

Nuclear physicist condemns atomic power

By DAVID STEINMAN
Of the Emerald

Nuclear power exemplifies the worst aspects of our society, Dr. John Gofman said in a speech Tuesday night at the EMU Ballroom.

Gofman, who was part of the Manhattan Project that produced the first atomic bomb, is one of the most respected figures in the anti-nuclear movement. As a medical doctor, he has studied the health effects of radiation since the 1960s.

He is soon to publish a paper in the Health Physics Journal on the radiation effects on workers at the Hanford nuclear storage facility. The paper shows that cancer is being caused in Hanford workers at one-fifth the permissible "safe" dose set by the government.

These permissible doses, established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, are a fraud of the highest order being perpetrated on the American people, he said.

"Since Three Mile Island, the President has said we have to go ahead

with nuclear power at an even faster rate," Gofman said. "The nuclear industry says Three Mile Island indicates that nuclear power is safer than ever. The truth is that no one in the nuclear industry believes what they're saying about the safety of nuclear power. I suggest we take the advice of John Mitchell who once said, 'Don't listen to what we say, watch what we do.'

"When public utilities first invested in nuclear power, they went to the private insurance sector. No insurance companies would underwrite the utilities' liabilities in the event of an accident. The financial risks were too great."

If the public utilities had not been able to get insurance there never would have been nuclear power, Gofman explained. But the government chose to absolve public utilities of all liability when it enacted the Price-Anderson Act.

"This act insured the likelihood of a nuclear accident. In our society there is nothing that will reduce recklessness more than financial liability, but this is exactly what the nuclear industry

doesn't have to worry about.

"If the Price-Anderson Act were repealed today, you could be sure there would be no nuclear power tomorrow. But to think the government is going to repeal this act is ridiculous. To stop nuclear plants, the people will have to go around the government." Gofman also spoke on civil disobedience in regard to occupying nuclear power plants.

"Those arrested in the past for nuclear plant trespassing have received Nazi justice," Gofman said. "One time I was asked to testify in the court trial of persons arrested for trespassing and the judge would not allow my testimony. He said that it was irrelevant to the charge of trespassing.

"In the nuclear plant trespassing trial, the judge was not interested in why those persons had broken the law.

"When anyone tells you we are part of a nation that lives under laws, that's not important. We need to be more than that. We need to be a nation that lives under justice."

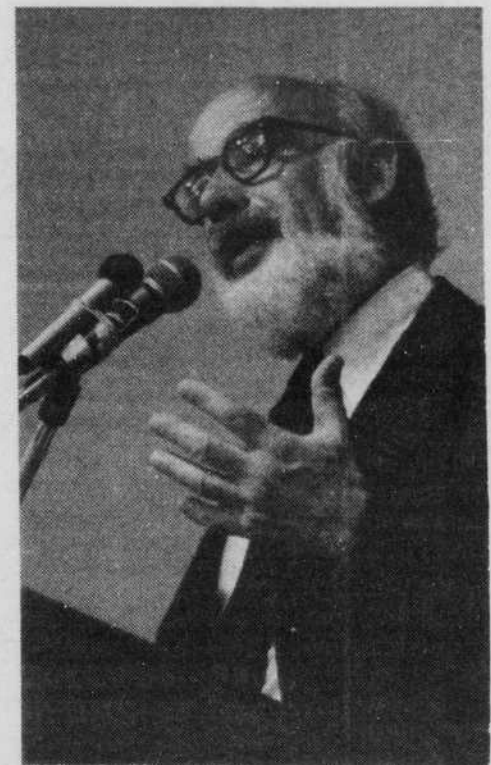


Photo by Erich Boekelheide

John Gofman

KWAX arrives at goal, transmitter move scheduled

The University's radio station, KWAX-FM, met its goal of \$15,000 in a week-long "radiothon" to move its antenna from the roof of Villard Hall to a higher location.

According to Janet Kenny, KWAX-FM station manager, 440 people called in pledges averaging nearly \$40 each. The lar-

gest contributor was the very last caller, who gave \$1,600 — the difference between the \$13,400 raised when KWAX-FM went off the air at 1 a.m. Saturday and its goal. A Springfield listener pledged \$1,000 Friday.

Many people called in pledges in exchange for services. After one person offered

to wash windows in exchange for a contribution a call came in pledging \$70 for the service.

Other contributors gave gifts in addition to cash. One local coin collector donated a rare Byzantine coin with his pledge.

"It has been fun, but now the real work begins as we settle down to relocate the antenna,"

Kenny said. "The new location will provide a better signal because three new elements will be added to provide 'horizontal' transmission to our existing 'vertical' transmission capabilities."

KWAX is looking at two sites to put the antenna. When one is

selected, the station will arrange with the owner to build the antenna, Kenny says.

The project is estimated to take up to a year for approval, construction and relocation of the transmitter, but Kenny hopes to see the work completed by next spring.

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