

TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 10, 1959

UDALL GATHERS DATA

Congress To Probe UA Scientist's Fallout Fears

A congressional committee will investigate charges by a University of Arizona scientist that the Air Force has unnecessarily endangered large centers of population by its site selection of missile bases.

The Air Force has created prime targets for enemy nuclear attacks upwind of huge centers of population, Dr. James E. McDonald, physicist in the UA Institute of Atmospheric Physics, has said. According to his arguments, prevailing winds west to east can

be expected in a nuclear war to spread a radioactive death for 200 miles away from the site of impact by intercontinental ballistic missiles.

"I intend to call the attention of Congressman Chet Holifield of California to this matter," Rep. Stewart Udall (D-Ariz) said here today.

"As a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy Holifield has done more work on fallout than anyone else," Udall said. "I'm collecting McDonald's statements for him and his staff. They are the experts. I'm not.

"It does seem to me, however, that Dr. McDonald as a private citizen has shown considerable insight into this problem and has performed a valuable public service in bringing it out for discussion."

In a reply to McDonald last week, an Air Force official in

Washington said that the military has the policy of setting missile bases at the sites of existing air bases to save money.

To this, McDonald said that the Air Force has not answered the real issue, which is the radioactive fallout to be expected from nuclear bombs, which would be carried by prevailing winds.

Today McDonald said that new evidence proves that the Air Force ignored the dangers of radioactive fallout in selecting the sites of its missile bases.

"This new information on the locations of the Topeka and the Spokane ICBM sites, taken with the information I obtained yesterday on the Lincoln, Neb. sites, seems to me to prove conclusively that the present policy has been planned without any consideration of the tremendous fallout dangers created by these new high-priority targets for enemy thermonuclear attack," McDonald said.

"The Spokane bases are in many ways the worst examples of siting from the viewpoint of fallout meteorology that have so far come to light.

"There are nine separate Atlas launching areas under construction near Spokane. Only two of the nine are located on the comparatively safe downwind (east) side.

"The other seven are on the very dangerous upwind (west) side of Spokane's 200,000 inhabitants. Of the latter, even the one farthest from the city is only about 50 miles away.

"The Topeka Atlas sites, also nine in number, all lie within less than 100 miles upwind of the three quarters of a million inhabitants of the Kansas City area, according to my information.

"Either the Air Force agencies responsible for ICBM site locations have not heard of the horrors of radioactive fallout or else they must think the wind blows from east to west over the United States."

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