit in Edinburgh suggests that the clusters around Sellafield and Dounreay may occur as the result of an abnormal reaction to a common infection, rather than radiation.

The argument is that rural popu-

lations in isolated communities have low immunity to common infections and so leukaemia could develop as an abnormal reaction to these infections in more susceptible children. To test his theory, Dr. Kinlen chose Glenrothes in Fife as a comparative location (it experienced a large influx of population to build the Forth road bridge) and found a significant increase between 1951 and 1967 in leukaemia in young people. It has already been established that some adult and animal leukaemias are caused by viruses.

Penny Boyle from Caithness says that the influx of incomers to Dounreay was in the 1950s and 60s, so if the cluster was due to incoming viruses then leukaemia should have shown up in the 60s rather than the 70s and 80s. In addition, no post mortems are usually done where babies are stillborn. There is still much work to do to unravel this whole riddle - after all, why does Portsmouth contain the largest cluster?

And as we go to press, a new report on leukaemia is being published by Somerset Area Health Authority.

The traditional arguments from the nuclear industry have been:

1. Radiation connected with the nuclear industry is of a lower magnitude than background radiation (and therefore does no harm).
2. There is a dose below which health effects cannot be measured.
3. Our standards for measurement/precautions are fine.
4. Our emissions are too low to cause leukaemia clusters.
5. No studies show a causal link.

Some other information to set against this:

1. The National Radiological Protection Board study of radon in Cornwall showed that houses *do* contain levels of radon which can cause damage, and many people die every year as a result.
2. In 1976, Sir Edward Pochin, head of the NRPB and chairman of the International Commission on Radiological Protec-

tion (ICRP), the organisation which agrees on radiation exposure limits, said: "It now appears likely that absorbed doses of only a few rads in the foetus may induce malignancies of various types."

3. In 1987 the ICRP revised downwards the exposure limits for workers for the fifth time since 1925 and for the sixth time for members of the public. This resulted from reworking of the data on Hiroshima survivors.
4. The industry is worried enough to have funded a £3 million independent investigation to examine the alleged link between childhood leukaemia and low levels of radiation.
5. Ten studies covering the emergence of clusters have been published. But, as Dr. Alice Stewart wrote in 1987, "it is too soon to be quite certain that clusters near Sellafield and Dounreay are a direct consequence of leakages of radiation from these reprocessing plants." What is clear is that something is happening which we do not understand and that clusters occur not just in the vicinity of nuclear installations.

News From Stop Hinkley Centre

Throughout December, the Inquiry has been fascinating and varied as objecting organisations and individuals have produced evidence of a very high quality in their efforts to put the case against the "need and requirement" for Hinkley C.

For example, on December 1, the rather abstract nature of much Inquiry-speak gave way to evidence about what actually happens in people's lives. Bristol Energy Centre introduced themselves as a group giving people advice on how to

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conserve energy (and money). They answer 4,000 queries a year and thus put their theoretical analysis against a backdrop of practical experience. Unfortunately, as their witness Dr. Brenda Boardman observed, "it's ironic that their funding is coming to an end - just as they are having an impact at the Inquiry".

They were followed by George Pritchard, who brought with him an array of witnesses, including a farmer from Bodmin Moor who is President of the *Country Landowners' Association* in Cornwall. The farmer was already investigating putting a wind farm on his land when he learned, at 11 pm on the day before the CEGB made their announcement, that they wished to put a wind farm on his land. He and his neighbours were furious at being treated in this manner.

Again, at Comwich (a village near the Hinkley site), some residents have discovered they are on the route to the wharf which the CEGB wish to use for bringing in building materials for Hinkley C and taking out parts of the older stations as they are decommissioned. Comwich people are not at all happy with this and were even less happy when the Board sent two people along to get them to sign documents relating to bits of land needed for improving access to the wharf.

Locals view this as bullying - especially even before consent has been obtained for a PWR. A deputation from the village visited local MP Tom King, and he has assured them of his full support over the wharf issue.

Paul Dawson from Bristol now holds the record for the shortest time between registering as an objector and appearing to give his statement at the Inquiry. He successfully got his detailed proof together, from scratch, in a matter of weeks.

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Jill Sutcliffe

DIARY

This programme is provisional. Keep in touch with Keith Parker, Programme Officer, 0278 444005, ext. 128, for up-to-date information.

Weeks Thirteen, Fourteen and Fifteen

Procedural points are heard first thing on Tuesday mornings.

January 10

Topic Two commences: Health and Safety.

Mr. R. Taylor, CEGB 8 proof. Evidence and cross-examination.

January 11 and 12

Mr. Taylor continues

January 13

Mr. B. V. George, CEGB 9 proof, Design and Safety. Evidence and cross-examination.

Week Fourteen

January 17

Procedural matters.

Cross-examination of Mr. George, CEGB, continues.

January 18

Mr. George, CEGB, followed by Mr.

Facilities For Objectors

Creche

People with children under five are welcome to use the excellent creche at Cannington. Open each day of the Inquiry from half-an-hour before proceedings begin. Telephone in advance to book your place: (0278) 653081.

LIBRARY

The Public Office at Cannington Court dealing with the Public Inquiry contains the whole gamut of documents being prepared in connection with the PWR proposals.

TRANSCRIPTS

These can be obtained from the Secretariat, cost of weekly posting for four issues £2.00.

D. J. Western, CEGB 10 proof, Potential off-site effects of radiation. Evidence followed by cross-examination.

Evening meeting 6.30 - 9.30 pm at Cannington Court.

Week Fifteen

NB The Inquiry is not sitting on Tuesday January 24.

January 25

Procedural matters.

Mr. J. D. Rimmington of the Health and Safety Executive will present evidence and be cross-examined.

January 26

When the examination of Mr. Rimmington finishes he will be followed by Mr. E. A. Ryder of the HSE (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate) to present evidence and be cross-examined.

January 27

Cross-examination of Mr. Ryder, HSE (NII) continues.

Current programming continues with the HSE witnesses up to February 1, the National Radiological Protection Board, with Department of the Environment on February 2 and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food on February 3.

Transport

There is a free bus service to and from Cannington, as below.

Use it or lose it!

Tuesday - Thursday		
9.00 am	Taunton BR Station	5.55 pm
9.30	Bridgwater BR Station	5.25
9.40	Inquiry Venue	5.15
9.45	Creche	5.10

Friday		
8.00 am	Taunton	4.25 pm
8.30	Bridgwater	3.55
8.40	Inquiry Venue	3.45
8.45	Creche	3.40

Creche on Fridays 8.30 am - 4 pm.

The last word

The Hinkley Point C Public Inquiry Secretariat, Cannington Court, Church Street, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2HA. Telephone: 0278 444005.

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