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In a dark time the eye begins to see.

- Theodore Roethke



JIM MORIN

TROJAN: OREGON'S HANFORD

by Elaine Kelley

On May 19, 1987, a special election will be held in Oregon to gain voter approval of a referendum providing for state challenges to the site selection process for a high-level nuclear waste repository at Hanford. The referndum would also require that state officials attempt to obtain official state status in the selection process to give Oregon veto power over Hanford as a final choice.

This referendum should be supported by everyone who is against siting Hanford as the nation's nuclear dump, but Oregonians need to see and take responsibility for the complete picture, one that include's Oregon's Trojan Nuclear Plant, which has produced two hundred and ninety-one tons of high-level nuclear waste and three thousand, five hundred and thirty pounds of plutonium.

Hanford represents a major threat to the Pacific Northwest's environment with its combined problems of (1) plutonium production at the N-Reactor (similar in design to Chernoby); (2) plutonium separation at the Purex Plant; (3) inadequately disposed military wastes; (4) U.S. Ecology Inc.'s low-level radioactive waste dump, and; (5) seven abandoned plutonium production reactors in need of decommissioning. The Hanford referendum

fails to address any of these problems.

Any campaign against Hanford (in Washington) that deliberately avoids the issue of nuclear waste production at Trojan (in Oregon) is a hypocritical position in which we are guilty of a gross double standard, saying in effect to other states: "Don't send all your nuclear waste to Hanford in the great Pacific Northwest! But we'll send ours to you as soon as the federal government decides on a site—maybe the one in Texas, or the one in Nevada—as long as it isn't the one in Washington—near us!"

Forelaws On Board, an Oregon environmental activist group which co-sponsored three antinuclear bills last November (one of which called for closing down Trojan: all three lost), has filed a new initiative for the November 1988 ballot proposing the closure of the Trojan Nuclear Plant until these three conditions are met:

(1) Federally licensed permanent disposal site for plant's high-level waste is available;
(2) Operation of plant is cost effective;

(3) Plant can withstand major earthquakes without harm to public, and meets federal seismic protection requirements.

SENATE BILL 968

On Friday, April 17, 1987, in Hearing Room C of the state capitol in Salem, will be a public hearing at one p.m. on Senate Bill 968 before the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Senate Bill 968 proposes to extend the emergency response evacuation zone of the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant from its current ten mile radius to a fifty mile radius in Oregon

On April 26,1986 the Chernobyl nuclear plant exploded, causing one thousand immediate injuries, thirty-one deaths, one hundred and thirty-five thousand people evacuated from their homes in the Ukraine, and at least three billion dollars in financial losses. Long term implications are far more troubling and uncertain. The health of people and the environment in the Ukraine and throughout Europe will be affected for decades, Estimates of resulting long term cancer deaths range as high as five hundred thousand. People were evacuated as far as one hundred miles downwind from the reactor site. Many people are having to abandon their communities permanently.

In the United States evacuation plans are only required for a ten mile radius around a nuclear reactor. As experience has shown, in the event of a major nuclear accident this provides inadequate protection. The people of Portland and other surrounding communities deserve a much better opportunity to protect their lives and well being. Presently Portland has no evacuation plans at all.

The time to correct this failure in emergency planning is now. Call or write your State Senator. For more information, contact Forelaws On Board, 320 SW Stark Street, Room 517, Portland, Oregon 97204.

- LLOYD MARBET

Lloyd Marbet is co-director of Forelaws On Board.

Forelaws On Board has submitted the following argument in support of the Hanford Referendum for the Voter's Pamphlet:

FACT: ON JUNE 13, 1986, WE STATED IN THE OREGONIAN:

"For thirty years, the nuclear industry has assured us that the problem of nuclear wastes would soon be solved. The people of Oregon relied upon this promise when they allowed the Trojan Nuclear Plant to store its wastes in a temporary holding tank until a permanent repository was available. A review of events suggests that a federal repository may never be licensed and that the Trojan site may therefore be with us in perpetuity."

FACT: OUR ARGUMENT IN THE NOVEMBER 1986 VOTERS PAMPHLET STATED:

"If we wish to make our case against Hanford, we must have something more to say than 'not here!' We must show that we have learned the great lesson: we must stop producing nuclear wastes in the mistaken belief that someone will come along and take it safely away."

FACT: ON OCTOBER 16,1986, THE MAJOR-ITY CONCLUSIONS OF A COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND STATED:

There is now no safe method of permanently disposing of spent nuclear fuel. The continued production and accumulation of such nuclear wastes poses a present health risk and an unpredictable threat to the health of future generations and the environmental quality of the nation."

FACT: ON FEBRUARY 2, 1987, GOVERNOR GOLDSCHMIDT TESTIFIES BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

"The accidents at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl are, thank God, behind us. But there is clear and disturbing evidence that pre-Three Mile Island and Chernobyl mindsets persist today. Those mindsets are afraid or unwilling to look at technical and scientific judgements and ask 'What if we were wrong?'"

FACT: On February 13, 1987 Forelaws On Board filed a new initiative petition to stop production of nuclear waste at Trojan until there is a federally licensed repository.

Elaine Kelley is a member of Forelaws On Board.