

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Rebuts AEC's Stewart—

Our Correspondent's Reply

By FRED BROWN

Science Correspondent

Mr. Stewart's letter is right in correcting the TUNDRA TIMES on one aspect: in the parlance of atomic weapons experts, the Cannikin device is not a "dirty bomb." Our information that the Safeguard operates through "radiation effects" was based on a May issue of the Anchorage DAILY TIMES in the press file.

However, he does not offer any reason why no tests have been performed by AEC to determine if the sealing "glass bowl" really did form around the detonation point at the underground blast Project Milrow, which was supposed to be a safety and "calibration test" for the larger Cannikin shot. The TUNDRA TIMES raised that issue in this correspondent's story and in the editorial on September 1.

Mr. Stewart indicates that the area west of the Amchitka fault "has never been the source of a damaging tsunami." The key word here is "damaging." According to AEC publications, this area has resulted in tsunamis: certainly no reputable scientist with any understanding of statistical analysis would argue that the scant period during which accurate records of earthquakes and tsunamis have been kept, is a sufficient sample group from which to make any predictions.

This small sample of information, including reliable earthquake data only within the current century, plus the theory of continental and ocean-floor drift (which if true, would predict more undersea seismic strain on the southern coasts of the eastern Aleutians than in the western Aleutians), is really all the AEC has to go on in concluding that a damaging tsunami will not result from the Cannikin blast.

Finally, Mr. Stewart does not even address himself to the problems reported in the TUNDRA TIMES that were first raised by the MIT scientists Toksoz and Kehler this last summer in an article with which the AEC's own Dr. Mel Merritt says he "does not disagree." In their SCIENCE magazine article, the two professors analyzed available data on underground nuclear blasts and concluded that a nuclear explosion "can release accumulated strain energy considerably greater than its own...in the vicinity of the shot point," and advised that nuclear testing in areas of high ambient seismic (earthquake-causing) stresses should be avoided, particularly in "hard media."

AEC's own publications indicate that the Aleutians are extremely earthquake-active, and that these dangerous "high ambient stresses" may well be found in the Amchitka area. And Amchitka's "media"—its underground volcanic rock, is nearly as hard as any in which the AEC has tested underground nuclear devices.

Some of the recent data from the Project Milrow event might suggest that the stresses closest to Amchitka are not as high as elsewhere in the Aleutians. However, these data, from a "safety check" or "calibration test" for future larger blasts like Cannikin, are so scanty that the MIT professors dismissed them as meaningless. They criticized "poor station coverage." The Milrow "calibration event" cost the American taxpayers millions of dollars.

This correspondent will be surprised if the Cannikin results in a major damaging earthquake or tsunami, although I am less confident about the problems of possible radiation leakage. But it does seem that in preparing for Cannikin the AEC has been neither thorough in its precautions nor candid with the American public.

Northwest

Youngsters

Lose Lives

KOTZEBUE, September 8—The Kotzebue News last week printed a report on the tragic loss of three youngsters from the Northwest Alaska area who died in the Juneau plane crash September 4.

Mable Sampson, daughter of Rex and Josephine graduated from Kotzebue Day School last spring. She was on her way to Sheldon Jackson for her freshman year.

She is survived by an elder brother, Clarence, now in Vietnam; her sisters Wynona, Caroline and Eva.

Alvin Morris of Noorvik, a spring graduate of Beltz School in Nome, also died on his way to Sheldon Jackson. His parents are Minnie and Walter, who run a small store in Noorvik.

Minnie Lane of Point Hope was the daughter of Amos and Eunice Lane. She, like the others was also headed for Sheldon Jackson College.

Dixon Stewart

Criticizes,

Brown Replies

September 8, 1971  
Mr. Howard Rock, Editor  
TUNDRA TIMES  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock:

The AEC was delighted to have the TUNDRA TIMES represented on its recent trip by Alaskan leaders and news media to Amchitka Island. I was only sorry that you could not make the trip personally.

Unfortunately, your correspondent, Fred Brown arrived at some inaccurate conclusions.

Early in his story he reported:—"RADIATION. indications are that the Cannikin device is a "dirty bomb": that is, it is intended to test the warhead of the Spartan interceptor missile of the Safeguard ABM (the Safeguard operates by disabling incoming missiles through radiation effects, rather than direct explosives destruction)."

The fact is that Cannikin is a "clean" rather than a "dirty" bomb. The term "dirty" bomb is one which derives most of its energy from fusion. The statement about Cannikin which appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 1971, says:

"This system is designed for exoatmospheric intercept with x-rays as the kill mechanism. This intercept mode puts two important constraints on the warhead: (1) it must have a low fission output in order to reduce radar blackout effects, and (2) a large fraction of its output should be x-rays to increase lethality and make it more difficult for the attacker to harden his reentry vehicles."

So far as I am able to determine, no opponent of Cannikin has suggested that it might be a "dirty" bomb.

On another subject, it seemed that Mr. Brown oversimplified the tsunami question. He wrote: "Since 1900 about 10 measurable tsunami events have been caused by earthquakes in Alaska and Siberia, and nearly half of these originated in the Aleutian Islands..."

"Although they admit little understanding of earthquakes and tsunamis, AEC scientists argue that earthquakes on Amchitka and the islands to the

Jeane Dixon—

Predictions

By JEANE DIXON

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN BURGER comes through with ministerial vibrations, indicating deep religious convictions. He will not stay many more years as Chief Justice because another interest will come into his life. It seems as though in 1973 a very high honor will be conferred upon him, and at that time he will also have a landslide of good luck. I see him retiring after that—for reasons of health.

A difficult decision is coming his way. (It could concern the expose' of Defense Department secrets.) I get that he will disqualify himself—seemingly in October of this year, although my timing could be wrong.

His most important decision in the Supreme Court will come in 1973, prior to his retirement. Before his life is over he will be the author of some very meaningful poetry.

MAYOR DALY—In meditating on the illustrious Mayor Richard J. Daly of Chicago I pick up vibrations and thoughts which seem to come from the mayor himself and which seem to say, "Why couldn't I be President?"

ERICH SEGAL—I get that the author of the much-talked-



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 15  
Your birthday today: Poses a long challenge of testing, selecting, experiment in seeking more effective expression. Some will concentrate on material survival and become highly efficient, others will find rewarding progress in spiritual and intangible ways. Today's natives have lively imaginations, usually some political talent.  
Aries [March 21-April 19]: Ask—and prepare to deal with difficult but useful answers. Trying to get by the easy way would leave you out in left field. Tidy up.  
Taurus [April 20-May 20]: Open your eyes and your mind—organize your resources for optimum development of existing opportunity.  
Gemini [May 21-June 20]: Give thought to health care, both for yourself and loved ones, then do what is needed to assure the best. Home life claims more of your time and energy than expected.  
Cancer [June 21-July 22]: Prudent and active effort to make every minute count is the best path. Tempting byways, hobby interests could divert your attention from serious business if you permit it.  
Leo [July 23-Aug. 22]: People need gentle handling today, and your challenge is to achieve it. Some of the,

about "Love Story" is a very lonely person and that he will soon receive some undeserved, unfavorable publicity which will depress him...and he will seclude himself.

While in seclusion, he will write serious and beautiful poetry, but because of the jealousy and enmity around him he will not appear much in public. He will be a "loner," but will write another book which seems destined to come out about 1973. It will also become a best seller because both his talent and character will improve during his hermitage. His new book will be unconventional as will most of his future writings.

In the early part of 1972 he will be very upset because of new, unwarranted, unfavorable publicity. I get that he is interested in the occult and will someday become a very good astrologer, even though sometimes he doubts astrology.

Classical music and poetry mean much to him...he is romantic by nature, although I do not see a marriage for him in the near future.

Some of his yet-to-come books will have historical settings, and others will display his gift of spiritual intuition. Unhappily, the jealousy of his peers will always distress him.

Your

Horoscope

By Jeane Dixon

toughest appearing are most vulnerable.  
Virgo [Aug. 23-Sept. 22]: All around you expansive plans are initiated. Let things go until it's time for you to help.  
Libra [Sept. 23-Oct. 22]: Take the day off for diversion if you can. If not, let things take their course, treat the day and night as a sort of holding-pattern, forcing no issues.  
Scorpio [Oct. 23-Nov. 21]: Care and courtesy compete with good habits for importance as schedules encounter confusion. Avoid haste and watch your temper!  
Sagittarius [Nov. 22-Dec. 21]: Resentment is out of season. If your work is flawless, others will invent error and attribute it to you. Make careful notes to separate truth from chaff later.  
Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 19]: Follow plans as nearly as possible; don't add big changes. Communication is delicately balanced, agreements provisional.  
Aquarius [Jan. 20-Feb. 18]: Defend your theory and philosophy, but it's useless to find a definite application in today's turmoil. Accept expedients worked out by others.  
Pisces [Feb. 19-March 20]: This is not an opportune moment to ask for anything drastic or for the first time. Keep after details.

(c 1971: By The Chicago Tribune)  
westward have caused fewer tsunamis than quakes in the eastern Aleutians, so they therefore expect a Cannikin-caused tsunami to be unlikely."  
Mr. Brown appears to have used the Cannikin Environmental Statement and the AEC publication "Physical and Biological Effects Milrow Event" for information about tsunamis.

(Continued on page 6)