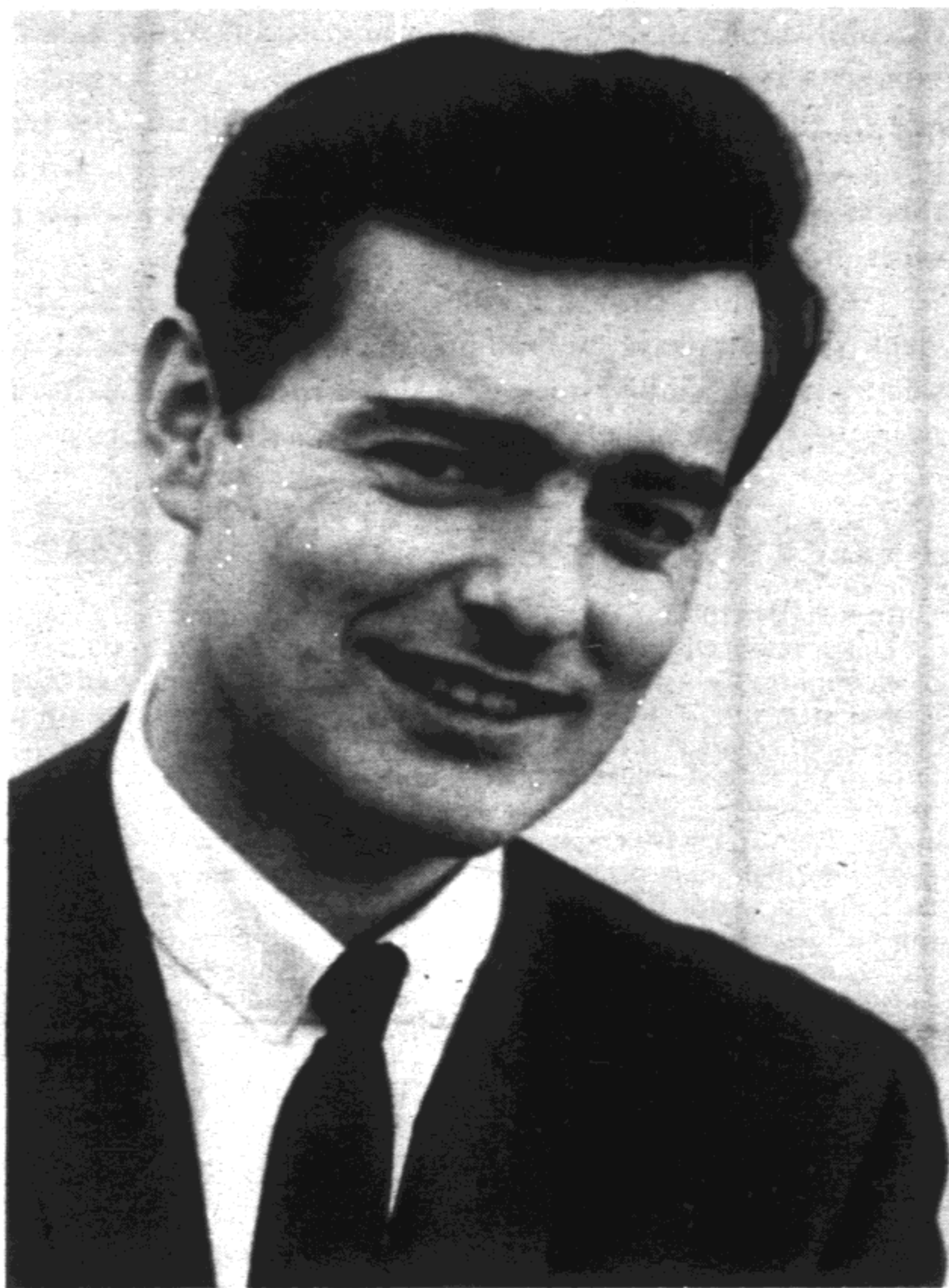


# BRADNER HITS AEC BLAST PLAN



**LEGISLATOR CHARGES AEC**—In a strongly worded series of charges, Rep. Mike Bradner, D-Fairbanks, declared that the Atomic Energy Commission has not told the public the full dangers of the nuclear tests on the Amchitka Island located on an earthquake fault of great earth stresses. Bradner said the tests could well trigger upheavals that could create mankilling tsunami waves.

## Charges AEC Holding Back Info on Possible Blast-Caused Quakes

State Rep. Mike Bradner has accused the Atomic Energy Commission of suppressing information on dangers of giant underground nuclear tests in Alaska triggering a major earthquake and resulting tidal wave.

Bradner charged that statements by the AEC's own scientists conflict on the earthquake danger, especially in the case of Amchitka Island in the Aleutians.

"Amchitka is located on a major earth-stress area that has produced killer tidal waves from relatively mild quakes," Bradner said.

He added: "Regardless of the island's remoteness an earthquake created tidal wave could race across the Pacific without warning to strike Southeastern Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, Hawaii, and Japan.

"The AEC has carefully avoided exposing Alaskans to information about the earthquake danger," he added.

Bradner further accused the AEC of excluding Alaska from an eight state governor's briefing last April on nuclear test safety at which the earthquake question was at issue.

"Alaska is one of only two states with a major nuclear test site," Bradner stated, "and our site is scheduled for the world's largest explosions.

"In addition we are in an earthquake belt capable of producing catastrophic tidal waves, and yet were excluded from this important safety meeting," the Fairbanks legislator said.

Bradner stated that at last April's governor's conference Dr. James Hadley, of the AEC, said it was: "conceivable" that a test detonation close to a concentration of stress in the earth's crust could trigger a sizable earthquake.

Bradner said Hadley told the governors at that meeting that the danger was slight in Nevada due to no evidence of any great stress concentration.

"However, in regard to Amchitka being developed as a test site," Bradner said, Hadley told these same men: "we have to accept the possibility that, being very close to concentrations of stored energy (in the earth) tests might trigger large events (earthquakes)."

Bradner said the AEC justified the Amchitka danger because of the island's remoteness and completely disregarded tidal waves.

The Fairbanks lawmaker stated the real danger from Amchitka to Alaskan communities and the entire Pacific Rim was from possible tidal waves.

"Tidal waves caused most of the devastation in the 1964 Alaska earthquake, and killed 12 persons in Crescent City, California over 2,000 miles away," Bradner said.

"A 1946 Aleutian earthquake hit Hawaii with 50 foot tidal waves, and a 1961 Aleutian caused tidal wave killed 61 persons in Hawaii and destroyed millions of dollars in property.

"The seismic sea wave warning system is inadequate to protect the Pacific Rim community from such an event that man may bring on himself," he added.

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# Bradner Hits AEC...

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Bradner said scientists confess to know little about the earthquake making process, but recent theory suggests that a major quake may begin when it is triggered by a smaller earthquake.

He continued: "Dr. James D. Brune, in a report to the meeting of the American Geophysical Union last April, revealed the initial tremor of the 1964 Alaskan earthquake was 6.5 on the richter scale, and was followed by the large 7.8 magnitude tremor."

Dr. Brune contrasted this with underground nuclear blasts of 6.2 on the richter scale in Nevada. Underground blasts are planned at Amchitka as much as 40 times more powerful than those in Nevada, Bradner pointed out.

The Fairbanks legislator also produced the following statement from the AEC's own published report on safety of underground nuclear testing:

"The Amchitka test area merits special mention because it is located near one of the earth's most seismically active regions. Inasmuch as earthquake mechanisms are not completely understood, no absolute statement can be made about the possibility of triggering an earthquake of magnitude in this area."

Bradner also said Dr. Kenneth S. Pitzer, President of Stanford University, who was a former AEC research director, and former Chairman of the President's Scientific Advisory Council, who had full access to all AEC studies, recently urged that tests be delayed in Nevada and Alaska pending an independent inquiry by qualified scientists.

Bradner said the AEC has been soft-selling an unwary Alaska public on safety at the Amchitka site, being developed for super-sized explosions, and termed the situation ironically tragic since Alaskans were only recently devastated by the very natural catastrophies that these explosions might cause again.

"The AEC has not, and cannot," Bradner charged, "assure Alaskans that the Amchitka super tests are seismically safe."

"At present the AEC is being permitted to hide behind the alleged remoteness of the island, but those in Alaska, Hawaii, Crescent City, and Japan, that have suffered the instant terror of a tidal wave, know that "remoteness" is pure fiction in the face of a 500 mile-an-hour earthquake triggered tidal wave."

Bradner said until the AEC can assure the safety of the Pacific Rim community that the Amchitka tests should be delayed.