Pennsylvania Gov. Richard Thornburgh told a Senate Subcommittee in Washington yesterday that "Our problems at the Three Mile site were compounded by loose talk of a possible explosion, confusion over how many hydrogen bubbles were in the reactor, and, eventually, that celebrated Saturday night bulletin on an imminent "explosion"—all of which seemed to originate from sources who had not yet to set foot in Pennsylvania, to say nothing of the plant itself."

Thornburgh also suggested that American nuclear power plants should be staffed by federally trained, on-site executives to deal with crisis situations.

STATE LEGISLATURE DEBATES NUCLEAR

Legislation which would allow the state to impose a surcharge on the construction of new nuclear power plants was approved for floor action yesterday by a Senate Committee. The bill would not affect plants already under construction in the state. The same committee also cleared a bill that would restrict the abilities of nuclear utilities to pass on nuclear accident-related costs to customers.

PLANT SAFETY CONSIDERED

The NRC is expected to decide Tuesday or Wednesday whether Bechtel & Hall's plants will be ordered to close temporarily, pending further safety studies.

LET US KNOW WHEN YOU LEAVE

It is very important that all a person and visiting personnel provide proper identification that they have fully completed their work at Three Mile Island so that biological exposure information can be provided to both the individual and the NRC. To ensure that this is properly completed, the immediate supervisory of each visitor or visitor is therefore held directly responsible to insure that the individual signs the South Gate before leaving the site on his final day. Pass the word.
Nuclear Insurance Update

According to American Nuclear Insurers, Inc., a group of insurance companies issuing against nuclear accidents, a total of 3,100 claims were processed through April 23 for a total of $1,151,929. The federal Price-Anderson Act limits total liability for any nuclear accident to $350 million.

A Salute to Secretaries

This is National Secretaries Week and all of us at Trailer City want to take this opportunity to offer a huge vote of thanks to all those secretaries who have really pitched in the last three weeks to move the mountains of paperwork involved in the recovery effort.

Harrisburg Area Weather

Monday's weather column advised some rain gear for today and that advice still stands. This morning's cloudiness will be around all day, with a chance of scattered showers and highs from 65 to 70. Tuesday's high will be in the same range. Chance of rain Tuesday is 30 per cent and Tuesday night there's a 60 per cent chance.

Retiree Stands by Hel-Ed

A retired Hel-Ed employee wrote in Tuesday's Reading Times, "...I have always been proud to have worked for a company that was greatly concerned about supplying adequate service for its customers." He continued, "Rates and prices are going up every day in all the necessities of life. Electric power costs more to produce, and still it is a reasonable commodity in comparison."

"Maybe too many take this convenience for granted, but one day we may flip a switch and the motor won't start, or the light won't light. Let's get behind our electric company, and support it as good reliable citizens should, while we are still having electric power at our disposal."

Section's Historical, Inconsistent

A Central reader wrote in Tuesday's Harrisburg Patriot that reaction to the Three Mile Island accident has been hysterical and inconsistent with reaction to tornadoes, floods, coal mine accidents, and smokestacks. "The cry against nuclear energy, as a result of Three Mile Island, is a prime example of our inconsistency. The irony of it all is that, if one looks at its roots, the product of the technological age in which we live, or the result of the footnot of nature, or man's unwillingness to abandon injurious 'animal' habits, or his willingness to have his neighbor, we act hysterically to an accident that caused no physical injury to anyone."

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