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Congress of the United States

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

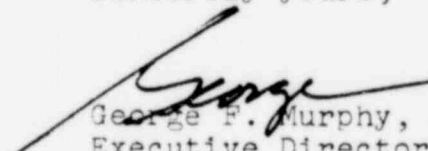
June 16, 1975

Mr. Carlton Kammerer
Director
Office of Congressional
Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Carl:

Attached is a recent article from the Washington Star which is self-explanatory. It would be appreciated if you would provide a report from NRC on the statement that two former security guards from the Three Mile Island nuclear plant expressed concern about security at the plant, but got laid off for their trouble.

Sincerely yours,


George F. Murphy, Jr.
Executive Director

Attachment:
As stated

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Ralph Nader's Full-Court Press Conference

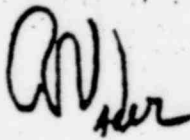
Panorama Dialogue

By Hal Willard

WHEN I ANSWERED my phone, a woman gave her name and then said: "Please hold for Ralph Nader," and went off the line. Now, who in the world is not going to hold for Ralph Nader? I held.

Ralph Nader probably is the only person who can send out letters or announcements without a letterhead and sign just his name; no identification. In fact, the name is typed — Ralph Nader — and he merely signs "RNader."

(That signature could bear analyzing, by the way. There is a big "RN" run together, and then down



below, like a chemical formula, comes a quick "ader," with a long stroke for the top of the "d.")

And now Ralph Nader comes on the line. "Hal," he starts off. Well, Ralph Nader is no back-slapping, hail-fellow-well-met type — but neither is he rigidly formal with the personality of cold cream-of-wheat (worse than cold oatmeal), as General Motors and a large bunch of Congressmen would have us believe.

The fact is that I have met Ralph Nader on several occasions, and once hired him to write a story for The Washington Post. (It was for a special section on automobiles, and scared hell out of the advertising department).

So Ralph is entitled to call me Hal without the risk of being considered patronizing or over-familiar, or without being categorized with the legions of politicians and public relations people who call newspaper people by their first names as a matter of principle, whether or not they've ever met or even heard of them before.

"Hal," Ralph said, "we're having a press conference tomorrow and I hope you can make it."

Of course I could make it. I knew somebody was bound to get blasted and newspaper people always are willing to go hear somebody get blasted, as long as it isn't them. For a long time, any attack by Nader was a cinch to get newspaper space. But in the last couple of years he has spread himself thinner and been less discriminating with his attacks. Result: less press.

While increasing the number of his targets, he has not lowered his sights: he still goes after the biggies. The only thing is that the

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research and investigation was done by Nader personally in the early days, and now it is done in large part by underlings who make reports to Ralph that he then issues.

Some formerly ardent Nader fans now are merely fans, because they aren't as sure as they used to be about the firmness of "Nader" facts.

The opinion seems to be that a Nader fact is more factual than a "Nader" fact.

"Hal," Ralph was saying, "I've got two former security guards from the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania who were worried about security at the plant, reported laxness and got laid off for their trouble."

It turned out to be a Ralph Nader spectacular, the sort of thing that America has become used to in the years since most citizens finally became convinced that Nader really was about as selfless as it is possible to be and meant it when he said he was fighting for the ordinary consumer against those who would make a buck off us any way they could whenever they could.

Like the work of anyone, some Ralph Nader causes are more important than others. This one in-

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volved nuclear power plants. It was important.

For perhaps the first time in the history of communications, let's get the denial on the record before the charge: the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant administration and the Burns International Security Service, former employers of the guards, emphatically insist that the guards' charges are inaccurate, and further state that the guards were not laid off, but quit of their own volition.

Nader's concern was that if there was in fact a lack of security at Three Mile Island there very likely was a lack of security at other nuclear plants—including the two nuclear plants in Virginia and one in Maryland, and the several others in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The two guards, John Darcy and Joseph Shapiro, of Camp Hill and Mechanicsburg respectively, cited a series of specific examples to support their charge of lax security: unwatched gates, issuance of unauthorized keys, untrained guards, malfunctioning electronic systems, etc.

Nader said all this meant that there could be "terrorist intrusion and massive extortion demands. Sabotage could result in the re-

lease of large amounts of radiation and the death of hundreds and thousands of people . . . and contamination of the area and damage to subsequent generations."

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has security regulations which nuclear plants are supposed to follow, and an NRS spokesman said after the Nader press conference that there are "frequent inspections" to ensure compliance. However, Darcy and Shapiro claimed the regulations are being violated at Three Mile Island.

Whatever the security situation now, the Three Mile Island plant was fined \$3,500 by the NRC last September when an unescorted inspector passed into a security area of the plant without being checked.

Security at nuclear plants has worried some scientists, legislators and environmentalists for years. Physicist Theodore Taylor has claimed that a person with the right knowledge could pilfer the makings of a nuclear bomb from nuclear power plants and Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) has expressed fears about persons gaining entrance to plants and sabotaging them.

Nader entered the controversy

over nuclear power plants comparatively late, but did so full steam ahead and has become the chief spokesman of the opponents. As such, he asked the NRC for a nationwide investigation of nuclear plant security.

An NRC spokesman said the specific charges of the guards would be automatically investigated, but the request for a full-scale investigation would have to be taken under consideration by the commissioners.

Following Nader's jammed press conference, I was approached by a man who identified himself as a representative of a utility company who had attended the conference "just to see what a Nader press conference was like."

"How did Nader get so many people there?" he asked. "By calling them up and asking them to come," I replied.

"He seems to know what he is doing," the man said, referring to Nader's dealings with the press.

"Yes," I said, "he certainly does know how to get reporters out and present information."

But, the next day, only one major newspaper, the Philadelphia Inquirer, carried the story, so far as I could determine.

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