

Brass Admits Titan Sites Selected For Economy, Not Safety

By GENE BROOKS

The Department of Defense now acknowledges that fallout hazard was never a controlling factor in Titan site selection in Tucson and elsewhere in the nation.

The disclosure that economic factors were placed ahead of civilian protection came months after construction had started on the multi-million-dollar project.

A newly published report of the military operations subcommittee of the Congressional Committee on Government Operations reports findings of the committee's continuing probe into the U.S. civil defense program.

Dealing with missile sites and fallout hazards, the committee headed by Rep. Chet Hollifield of California states, "While the Air Force insisted strongly that the fallout hazard was an important factor in site selection, the Department of Defense now acknowledges that it never was a controlling one and suggests that the 1955 policy ranked economy ahead of civilian protection in the location of missile sites."

The report continues, "Most of the 230 programmed Atlas-Titan ICBM sites are located west of the Mississippi River. . . . Dr. James E. McDonald, of the University of Arizona (Institute of Atmospheric Physics), has examined in detail the hazards posed by the Titan 'ring' around Tucson.

"The Air Force rejoinder is that McDonald treats only with a narrow aspect of the ICBM siting problem, within only one community area and with only one factor of the many site selection criteria to the exclusion of other important factors."

But the subcommittee then notes that it examined the missile siting problem in its 1960 hearings and report on civil defense. The subcommittee points out that missile sites generally were organized around existing Air Force Bomber bases.

A memorandum of July 31, this year, from Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara to the heads of the military de-

partments states, "It is the policy of the Department of Defense that missile sites shall not be located in such a relationship to populated areas that an enemy attack on the sites would subject the population to an avoidable fallout hazard."

The new report continues, "Although the committee regrets that this important decision has been determined after major site locations have been determined, still it underscores the need to integrate civil defense with strategic military planning, and we expect that corrective action will be taken whenever possible in the missile siting program.

McDonald, informed today of the subcommittee's findings, said, "This is a little late in Tucson's situation, and for Wichita, Kan., too, which

also is virtually ringed by Titan launching sites.

"This does justify the stand taken by our Committee Against Ringing Tucson With Titans—but it certainly is inconsistent with the Air Force's earlier stand that 'every conceivable precaution' was made in the selection of missile launching sites in Tucson and elsewhere in the nation."

In April, last year, McDonald appeared before the military operations subcommittee to present his scientific findings of fallout hazards created by placement of Titan sites on Tucson's perimeter.

On May 23, 1960, the Tucson City Council convened to assure the Air Force that Tucson wanted the missile bases and wouldn't question their location.

IN BID TO DOCTORS

County Would Sponsor St. Mary's, TMC Beds

By DOMINIC CROLLA

In an effort to stave off possible withdrawal of free medical services at the county hospital by Tucson physicians, the Board of Supervisors is willing to sponsor 10 beds at St. Mary's Hospital and 10 at Tucson Medical Center.

This was the gist of the counterproposal to the Pima County Medical Society's recommendations for the treatment of the county's indigent acutely ill at these private hospitals.

The alternative offer, made known today, still must be considered by the society's membership. And this is not expected before next Tuesday.

The supervisors made their offer Thursday at a special meeting with the medical society's board of directors.

THE SOCIETY had given the board until next Tuesday to make up its mind about the original proposals and threatened to withdraw its

program is established by that time.

They have informed the society they want the offer to be operated on a trial basis for one year to see if it "will stimulate recruitment of interns and residents."

OTHER CONDITIONS attached to the counteroffer are:

That the supervisors be allowed to evaluate the teaching program and patient care and that a per diem rate acceptable to the supervisors be negotiated with the two hospitals.

In a statement today, the supervisors said a study of 140 county hospitals in 33 states had shown that these hospitals were staffed by vol-