

Vermont petitions to block rate hike

MONTPELIER (AP) — A petition aimed at blocking state utilities from passing onto consumers the cost of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp's recent plant shutdown will be filed by the Vermont attorney general's office.

Atty. Gen. M. Jerome Diamond said Monday the petition is designed to force Vermont Yankee to seek an estimated \$2.3 million in replacement power costs from General Electric Co. (GE), which designed and built the plant.

"The shutdown resulted, in our judgment, due to the negligence of General Electric," said Diamond.

The result was having utilities find "other more expensive sources" of electricity, he said.

"It is unfair and inequitable to turn the cost of the Vermont Yankee shutdown onto Vermont electric ratepayers," Diamond said.

The petition to be filed this week with the state Public Service Board, which regulated utilities in Vermont, asks the board to suspend rate hike requests or purchased power fuel adjustments directly attributable to Vermont Yankee's 17-day shutdown.

Diamond said the draft of the complaint blames the Jan. 26 shutdown on design problems caused by GE, and questions if it is "just and equitable" for Vermont utilities to assume the burden of the higher electricity costs and pass them onto consumers.

He said he hoped suspending rate hikes caused by the shutdown would result in action against Vermont Yankee by six Vermont utilities stockholders.

Daniel Schorr suspended for report release

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS newsman Daniel Schorr, who has admitted releasing a secret House intelligence report to a weekly newspaper, was indefinitely suspended from reporting duties by the network Monday.

Schorr admitted releasing the report prepared by the House committee on intelligence operations of the government to the *Village Voice*, a weekly published in New York's Greenwich Village.

CBS, in a statement released by Pres. Richard Salant, noted that government investigations have been called for to see if Schorr can be prosecuted for releasing the secret report.

"In view of the adversary situations in which Dan Schorr is placed in pending government investigations, he has agreed with DCBS that he will be relieved of all reporting duties for an indefinite period," Salant's statement said.

Schorr was not immediately available for comment.



Oregon Daily Emerald

Portland attorney raps power use

"I believe that nuclear power probably represents one of the greatest fallacies that has been perpetrated on the people," said Lloyd Marbet, a Portland attorney, in a talk at the University Law School Monday.

Marbet has been opposed to the construction of nuclear plants for over three years. He is presently involved in a suit to reverse a decision made last spring by the State Nuclear and Thermal Energy Council permitting Portland General Electric to build the Pebble Springs nuclear plant.

Hearings for the suit are scheduled to resume late this summer, according to Marbet.

"I believe that civilians should be allowed to intervene in these proceedings," said Marbet.

Marbet is also associated

with an organization called the Coalition for Safe Power, which is primarily concerned with safety issues. The group is currently sponsoring a petition to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot banning the construction of nuclear power plants in Oregon.

"We think the time has come when people are able to take on this responsibility," said Marbet.

While Marbet is interested in preventing additional nuclear plants, he is also concerned with the operation of existing plants, including the Trojan plant, which serves the Portland area.

"The decision is nuclear plants or none," said Marbet. "Every day that Trojan operates is an unacceptable risk."

As evidence of concern

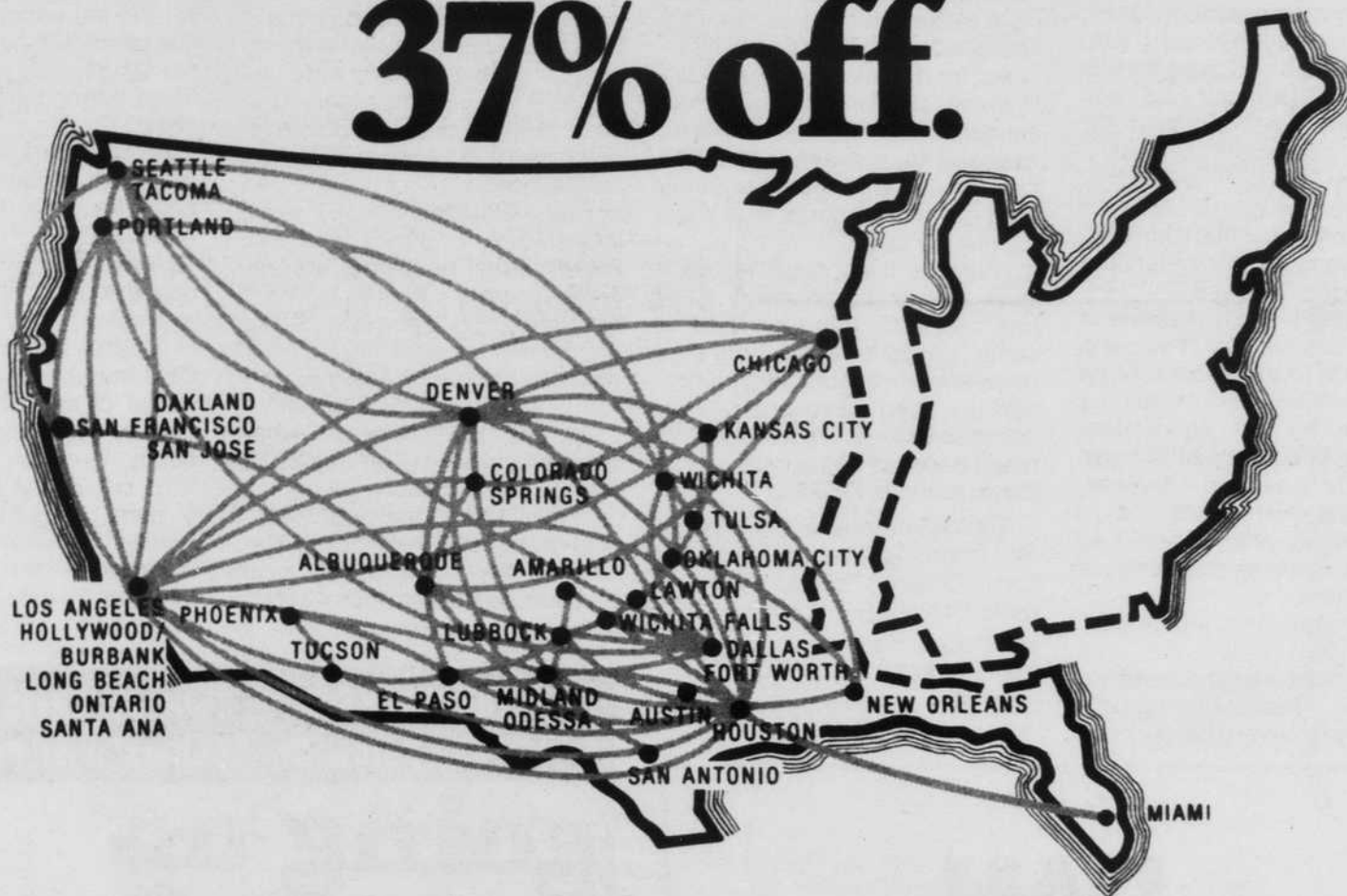
among professionals for safety measures, Marbet pointed to the fact that three nuclear engineers quit the General Electric company to protest the dangers of nuclear power.

Marbet feels that nuclear energy developed at a time when people thought that it would produce unlimited amounts of cheap power, and that this would solve many of the world's problems.

"I think that our culture has always been susceptible to the something-for-nothing trip," said Marbet, but added that "people are starting to think; they don't accept what they're fed so much anymore."

"That's the problem with nuclear power industry; it's a great big lie. You can't live a lie."

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