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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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Interview of William M. Baker

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Interview of William M. Baker

July 14, 1982
Palo Verde Nuclear Station

Investigaors:

P R O C E E D I N G S

INVESTIGATOR: This is July the 14th, 1982, and it's an interview of William M. Baker, B-a-k-e-r, Palo Verde Nuclear Generation Station.

And Mr. Baker, do we have your permission to tape this conversation?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

INVESTIGATOR: I'd like to get some basic administrative information. What is your date of birth?

MR. BAKER: March 30th, '37.

INVESTIGATOR: And your present residence?

MR. BAKER: 8248 West Whitton --

INVESTIGATOR: Whitman?

MR. BAKER: Whitton. W-h-i-t-t-o-n. Phoenix.

INVESTIGATOR: Do you know the zip code there?

MR. BAKER: 85033.

INVESTIGATOR: And your home phone?

MR. BAKER: 849-3319.

INVESTIGATOR: And your present job title?

MR. BAKER: Journeyman wireman.

INVESTIGATOR: And your employer is Bechtel?

MR. BAKER: Bechtel.

INVESTIGATOR: How long have you been with Bechtel?

MR. BAKER: This last time would be about a year.

I had worked for them before, after I left Western _____.

1 INVESTIGATOR: About a year?

2 MR. BAKER: Yes. Last March.

3 INVESTIGATOR: March to present?

4 When did you leave Western (inaudible)?

5 MR. BAKER: In March.

6 INVESTIGATOR: How long were you with Western
7 (inaudible)?

8 MR. BAKER: A year.

9 INVESTIGATOR: This is Lou _____, and
10 (inaudible).

11 INVESTIGATOR: Mr. Baker.

12 INVESTIGATOR: He's the resident NRC engineer here.

13 INVESTIGATOR: I know you from your picture in the
14 paper.

15 VOICE: Oh, yes. (Inaudible).

16 INVESTIGATOR: And your position with Bechtel is
17 what?

18 MR. BAKER: I was a foreman.

19 INVESTIGATOR: And you were with them basically
20 what, from the end of 1979 to March of '81?

21 (Inaudible.)

22 INVESTIGATOR: And how about before that (inaudible)?

23 MR. BAKER: Well, I was employed in town. Corbin
24 Service.

25 INVESTIGATOR: Okay. How about nuclear jobs; how

1 many --?

2 MR. BAKER: Well, I worked at San Onofre about
3 four years ago.

4 INVESTIGATOR: How long were you there?

5 MR. BAKER: About four months --

6 INVESTIGATOR: Any records --

7 MR. BAKER: Yes.

8 INVESTIGATOR: Who did you work for there?

9 MR. BAKER: Bechtel, (inaudible).

10 INVESTIGATOR: Tell me the year you (inaudible).

11 MR. BAKER: I went in in 1950, started (inaudible).

12 INVESTIGATOR: Well, what we would like to discuss
13 primarily is your knowledge of and association with an
14 individual by the name of Jerry Wright. (?) (Unclear)

15 I assume by the period of time that you went to
16 work with the Western _____, Charlie Wright was then
17 already employed?

18 MR. BAKER: He was there when I worked (inaudible)
19 He'd been there about a week or two weeks.

20 INVESTIGATOR: So you basically (inaudible) about
21 the same time?

22 MR. BAKER: Yes.

23 INVESTIGATOR: And what was his position during
24 the period of time you were there?

25 MR. BAKER: He operated the _____ machine.

1 INVESTIGATOR: What was the total number of people
2 that were present at that time?

3 MR. BAKER: There was three employees and one
4 supervisor, and yourself, _____ Ladd, Terry _____ who is
5 now a supervisor and (inaudible).

6 INVESTIGATOR: Did they have any other electricians?

7 MR. BAKER: Well, a couple had worked there before
8 I got there, but they quit. (Inaudible). It stayed that
9 way for quite a while and then we would hire on and off, when
10 we needed somebody to fill in (inaudible).

11 INVESTIGATOR: Could you very briefly describe what
12 your responsibilities will do (inaudible)?

13 MR. BAKER: Well, I was a working foreman, and I
14 worked right with Terry; him and I got all the hookups and
15 all the thermocouples, the works; and then when we got it
16 ready then we would fill (inaudible) Charlie Wright (inaudible)
17 was ready to run.

18 INVESTIGATOR: Now, you may not be aware of, our
19 primary purpose in life as a governmental agency is specifi-
20 cally related to quality class safety systems. The other
21 stuff, although we have a concern for it, legally it's not
22 the responsibility of NRC. So primarily we're interested in
23 your associations and Charlie _____'s -- safety related.

24 MR. BAKER: Yes.

25 INVESTIGATOR: During the period of time that you

1 were employed with Western _____, when did Charlie Wright
2 start having problems?

3 MR. BAKER: Well, you mean his statement that he
4 made that he was having problems with the --

5 INVESTIGATOR: -- stress --

6 MR. BAKER: Well, there was -- I never knew that
7 he was having any great problems, as far as that goes. But I
8 don't know of any time that (inaudible) make that statement
9 to the supervisor about something being wrong.

10 INVESTIGATOR: Basically, am I safe to assume that
11 during the period of a year and a half, approximately, Bill,
12 he was terminated that he never voiced any concerns about --

13 MR. BAKER: Not that I ever heard. Not anything
14 wrong with the operation, as far as I know.

15 INVESTIGATOR: Do you recall when Charlie was
16 terminated?

17 MR. BAKER: Well, I think I had just quit before
18 Charlie was terminated. He was terminated a little, a couple
19 weeks before (inaudible).

20 INVESTIGATOR: So then somewhere around April of
21 last year (inaudible) you quit on your own?

22 MR. BAKER: I quit on my own.

23 INVESTIGATOR: Okay. The last few months that
24 you associated with Charlie, late December to the period of
25 time that you left, did you ever hear any comments relative

1 to Charlie being unhappy with the way his (inaudible)?

2 MR. BAKER: Well, any operator, you know -- and
3 then we had to straighten up the problem if there is any
4 problem, if it's not running correctly; is we have to find
5 out why it isn't monitoring correctly. There would be times
6 that a thermocouple would come loose, something like that and
7 we'd have to go check it. (Inaudible).

8 INVESTIGATOR: Okay, yes, that's in electrical --
9 (inaudible).

10 VOICE: I'm talking about that that Charlie was
11 specifically responsible for.

12 VOICE: In the area (inaudible) the machine wasn't
13 operating correctly, and you couldn't get it fixed, and --

14 VOICE: No. (Inaudible.) They weren't used
15 unless they were working correctly. I don't know of any time
16 that Charlie -- he might have had a kind of (inaudible) with
17 his operation, but I don't know of any problem he had there.

18 INVESTIGATOR: Did you have any supervisory
19 responsibility for Charlie?

20 MR. BAKER: No, I did not.

21 INVESTIGATOR: Related crafts --

22 (Simultaneous discussion.)

23 INVESTIGATOR: You worked directly for the superin-
24 tendant?

25 MR. BAKER: Yes.

1 INVESTIGATOR: And that would be Steve Bell?

2 MR. BAKER: Steve Bell, yes.

3 INVESTIGATOR: Did Steve Bell ever mention anything
4 to you about Charlie being unhappy or complaining about, the
5 equipment was operating improperly or anything like that?

6 MR. BAKER: Well, at the time Charlie would take,
7 maybe something wrong, but actually there was nothing wrong.
8 But as far as, Steve didn't say anything to me about it.
9 You know, if the (inaudible) machines were running were --
10 when they were checked out, if there was something wrong --
11 (inaudible). But I don't know of any time that -- Steve didn't
12 say anything to me about it, there being anything wrong with
13 the equipment.

14 INVESTIGATOR: Under normal circumstances, on an
15 average, how did the normal workday progress? Can you give
16 me some indication as to where you were located as far as
17 to -- do you work right with Charlie Wright, or was he at
18 one location and you at another, and did the electricians do
19 their thing -- how much actual contact did --

20 MR. BAKER: Well, we were in contact all day long,
21 pretty much. We were in constant contact --

22 INVESTIGATOR: Intermittently during this time?

23 MR. BAKER: Yes, we were. So that if anything did
24 go wrong with it, we'd get right on it.

25 INVESTIGATOR: But I understand, based upon where

1 his counsel might be located, he wouldn't necessarily be
2 observing you working on, say, putting in a thermocouple, or
3 whatever.

4 MR. BAKER: You mean, was he right with us?

5 INVESTIGATOR: Yes, right with you most of the day.

6 MR. BAKER: No, he would be at this machine, and
7 we were --

8 INVESTIGATOR: Well, was it safe to assume that
9 he would perform his functions by himself rather than --

10 MR. BAKER: Yes. His portion of it.

11 INVESTIGATOR: When did you first become knowledge-
12 able of Charlie Wright's concern over, or allegations if you
13 want to call them that, concerning the manner in which Western
14 _____ had conducted the thermocoupling (inaudible).
15 When did you first become aware of that?

16 MR. BAKER: What do you mean, in the latter part
17 of the --?

18 INVESTIGATOR: No, whenever --

19 MR. BAKER: (Inaudible). Well, --

20 INVESTIGATOR: What I want to know is when did you
21 first hear that Charlie Wright didn't like the way you were
22 say putting in thermocouples, or your attempting --

23 MR. BAKER: Well, I didn't hear -- he didn't tell
24 me he didn't like the way I was putting them on.

25 INVESTIGATOR: When did you first become knowledgeable

1 (inaudible)?

2 MR. BAKER: Well, I don't know. Really, I don't
3 know.

4 INVESTIGATOR: You've indicated that Charlie never
5 made a comment to you. When did you first learn --

6 MR. BAKER: Oh.

7 (Simultaneous discussion.)

8 MR. BAKER: (Inaudible.) That's when I first --
9 that's what I was trying to --

10 INVESTIGATOR: Yes.

11 MR. BAKER: That's when I first found out that we
12 weren't supposed to be doing it right.

13 INVESTIGATOR: And that's this year, then, that --

14 MR. BAKER: Right.

15 INVESTIGATOR: And that would have ended shortly
16 after your (inaudible) -- that was in May 27th, 1982. So
17 you weren't aware of any --

18 MR. BAKER: I wasn't aware of anything until that
19 time; that's when I (inaudible).

20 INVESTIGATOR: Did you voluntarily --

21 MR. BAKER: I volunteered, yes.

22 INVESTIGATOR: Did any management executives on
23 the site, Bechtel, APS, attempt to force you to go down --

24 MR. BAKER: (Inaudible.)

25 INVESTIGATOR: Strictly on your own?

1 MR. BAKER: Strictly on my own. I came home from
2 work that evening and (inaudible) paper (inaudible).

3 INVESTIGATOR: And why specifically did you ____
4 the newspaper?

5 MR. BAKER: Well, I wanted to clarify our part of
6 it, that we weren't involved. (Inaudible).

7 INVESTIGATOR: What specifically do you recall that
8 ____ charges were incorrect?

9 MR. BAKER: Well, that statements had been made
10 that it could be cheated on and that the hookups and what
11 have you were, you know -- (inaudible) the whole article --
12 (inaudible).

13 INVESTIGATOR: But you did make reference to that
14 article when you provided ____ information to the newspapers?

15 MR. BAKER: Yes.

16 INVESTIGATOR: You were apparently angry that
17 Charlie had --

18 MR. BAKER: I was.

19 INVESTIGATOR: -- newspaper -- make these accusa-
20 tions.

21 MR. BAKER: Yes, I was. I learned that I had been
22 named, but it was not in the newspaper. After I got the
23 (inaudible) newspaper (inaudible).

24 INVESTIGATOR: Had been used?

25 MR. BAKER: Yes.

1 INVESTIGATOR: In the, in your newspaper article
2 there's a comment to the effect that Wright made the statement
3 that an electrician figured how to "fix" the test, and that's
4 in quotes; he said just let (inaudible) that are as much as
5 20 percent under required strength. Did you object to that
6 comment?

7 MR. BAKER: Yes, I did --

8 INVESTIGATOR: Why?

9 MR. BAKER: It wasn't true. To all my knowledge,
10 there was nothing done illegally or in any manner.

11 INVESTIGATOR: And part of this comment, they
12 quote you -- and newspapers are not necessarily (inaudible) --

13 MR. BAKER: No.

14 INVESTIGATOR: They quote you as saying, "I don't
15 know of any time this could have happened. Everything was
16 monitored constantly, and fixing the test would have been very
17 difficult." Let me take the first part of it. You don't
18 know how this could have happened. Is there a manner in
19 which you feel that an electrician could bypass the normal
20 _____ company monitoring system?

21 MR. BAKER: No, I don't myself. I mean, I --
22 (inaudible) there is a way, I don't know.

23 INVESTIGATOR: Okay. The rest of that comment
24 is that "Everything was monitored constantly, and fixing the
25 test would have been very difficult." Is that a true statement?

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1 MR. BAKER: That is a true statement. I agree
2 with (inaudible) to tell you the truth. (Inaudible) he was
3 constantly working with us.

4 INVESTIGATOR: Who was that, Bill?

5 MR. BAKER: Donaldson, John Donaldson.

6 INVESTIGATOR: (Inaudible).

7 MR. BAKER: He's a (inaudible).

8 INVESTIGATOR: How often would Jack be out there
9 watching the operation?

10 MR. BAKER: He's pretty much (inaudible).
11 And everything that we run, Jack was checking it out.
12 (Inaudible.)

13 INVESTIGATOR: He would look at thermocouple
14 installations?

15 MR. BAKER: He checked installation, the whole
16 works -- he took the leaders, monitored the recording --
17 (inaudible) -- at the well and at the machine to make sure
18 that it was operating properly. You would get the right
19 reading on the wire, what have you. (Inaudible) not to
20 much resistance, so forth.

21 INVESTIGATOR: Did he do that on a daily basis?

22 MR. BAKER: Not on every one of them, no. But we
23 had to -- we checked the machine every so often. That was
24 part of the requirements that it was checked to see that it
25 was operating properly.

1 INVESTIGATOR: How closely did he monitor your
2 activities when (inaudible)?

3 MR. BAKER: He was under pretty constant (inaudible).
4 (Simultaneous discussion.)

5 INVESTIGATOR: And how about your QC representative?

6 MR. BAKER: They were -- well, (inaudible).

7 INVESTIGATOR: Did they always meet all of their
8 required (inaudible)?

9 MR. BAKER: (Inaudible.)

10 INVESTIGATOR: Who did you normally have out of
11 QC? Any specific individual? Or did it vary?

12 MR. BAKER: It varied. I don't remember the man's
13 name. It's been quite a while since we worked on that.

14 INVESTIGATOR: Did you ever get any feeling at all
15 of maybe QC was not doing an adequate job?

16 MR. BAKER: No. From everything that I could see,
17 and as much as I knew about it, and I believe I knew quite
18 a bit about it, that everything was going according to the
19 specifications. (Inaudible.)

20 INVESTIGATOR: Did you recall an individual by
21 the name of Tiny Tim?

22 MR. BAKER: Yes. Tiny worked for a while (inaud-
23 ible).

24 INVESTIGATOR: You recall Tiny's correct and
25 full name?

1 MR. BAKER: Oh, heck. No, I can't remember that.

2 INVESTIGATOR: Is it William Compson?

3 MR. BAKER: Yes. I believe that's it.

4 INVESTIGATOR: What period of time was he employed?

5 MR. BAKER: Well, he came there a little while
6 before I left, and he was there (inaudible). He must have
7 been there about, about a month or so before I left.

8 INVESTIGATOR: So then the first part of 1981 he
9 left in March, 1981?

10 MR. BAKER: I left in March.

11 INVESTIGATOR: So he could have come in January --

12 MR. BAKER: January, --

13 INVESTIGATOR: And you say he remained on after
14 you --

15 MR. BAKER: He was there after I left, and he
16 was laid off.

17 INVESTIGATOR: Are you knowledgeable of any situa-
18 tion in which there was a conversation between Tiny Tim,
19 Steve Bell, and Terry _____y concerning (inaudible) thermo-
20 couples.

21 MR. BAKER: The statement that was made in that news-
22 paper; but I don't know what had happened (inaudible).
23 If there was such a conversation, I -- (inaudible).

24 INVESTIGATORS: Of the individuals that were
25 involved, would there be any reason why any of those directly

1 involved would in fact attempt to bypass the normal manner
2 in which thermocouples were hooked up?

3 MR. BAKER: (Inaudible.)

4 INVESTIGATOR: Would any of the individuals
5 personally gain (inaudible).

6 MR. BAKER: Wouldn't gain anything; I don't know
7 why they would do it.

8 INVESTIGATOR: (Inaudible) under the contractual
9 obligation (inaudible).

10 MR. BAKER: By per inch and (inaudible).

11 INVESTIGATOR: Yes, right.

12 Is there any reason for them to delay the work;
13 would they make additional money?

14 MR. BAKER: No. No, they would not.

15 INVESTIGATOR: Would they in fact lose money?

16 MR. BAKER: Well, there --

17 INVESTIGATOR: Based upon what you know.

18 MR. BAKER: They've got to do so many inches a day,
19 you know, and (inaudible).

20 INVESTIGATOR: So in reference to the conversation
21 that apparently appeared in the newspaper article, you have
22 no personal knowledge as to what --

23 MR. BAKER: No (inaudible).

24 INVESTIGATOR: -- ever existed, or --

25 MR. BAKER: I don't remember anything like that.

1 (Simultaneous discussion.)

2 VOICE: Your --

3 VOICE: Go ahead.

4 INVESTIGATOR: From your knowledge of Tiny Tim,
5 he had been involved in any attempts to gimmy up --

6 MR. BAKER: No.

7 INVESTIGATOR: -- thermocouples?

8 MR. BAKER: No, no. I don't believe that type of
9 person would try something like that. He worked with Perry
10 most of the time at that time, because I was -- well, I was a
11 working foreman, but I was doing other things, and helped them.
12 But he was working right with him. Terry, at that time.
13 And he (inaudible).

14 INVESTIGATOR: You figure Tiny was an expert
15 wireman, as an electrician?

16 MR. BAKER: Well, I don't really know that much
17 about him; I mean, he done what Terry was -- Terry was the
18 experienced one working with him. So he worked right along
19 with Terry.

20 INVESTIGATOR: Terry would call the shots.

21 Let me read a comment to you. If someone said,
22 involved with (inaudible). "I know how to wire thermocouples
23 to give you a reading when you lose your thermocouple and
24 the spare thermocouple" would that make any sense to you?

25 MR. BAKER: (Inaudible).

1 INVESTIGATOR: Let me read it again to you:

2 "I know how to wire the thermocouples to give you a reading
3 when you lose your thermocouple and you lose the spare
4 thermocouple" -- could you do that as (inaudible)?

5 MR. BAKER: If you hooked it up to one of the other
6 thermocouples, it would read that number. And I don't know what--

7 INVESTIGATOR: If you lose the one you're --

8 (Simultaneous discussion.)

9 INVESTIGATOR: -- and you lose the spare, is there
10 any manner in which you can wire the thermocouple to give
11 you a reading? Would that --

12 MR. BAKER: The only way -- you could hook it up
13 to the other area, but -- I mean one of the other thermocouples
14 -- but you wouldn't get the right reading, so it would show
15 up.

16 INVESTIGATOR: In other words, you'd lose the one --

17 MR. BAKER: The operator would know it. So you
18 couldn't (inaudible) it past. That's just --

19 INVESTIGATOR: So basically that's --

20 MR. BAKER: It would show up _____ signed number,
21 you know, --

22 INVESTIGATOR: So that (inaudible) doesn't really
23 mean anything --

24 MR. BAKER: No, it doesn't. Because when that
25 temperature climbs, you can tell how they're climbing, and

1 what area the thermocouple is located in. So it's very -- I
2 can't see that a person could get away with it.

3 INVESTIGATOR: Did you have any responsibility,
4 or can you yourself evaluate the thermocouple charts that
5 are prepared (inaudible) hookup?

6 MR. BAKER: Well, I could g a machine, you know;
7 we had been around it that much; we could actually run the
8 machine ourselves. So we know the rate of climb and the
9 descent, when it was coming back down.

10 INVESTIGATOR: Where would you get the parameters,
11 where would you get the area of how much you can allow -- a
12 rate of climb or --

13 MR. BAKER: It's on the specifications on your
14 sheet. Your rate of climb --

15 INVESTIGATOR: Where is that located?

16 VOICE: On your normal daily operations --

17 VOICE: It's on your daily sheet.

18 VOICE: (Inaudible).

19 INVESTIGATOR: I realize you've been away --

20 MR. BAKER: Yes. Well, actually, you know, I
21 didn't get in early in the morning. I was doing my work,
22 and just making sure that the stuff was operating.

23 We pretty much, you know, knew what
24 was going on -- we --

25 INVESTIGATOR: With that specification sheet

1 which I think is called the CIP, would that be kept at the
2 console?

3 MR. BAKER: Yes, it's kept at the console. But --
4 and the QC man would come around and check it.

5 INVESTIGATOR: And as far as the operation of the
6 thermocouples, you feel that you are knowledgeable enough to
7 interpret the --

8 MR. BAKER: Charts.

9 INVESTIGATOR: -- printout or the charts?

10 MR. BAKER: Oh, yes.

11 INVESTIGATOR: When a thermocouple starts acting up,
12 (inaudible), or it might be paralleled, or another one
13 substituted for -- you think you can see that on the chart.

14 MR. BAKER: We were knowledgeable enough on that
15 to know what -- how the pipe heated in the different areas,
16 you know, as they (inaudible). The bottom would react dif-
17 ferent from the top, the sides, et cetera.

18 INVESTIGATOR: What's the specific purpose -- I'm
19 not an engineer -- but what's the specific purpose for putting
20 thermocouples on a large pipe; putting one above and one below.
21 What's the purpose of that?

22 MR. BAKER: Well, you have -- like if we were
23 heating, one would have -- of course, we'd have them in
24 different -- side spot (inaudible) -- depending on the (inaud-
25 ible). But say we had one on top -- we'd have one located

1 here and one on that side of the well. Because there is a
2 difference in the heating of the bottom, the heating of the
3 top because the heat rises, and you get your (inaudible)
4 the top of the pipe.

5 INVESTIGATOR: Who makes the determination of
6 location?

7 MR. BAKER: It's (inaudible) by diagram.

8 INVESTIGATOR: Well, then, you'd strictly follow --

9 MR. BAKER: Right.

10 INVESTIGATOR: But what's the overall purpose of
11 heating up the pipe?

12 MR. BAKER: Well it's to relieve the stress on the
13 wells. And they (inaudible).

14 INVESTIGATOR: If you don't (inaudible) correctly
15 or by the time element, what occurs in those pipes?

16 MR. BAKER: Well, it could ruin it. It could ruin
17 the well if it wasn't done properly.

18 INVESTIGATOR: So how important is it, for instance,
19 to have (inaudible) -- how important is that as far as
20 (inaudible).

21 MR. BAKER: It's very important (inaudible)
22 specifications. Same thing (inaudible).

23 (Simultaneous discussion.)

24 INVESTIGATOR: What's so important about cool-down
25 time?

1 MR. BAKER: You can't cool it too fast, because it
2 would possibly crack (inaudible) because of the surge of the
3 coolant, you have to cool it to certain degrees at certain
4 times.

5 INVESTIGATOR: Do you have any feel for how much
6 effect that would have on the strength of the well, percentage-
7 wise?

8 MR. BAKER: Well, this is like (inaudible) if
9 you cool it too fast, it cracks, that's the way I understand
10 it.

11 INVESTIGATOR: Who makes the determination?
12 I understand the first comment that when they reach such and
13 such -- decreasing of the heat (inaudible) that when you
14 reach (inaudible) a degree, you can just turn the machine
15 away and walk away (inaudible) good-sized pipe. Who makes
16 that decision?

17 MR. BAKER: Well, it -- who determines --

18 INVESTIGATOR: Who says you can turn off the
19 machine and go? Is that done --

20 VOICE: Turn off the machine, can't you? --

21 (Simultaneous discussion.)

22 MR. BAKER: Well, Steve -- the operator does.
23 (Inaudible). But if there's any decision (inaudible).

24 INVESTIGATOR: Well, I've heard the comment that
25 certain _____ pipe, many times somewhere around 600, it doesn't

1 really make that much difference (inaudible).

2 MR. BAKER: (Inaudible) certain feet, certain
3 (inaudible).

4 INVESTIGATOR: How did (inaudible).

5 MR. BAKER: Within a certain time frame.

6 INVESTIGATOR: Okay. As a general rule, how did --
7 or generalization, how did Donaldson and Tiny Tim, _____,
8 and Bunting get along with Charlie Wright? What was the
9 relationship?

10 MR. BAKER: Everybody got along as far as I can see.

11 INVESTIGATOR: A friendly type environment?

12 MR. BAKER: Yes.

13 INVESTIGATOR: Was there any animosity between one
14 individual -- one pipefitter (inaudible) an electrician, a
15 pipefitter, two supervisors -- (inaudible). Any indications
16 (inaudible).

17 MR. BAKER: No. (Inaudible).

18 (Simultaneous discussion.)

19 INVESTIGATOR: Was there any evidence of argument
20 between any of the individuals?

21 MR. BAKER: No. We got along as far as I was
22 concerned.

23 INVESTIGATOR: Was there joking --

24 MR. BAKER: Yes.

25 INVESTIGATOR: Horseplay?

1 MR. BAKER: We always joked around --

2 INVESTIGATOR: There was no indication that Charlie,
3 who was upset about it?

4 MR. BAKER: Oh, well, Charlie would get upset very
5 easily, of course -- getting upset; but that was just Charlie's
6 nature. I don't (inaudible) say, but he just -- it was his
7 attitude. He got upset very easy. There were a lot of times
8 he'd say, there's something wrong with that _____ or
9 thermocouple; we'd go check it. check it out; come back, tell
10 him it was all right. But this is, you know -- of course,
11 sitting there by the machine all day, I can understand.
12 (Inaudible).

13 INVESTIGATOR: What were some instances where
14 he would become upset? What would upset him? Say a
15 thermocouple. Are there any other situations?

16 MR. BAKER: Well, sometimes say we didn't get
17 hooked up when we wanted to, and claimed we were going to
18 have to work over; he'd get a little upset about having to
19 work over; (inaudible).

20 INVESTIGATOR: Didn't he care to work overtime?

21 MR. BAKER: Well, sometimes he liked it; sometimes
22 he didn't.

23 INVESTIGATOR: Did he ever extend his work --
24 (inaudible) overtime? (Inaudible).

25 MR. BAKER: Did he do that?

1 INVESTIGATOR: Yes.

2 MR. BAKER: No, I don't believe he was. He
3 operated the machine, and we could all go by what (inaudible).

4 INVESTIGATOR: So basically, if I read what you're
5 saying correctly, that he did what he was supposed to do; did
6 an adequate job, and performed his normal functions.

7 MR. BAKER: He performed his -- he did the work.

8 INVESTIGATOR: In reference to his association with
9 other people, was he the brunt of a lot of a lot of jokes
10 (inaudible).

11 MR. BAKER: Jokes?

12 INVESTIGATOR: Yes.

13 MR. BAKER: (Inaudible).

14 INVESTIGATOR: Was there much joking directed at
15 him, _____ Charlie Wright.

16 MR. BAKER: Oh, well, sometimes you know you laugh
17 at somebody; get a little --

18 INVESTIGATOR: Oh, no. I meant other than normal
19 work relationships. Was Charlie more the brunt of the jokes
20 than say any other member of the crew?

21 MR. BAKER: Well, we joked a lot of times about
22 Charlie not wanting to work, or something, you know --
23 (inaudible).

24 INVESTIGATOR: Have you ever heard any comments
25 relative to Joe K _____? (End of Side A.)

1 No, I don't.

2 INTERVIEWER: Did you ever hear anything?

3 MR. BAKER: We didn't talk that way because --

4 INTERVIEWER: Did you ever hear anything to the
5 effect that any of the electricians said we know how to wire
6 around the thermocouples? Donaldson might have been present
7 during such a conversation and said I don't want to hear that
8 and walked away, which would have led someone to believe,
9 such as Tony Wright, that you were trying to bypass certain --

10 MR. BAKER: Oh, it might have been a joke, somebody
11 dropping a joke or something like that but that wouldn't
12 have been a joke because it -- nobody would try it.

13 INTERVIEWER: But you are not personally aware of
14 anything --

15 MR. BAKER: No, I'm not.

16 INTERVIEWER: If it did occur you are saying it
17 would have been strictly a joke?

18 MR. BAKER: Yes.

19 INTERVIEWER: In regard to relationships between
20 individuals, do you recall any cases when there might have
21 been some evidence that Charlie, you know you said he would
22 get mad, a little upset once in a while, is there any indica-
23 tion he might have held a grudge against anybody?

24 MR. BAKER: Well, if he did I don't think he would
25 use it in his job.

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1 INTERVIEWER: I guess what I am leading to, Jim,
2 is what really prompted Charlie to make those accusations in
3 the newspaper?

4 Would that have been because he had a grudge
5 against somebody?

6 MR. BAKER: Yes, I think he was a little mad at
7 Bechtel and I think he was a little mad at Bell for laying
8 him off. . . . why he did it.

9 INTERVIEWER: Now you weren't employed at the
10 time he was laid off?

11 MR. BAKER: No, I wasn't.

12 INTERVIEWER: Would you have any feel for why he
13 may have been laid off?

14 MR. BAKER: Yes, I do. He -- Charlie was awful
15 funny. If he wanted to run a pipe, he'd run one. He
16 just (inaudible). That was his main reason that Charlie got
17 laid off. He'd come in in the morning and oh, maybe we were
18 longer than he thought we should be to hook it up and, maybe
19 10:00, something like that, and he'd turn around and go home.

20 INTERVIEWER: He got paid for it anyway, I under-
21 stand. I don't know why --

22 MR. BAKER: Yes, I said that more than once, we
23 did, but --

24 INTERVIEWER: How frequently did that occur, or
25 a situation like that where he --

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1 MR. BAKER: Every so often he'd come in and turn
2 around and leave early. Now that was my understanding and
3 Steve's attitude toward it, that that was the reason why he
4 was laid off and as far as an operator, he was a good operator.
5 I believe that's what got him laid off.

6 INTERVIEWER: Did this occur over a fairly long
7 period of time?

8 MR. BAKER: No. (Inaudible.) He could have fired
9 him but didn't fire him, he laid him off.

10 INTERVIEWER: Do you have any feel for why he didn't
11 take this guy?

12 MR. BAKER: No, unless it's just Steve's nature.
13 He hated to fire anybody.

14 INTERVIEWER: What is your opinion of Steve Bell?

15 MR. BAKER: I like Steve very much.

16 INTERVIEWER: Is he hard to get along with?

17 MR. BAKER: No. He wasn't hard at all to get along
18 with as far as I was concerned and if we ever had any differ-
19 ences, we could talk it out.

20 INTERVIEWER: I guess he was your direct supervisor?

21 MR. BAKER: Yes.

22 If I had anything concerning union then I could
23 go to Steve and talk things out and work it out. There was
24 no problem there. We got along very good.

25 INTERVIEWER: In reference to Charlie, the only

1 assumption that (inaudible) Charlie possibly had a motive
2 (inaudible). That's the way I see it.

3 You never discussed it with Charlie? You had no
4 direct knowledge of how Charlie felt?

5 MR. BAKER: Well, like I said, Charlie drank a lot.

6 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, but after he was terminated --

7 MR. BAKER: I didn't see him after he was terminated.
8 That's the first I heard of him when he wrote that article.

9 INTERVIEWER: Do you know whether or not he ever
10 attempted to bring any of these concerns to the attention of
11 Bechtel or APS prior to the situation?

12 MR. BAKER: I don't know any time when he carried --
13 approached Steve --

14 INTERVIEWER: Steve or Bechtel or APS or anybody or
15 the nuclear inspector onsite , do you know whether he ever
16 voiced his concerns?

17 MR. BAKER: Not sure.

18 INTERVIEWER: Have you ever been asked any comments,
19 evaluations?

20 INTERVIEWER: Previously, say a year ago, did
21 anybody come around and ask anybody to talk to Charlie?

22 Are you aware of any situation at any period of
23 time that you were with (inaudible) stress where you have, or
24 anyone . . . any of the recordkeeping or any of the docu-
25 mentation or any of the work ever performed that could be

1 construed as an error, be incorrect or to the extent it would
2 be falsified?

3 MR. BAKER: No, I don't believe anything was ever
4 falsified. I really don't know of anything that wasn't done
5 right down to specifications. To the best of my knowledge,
6 I believe everything was done right.

7 (Inaudible.)

8 INTERVIEWER: That's it. We'll let you go. We
9 certainly appreciate your help.

10 MR. BAKER: All right, yes.

11 INTERVIEWER: We hope we haven't kept you too much
12 off the --

13 MR. BAKER: I just didn't want to make too many
14 statements about Charlie.

15 (Simultaneous conversation.)

16 INTERVIEWER: The interview was concluded at
17 0835 hours.

End
Interview.

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