

March 24, 1994

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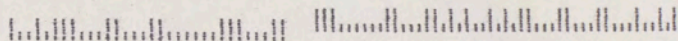
Dear Editor,

The New York Times March 16th edition reported 4 U.S. Senators sounded an alarm that should have got the whole country in an uproar when they asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to quickly enact rules to protect the nations nuclear power plants from car and truck bomb attack. Instead, a statement from "unnamed" nuclear power industry representatives apparently lulled the public into a false sense of security with the misleading argument that since the plant were built to withstand earthquakes and tornadoes they are "relatively invulnerable to attack". The industry representatives further argued that "nuclear plants have not historically been targeted by terrorists", ignoring the threats of plant attack made to the French Government if they interfeared militarily in Bosnia. The "Reps" also ignored or were unaware of recent IRA missile attack in Crossmaglen Ireland or of the potential threat of attack by submarines of terrorist sponsoring Arab Nations, submarines purchased recently from former republics of the Soviet Union who were in need of hard currency.

The danger of terrorist attack on nuclear power plants is really the tip of the ice berg. Even, if as the senators urged, barriers were installed to prevent attack, the dumping of nuclear waste from accident or attack while being transported to one of the proposed dump sites in New Mexico or Nevada still has to be dealt with. I hope the public will see the Nuclear Power Industry arguments for what they are, self-serving, and demand immediate enactment of all needed protective regulations.

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