

Letters To The Editor

THE TITAN RING AND DEFENSE HAZARDS

To the Editor:
As a scientist who has been carefully studying for many months the physics, meteorology, and radiology of Tucson's growing civil defense hazards, I am almost (but not quite) amused at the recent exchanges between Civil Defense Director Mayhugh and Mayor Hummel.

IRONICALLY, the civil defense hazards which Tucson will face, if the Titan ring is completed in the pattern chosen by the Air Force, are so vastly more terrible than those that Mr. Mayhugh is intimating that one must smile weakly at all his subsequent provisos and equivocations, and one must sigh that Mayor Hummel still does not get the picture.

Mayor Hummel objects that Mayhugh offers no "practical solution," that Mayhugh only tends to "scare the public."
If almost one year ago to this day, I proposed to Mayor Hummel, through the offices of Councilman Ray Weaver, that the Mayor insist immediately that the Air Force give up plans to ring Tucson with Titans, that he demand instead that our Titans be located solely on the downwind (east) side of town.

MAYOR HUMMEL, before that conversation was over, had accused me, as he has recently accused Mayhugh, of only "frightening the public"—and for good measure he threw in the suggestion that since I was unwilling to depend solely on his own efforts to change the Air Force siting plans, I and my co-protestors must really be chiefly "interested in getting notoriety."

We pleaded then that Hummel help us with that eminently "practical solution," and all Tucson knows what he did instead. Then we carried our protest to the whole nation, to both Presidents, their Cabinets, and to newspapers and magazines throughout the country.

Just last week, I put that argument, broadened to include detailed analyses of hazards at several other large cities now similarly threatened by the incredible Air Force siting plans, before a body of my scientific colleagues at the national conference in Washington, D.C. They unanimously approved a resolution asking for immediate scientific investigation of the hazards.

I TESTIFIED briefly before the Hollifield Subcommittee, after Congressman Hollifield expressed near-disbelief that the Air Force could actually be using the siting patterns shown in my study. From civil defense and Department of Defense technical analysts I received informed "sympathy" for Tucson's plight!

From Washington, "sympathy" or congressional consternation; from our Mayor, charges of "frightening the public" or seeking notoriety; from the Air Force, evasive replies or shamefully contrived distortions that only a scientist could recognize as specious—these are our re-

wards for over a year of continuing effort.

I and many others even better able to judge than I, now fear that the Air Force, caught in a huge and horrible blunder, was unwilling to back down in Tucson because it would have to go back to Spokane, to Omaha and Lincoln, to Topeka and Kansas City, and to other already-ringed communities and explain its mistake to those cities.

What else can a citizen conclude after a year of pressing for justifications has evoked only a bewildering variety of unrelated and all-too-often deceptive attempted explanations? For the reader who wishes a technical documentation of the latter, see the coming issue of the Journal of the Arizona Academy of Science, where I close a detailed analysis of Tucson's coming civil defense hazards with a summary of the fallacies in the many Air Force "explanations."

If the Air Force cannot justify its siting policies here and elsewhere, who will pay the price? Tucson and the handful of other American cities given this treatment.

Yet there is, Mr. Mayor, still a "practical solution," and the Committee Against Ringing Tucson with Titans has been urging that solution for 12 long months.

ABANDON ALL upwind sites now, before it is too late. The five months of already-completed work represents less than a sixth of the total, so no more than \$10 million would be lost even if all 18 sites were abandoned. Actually, four are safely sited, so less than \$10 million could be lost from the shift. By contrast, some \$50 to \$100 million will be needed to provide deep shelters adequate to undo the mischief

of ringing us with highest-priority zeroed-in enemy targets. Practical, Mr. Mayor?

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MY WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL COUNTRY

To the Editor:

MY WONDERFUL, wonderful country—Where confiscatory corporate taxation continually abets the insolvency of corporations and the loss of employment... where government and labor keep demanding and grabbing bigger slices of the sales dollar and corporate profits... where each of them dreams of business expansion and full employment, while making such expansion and employment impossible by increased taxation and higher, higher wages, while overlooking proper allowances for depreciation and depletion—

MY WONDERFUL, wonderful country—Where work expands to fill the time available for its completion, and expenditures rise to devour income, both individual and corporate—

MY WONDERFUL, wonderful country—Where patriotism and prestige are constantly sacrificed for the aggrandizement of government and of labor... where our enfranchised constantly, continually vote for issues and candidates, seldom against them—

MY WONDERFUL, wonderful country—Where taxes are raised for gifts to foreign nations, though our Constitution has no provision for feeding the famished affections of people of other nations—

MY WONDERFUL, wonderful country.

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Arizona Album

TREK OF THE SEVEN NUNS TO TUCSON

From The Diary Of Sister Monica

Seven nuns of the Order of Sisters of St. Joseph made an arduous trip from Carondelet in St. Louis to Tucson in 1870. They started St. Joseph's Academy that year and, 19 years later, founded St. Mary's Hospital. Sister Monica Corrigan, one of the original seven, wrote this chronicle of the journey in her diary.

MAY 22, 1870

We had a lamb this morning for breakfast; we called it our Passover. After offering up our prayers and placing ourselves with renewed confidence under the protection of Heaven, we resumed our journey at rather an advanced hour of the day under the rays of a scorching sun, the average heat in the shade being 125 degrees.

We reached a ranch at noon and were accommodated with a room where we enjoyed the luxury of a "good wash and change of clothing," a refreshment of which we were sorely in need. We dined at 3 o'clock, and after getting a supply of fresh water for our journey, we started at 6 o'clock p.m.

We entered the Arizona desert, travelled all night, and were so much fatigued, that almost everyone fell asleep, the driver permitting the horses to go at will. Father and his driver slept so soundly that Sister Martha was obliged to drive nearly all night.

MAY 23, 1870

At 8 o'clock a.m., we refreshed ourselves with a cup of coffee, and travelled on until 2:30 p.m., when we were out of the desert. We took dinner at 5 o'clock p.m., and lodged at the house of a generous-hearted Irishman, Mr. Cosgrove. Whenever we had the good fortune to come across Irish or Mexicans, we were sure of meeting with a cordial reception, and of finding in them all the characteristics of true friends.

