

Poor Man's Approach Seen In Atomic Energy Research

By FRANK CAREY
Associated Press Science Reporter

CLEVELAND (AP)—Production of atomic energy for teaching purposes by "a poor man's approach" has been demonstrated for the first time.

Dr. Lyle Borst, New York University physicist, did the trick with a new kind of atomic reactor or "furnace," which he assembled and tested himself, for the first time last week in the Cleveland Public Hall, with only a reporter

and a couple of scientific colleagues as an audience.

The device features "an old hog-head we bought for 10 bucks" and several thousand dollars worth of auxiliary equipment—plus \$120,000 worth of atomic fuel and other material loaned by Uncle Sam. And it requires no shielding.

The fuel arrived just in time for Borst to assemble the device and prepare to give the first public demonstration of it at the opening of an international atomic exposi-

tion sponsored by 25 American engineering and scientific societies. The exposition, designed to exhibit the latest developments on peacetime uses of nuclear energy, is the forerunner of a nuclear engineering and science congress, featuring technical reports, which will be held all next week.

Borst quickly made it clear that the uranium "fuel" for the reactor—obtained on loan from the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission—is worth \$80,000 and that a radium-beryllium mixture needed to start the fission process represents another \$40,000 loan from the AEC.

But he said that the setup—designed as a revolutionary new tool for teaching an important phase of atomic energy to prospective nuclear engineers—is still a bargain-

basement item compared with the cost of building a full-scale research reactor.

To build the latter type of reactor, he said, would cost about \$250,000—exclusive of the fuel that would have to be loaned from the AEC.

Explaining that his device is a so-called "subcritical nuclear reactor"—which produces atomic energy but is incapable of causing a chain-reaction such as occurs in a full-scale reactor—Borst told a reporter:

"With this apparatus, which represents a 'poor man's approach to atomic energy,' we can measure most of the characteristics of a chain reaction—which is basic to establishing a complete chain."

FIREMEN ON TIME
TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—In case you're wondering how long it takes a fireman to get out of bed, dress, slide down the pole and reach the fire truck, the time is 11 seconds.

Bruce Roberts, Tampa Tribune photographer, filmed and timed the process in a Tampa firehouse.

Ersatz Material Used To Replace Oldster's Artery

SEATTLE (AP)—Successful use of a new synthetic material for repairing a critically weakened main artery of a 77-year-old man has been reported by University of Washington surgeons.

Anton Jacobson of Seattle underwent the surgical repair job seven weeks ago. He now gets about and is gaining strength steadily.

Jacobson was threatened with death from a "ballooning" main artery from the heart, which had expanded to the size of a grapefruit.

Drs. K. Alvin Merendino and George W. Girvin had led in experimenting with the new synthetic, an icy-slick material known as teflon or "dragon's fur." They said the Jacobson case was its first use outside of laboratory experiments.

Similar surgery has been done previously with other fabrics or with sections of aorta from artery "banks."

The weakened section was cut out and a substitute tube was put in its place.

"Development of a satisfactory material for substitute arteries is a major goal of surgeons," Dr. Merendino said. "If a usable substitute can be found, artery banks no longer will be necessary."

He said the tough teflon seems to be one of the better materials tested to date.

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