

Date: June 21, 1979

Occupation: Housewife, Part-time Secretary

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember when you first heard about Three Mile Island?

NARRATOR: I sure do, I was at work, and I guess, it was Wednesday morning and somebody in another room was listening to the radio and they came running in and said quick turn on the radio and listen, because something's happened at Three Mile Island.

INT: Did you know there was a reactor at Three Mile Island?

NAR: Yes, I did

INT: Before that?

NAR: Yes, I knew it was there

INT: Do you know how far we are from Three Mile Island?

NAR: About 25 miles.

INT: What did you feel about it at that point, when you first heard about it?

NAR: Uhm, at first it was very confusing, and you know I wasn't quite sure whether to be scared or not. It was very...

INT: Did you think it was a crisis?

NAR: I think because there had never been any word from Three Mile Island before and the newscasts I happened to hear was pretty dramatic that I really thought it might be a crisis.

INT: Did you seek out further information?

NAR: Yes, I came home almost immediately and kept the radio on the whole time. I didn't call anyone in particular.

INT: Did you talk about it with your friends and your family?

NAR: Yes.

INT: Co-workers?

NAR: Yes, in fact I came home and called my husband at work immediately because I knew he wasn't listening to the radio.

INT: What did you talk about?

NAR: Uh, just that we heard something had happened and it was serious and I can't think of anything in particular other than that.

INT: Did your attitude change about nuclear power?

NAR: Immediately, do you mean did it change? Well I've always been weary of nuclear power but I don't think I, like a lot of other people around here we had just sort of ignored the fact that it was going on at Three Mile Island and sort of assumed it was safe because it was there you know, you just assume because it was allowed to be there it would be safe in spite of having read other people's opinions on the whole thing.

INT: How did you feel about other people's reactions to the incident?

NAR: I was sort of angry at my husband because he was very much, he was very trusting and very calm and just sort of assumed that it would be alright and there was nothing to be alarmed about, and he believed that if there was any real danger that we would actually be evacuated or at that time somebody would tell us something if there was a real danger.

INT: And you were more worried than that?

NAR: Absolutely, yeah, I was very angry.

INT: Did you follow newspapers or radios or TV reports more than you usually would?

NAR: Absolutely, I think we had, or I when I was at home had at least one radio going if not the radio and the television, I tried to keep track of what was going on. It was almost a compulsion to know exactly, every step of the way, what was happening.

INT: Do you remember any particular radio stations or television stations?

NAR: WHY? I think I listened to most of the time. I can't, television, we usually watch ABC news but I don't think it had anything to do with what was going on.

INT: How did you feel about the media's handling of it?

NAR: I felt like the media's handling was fine. I felt like the radio station we were listening to, the local Carlisle station, was very conscientious about getting reports, you know whatever they were given, they were right on top of it.

INT: Do you think they were as worried as we were?

NAR: I think so, I definitely think so, in fact I think they did a really good job of keeping people informed without panicking them.

INT: How about Met Ed, Metropolitan Edison, and industry?

NAR: I feel like there was a lot of confusion and they obviously kept some things played down and tried not to alarm people. I think I don't think anyone knew at the time that they didn't know what was, exactly what was happening and they probably should've let the people know more of what was going on but you can also understand not wanting to scare people too badly. Mass panic would have been something horrible too.

INT: How about the government officials, the NRC?

NAR: I think that Harold Denton is everybody's hero. I think he came in and straightened things out and calmed everybody down. And it was comforting to have him there talking to you, he just had a way of, I don't know too much technically about their, what they did and that kind of thing but it was nice that they were there.

INT: Was there anyone that you found particularly reliable or anyone whose word you trusted more than others?

NAR: I think Harold Denton was by far the more believable of anybody (unintelligible)

INT: You thought he was being more straightforward than the others?

NAR: I don't know whether it was just his manner of presenting himself and his facts or whether he was actually, he seemed to know that people needed to know what was going on. And I think he was (unintelligible)

INT: Did he actually say some things that hadn't been said earlier?

NAR: Oh geez, I don't know whether it was that he had said things, or that things were just coming out at the time that he was here. But there did seem to be more information available but that may have just been the time factor, you know that they'd gotten things, they were starting to realize what had happened as opposed to not really knowing what was going on.

INT: Was there anyone who you particularly mistrusted?

NAR: I guess, eventually, that the Met Ed spokesman became the people to mistrust, because just the fact that it had happened in the first place and they didn't know what was going on, or they hadn't reacted properly or that they may have been responsible for what happened, left an air of mistrust, definitely.

INT: Do you think that those in charge were in control of the situation?

NAR: I don't think so, I don't think anybody was in control of the situation. I really, came away with the feeling that it was blind luck, that nothing absolutely awful happened.

INT: What made you the most uneasy?

NAR: Well, I felt like of course when the hydrogen bubble was such a factor, and they were saying that it might explode, that was, that made me feel uneasy. I guess the biggest danger that made me feel absolutely petrified was the meltdown, the possibility of a meltdown, because it just seemed like such a real possibility with the hydrogen bubble growing and as opposed to it exploding, the fact that it might have just exposed the core and caused a meltdown.

INT: So that was what worried you the most?

NAR: Uh huh, that would've, I think I suppose because an explosion would've been immediate and drastic and there would've been time to worry but as opposed to a meltdown where you would have time to...you know it would mean everybody leaving their homes for hundreds of years, or even.

INT: Did you make any plans different from what you would've ordinarily made?

NAR: On Sunday, I almost decided to leave the house. The Sunday after it happened.

INT: By yourself?

NAR: With my kids, my husband refused to go because he just, he said he felt like staying here and protecting what was ours was by far the most important thing, until somebody actually said you've got to go. I felt like, I had outside influence, my family kept calling here and saying you've got to go, you've got to go, and so, I think it happened with a lot of people, in fact I know some people who, you know, a lot of people whose families convinced them it was not safe to be here and just left. But once I had decided to go, the thought of actually leaving and the possibility of never going able to come back was too drastic, I just decided I was going to stay and see what happened. And it was at that time that I heard all those things about Carlisle actually being an evacuation area where they were going to bring people to. It was sort of comforting in a way, of course who knows if it would've been safe here or not.

INT: Besides listening to the radio more than usual did you change any of your ordinary daily routines?

NAR: I think we made a concerted effort; or I made a concerted effort to maintain daily routine. And not change anything, it was really strange because you could be in the middle of doing something very ordinary and suddenly look outside and think this may

all be over, you know, we don't know what's gonna happen. There was a real fear, there was definitely a real fear and things felt very different.

INT: So, you really wanted to leave, or was that mostly because of your parents influence?

NAR: I don't think I wanted to, I was very torn, I didn't really want to pack up and leave and take the kids but my parents were, of course they were down in Washington and apparently the headlines in papers and on radio stations away from our area were much more drastic, I mean the things said like Hydrogen explosion imminent and that kind of thing down in their papers and it really, they were probably more worried than we were.

INT: If you had left what do you think you would've taken with you?

NAR: I think I would've packed up as if I was going away for a weekend. And just taken necessities, just clothes and my children.

INT: Did they want to leave?

NAR: No, they really had no reason to want to leave, they always want to go visit their grandparents, but they had no reason to want to leave. They knew that there was a problem and they knew just by the fact that every time a radio report came on I was frantic to hear it. That they knew something was going on, but they had no idea, they are 8, 5, and 3 so they really didn't register.

INT: Did you have any mental pictures of what was happening at Three Mile Island or what might happen?

NAR: I think the only mental picture I had was of the desolation if there had been a meltdown. I really didn't think about people scurrying around at Three Mile Island, or even what was going on. I, mental pictures what my own particular yard or house would look like if suddenly we just had to leave and for hundreds of, or 50 years or 30 years or whatever it would've been.

INT: What did you picture it to look like?

NAR: Barren, very desolate and barren and..

INT: How about the foliage?

NAR: Gone, you know .

INT: Just dirt?

NAR: Yeah. Just dirt.

INT: Do you think that anything that happened at Three Mile Island might have affected your health?

NAR: I don't think so.

INT: No? How about in the future?

NAR: Well, if we had been closer it might have, I don't know the, I really can't imagine it effecting our health maybe it's just a limitation of my understanding of what was going on but I don't think it's gonna effect ours.

INT: How about if something had happened, say a meltdown or an explosion?

NAR: I think it would've affected everybody's health in the country. There's no doubt in my mind that it would not just be in the 25-mile radius, that they were talking about, that it really would've affected water sources and air quality and people's lives, health, everywhere.

INT: Do you think that anything that happened at Three Mile Island has affected the community at all?

NAR: In a physical sense, maybe not, but I think people are going to, of course there are people who simply didn't react the way, it didn't register, that something, the horrendous possibilities were there. And I don't know that they'll ever be affected by it but I think there's gonna be, maybe it won't be as large as it should be, but there will be an activist movement against nuclear energy and people are more aware of the possibilities, it's a generalization. Obviously some people won't but, I think so.

INT: Are there any other aspects of your life that has been affected?

NAR: I don't know. Mentally once you've lived through that and if you were one of the people who was scared and was alarmed and was upset by the whole thing, I think that it would be difficult to go back to being quite so complacent about living with a nuclear reactor and living, and all the possibilities in general. I mean I was one of the ones who sat there going we take so much for granted, and it could be, could have been lost. The whole thing could have been lost. I got very angry at the people who said well, more people have been killed on the streets than have ever been killed in nuclear accidents, and I said yes, you know, that's fine but one nuclear accident could kill untold numbers and it's absolutely, it was a totally unfair comparison as far as I was concerned. That was very, that made me very angry.

INT: If the worst had occurred, what do you think might have happened?

NAR: I don't think that was one of the things that I spent a lot of time thinking about. I really don't think, oh geez, I don't think the world would've ever been the same. I can't even, it was hard to even imagine what would happen if suddenly Pennsylvania was not

inhabitable, you know, that would've been just too bizarre, very beyond the imagination, because that was, you know, millions of people or hundreds of thousands of people, and just have to uproot, I think it would've effected the economy of the whole, I'm positive it would've effected the economy of the whole nation and probably the whole world and it would've been devastating. There's no doubt about it, understatement there.

INT: If there had been a meltdown, how do you think it would've affected your health?

NAR: My health, I don't know, I mean, I think the incidence of cancer obviously would've been greatly increased and there's no telling who would've been effected if there had actually been a meltdown and everybody was being exposed to radiation, that could've been radiation sickness, I don't know. It would have been. I don't know if I in particular would've been killed or got cancer as a result, or whatever, I don't know.

INT: Not many people do. How about other aspects of your life, if there had been a meltdown?

NAR: If there had been a meltdown it would've affected every aspect of our lives. We would have to packed up and left and we just, this is our entire life here, we've decided this is where we want to live and where we want to raise our kids, we own a house, everything material would've been lost, I think it would've been a real lesson in what's important in life, I mean, that was one thing that I did think about, is if you lost all your material possessions as many people do in natural disasters, and had to start all over again someplace else, people do it, they survive it and they manage to do it but I think that the magnitude of this would've been, I mean it would've effected a lot more people and it would've been very strange.

INT: Did you picture in your mind any effects of radiation on life around you?

NAR: You mean in case the worst had happened. I think it would've been barren, I think there would've been, I doubt there would've been any life around here, very strange. And I don't think, you know, there would be a sudden line where it stopped and, I think there would be grades of, maybe in the immediate area it would be totally devastated and as you got farther away it might get closer to normal but...

INT: Do you think it would be immediately or do you think it would be gradually?

NAR: I don't know what the result of a meltdown in a huge sudden cloud of radiation would be, probably in the immediate area it would've been immediate and obviously as it decided where it was gonna go, it would effect other areas. We could've ended up with some pretty bizarre life forms.

INT: Did you think about your own death?

NAR: In pretty vague terms, I think. I thought about the death of my entire family, if we were suddenly together wiped out. I don't think I thought about my own personal death

that much. I think my, you know, having children, the thought of having your whole family suddenly wiped out was the only thing that came to mind.

INT: Did you think you would survive?

NAR: Uh, I know I felt we'd survive a meltdown, because everyone was saying we'd have enough time to pack up and move, I could picture images of people panicking to get away, but I really thought we would survive that, I sort of saw us heading somewhere out to the northwest. But, an explosion, you know, I don't know, I guess that was the only, the only thing I related immediate death to was if there had been a hydrogen explosion.

INT: Did you think about God during the incident?

NAR: Yes, I did. I think I did.

INT: Did you pray?

NAR: Yes, definitely.

INT: What did you pray about?

NAR: I guess just pretty vaguely, making everything better again, having the whole thing over with. If something could just happen for the survival of the people that I, you know, love, for the survival of all of us, everyone, not just my immediate family. I really, my relation, I don't see God, I'm not, it's tough to explain. I don't see God's hand in things like day to day life the way many people do. I think that we pretty much do these things to ourselves.

INT: But well do you think God had an indirect hand in what happened?

NAR: That's a tough one. I really don't.

INT: Did any biblical stories or events come to mind?

NAR: No.

INT: Did you think about Satan or the Last Judgment or the End of the World at all?

NAR: No.

INT: Did you think in any way that it was God's disciplining or instructing?

NAR: No.

INT: Did you attend a religious service during the crisis?



NAR: Yeah.

INT: What kind of service was it?

NAR: It was a regular Sunday church service. That we go to every Sunday.

INT: At Saint John's Episcopal?

NAR: Right.

INT: Did anyone speak about Three Mile Island?

NAR: I think we all did, definitely, you mean in the church service itself, I can't tell you that because I'm a Sunday School teacher and I leave during the sermon, so I don't know if it was, I know it was included in the regular prayers, I think. (unintelligible)

INT: But after church, people were talking about it?

NAR: Yeah, we have a coffee hour and everybody, it was sort of a topic. No one was fearful or panicky, it was just more of a sort of intellectual exchange, a conversation, people were talking about it.

INT: Trying to figure out what was going on?

NAR: Yeah

INT: Were there more, or fewer, or the same number of people?

NAR: I was amazed, I think there was possibly a few more.

INT: Do you think it could be said that it could be caused by the disaster?

NAR: It might have been, I don't know. I was expecting to see fewer people there; you know I was expecting that a lot of people had left. But there weren't fewer.

INT: Did attendance at the service change your feelings at all, your attitudes?

NAR: Well, it was comforting to me to know that there were that many people still around and still acting normal. Even if there was an undercurrent of what was going on. Just behaving in a normal matter. I think that's when I started to calm down. Just being in church to begin with was soothing, but the fact that there were all those people, people you see everyday, intelligent, respect your opinion, were just sort of normal.

INT: So they were acting preoccupied or anxious or anything?

NAR: No, I don't think.

INT: Did any religious or ethical code of behavior guide your actions during the disaster?

NAR: No more so than day to day living, I don't think.

INT: Does your own faith say anything about the rightness or wrongness of man's use of atomic power?

NAR: I don't think so. My only faith, gee that's tough.

INT: Your own personal faith?

NAR: My own personal faith is I really believe that we should all move more gently through life. And that atomic power is not gentle in any way and that it has to be, its unnatural and it, I don't think it should be used at all. I understand that if we shut down all nuclear plants immediately, we'd have a, we might have a problem with energy, but I really don't think it should be an option.

INT: Do you think that religious persons or religious institutions should take a stand on the rightness or wrongness of?

NAR: I think everybody should take a stand, but you mean that the church per se, I don't know.

INT: As you think back on it, what feelings or thoughts crossed your mind?

NAR: Well, I feel angry; I don't want it to happen again.

INT: Angry at whom? Or at what?

NAR: At, I don't know who to blame, the atomic industry and people in the atomic industry for saying it was in fact I was just reading a thing in the paper this morning, it was, I can't remember his name, a Washington columnist, who was talking about the fact that at the time, they were saying that nobody knew there was a possibility of a hydrogen bubble appearing. Well I was just reading an article, an editorial that said that ten years ago, before they even started building Three Mile Island, there was a possibility of a hydrogen explosion was discussed and they decided to just table the matter until because they figured that it was going to be the industries responsibility to figure out what they would do with this thing. So, for ten years, the ten years they built the plant and put it into operation and still nobody had figured out what to do about the fact that there, if the core was exposed there could, there was the possibility of hydrogen bubble growing inside the thing.

INT: So you think there that there wasn't enough consideration for humans and it was more just thinking about the industry and getting it on its feet?

NAR: Absolutely, I think so, and I, everybody knows, they know the dangers, they've got to know the dangers, and they've decided that its worth taking the risk, but they're not just risking their own lives, they're risking populations and that's infuriating, that's, I feel bad that I haven't become more actively involved and I just heard from a friend last night that they are starting a new group in Carlisle, for a watch group in Carlisle, and I would very much like to get involved in that. I haven't been to any of the demonstrations yet but...

INT: You would have liked to?

NAR: I would like to, I'm not really an activist in that way but I don't want the thing to pass and I don't want it to slide back to being, I don't think its going to, I think there's going to be enough people who are angry enough that they won't open, reopen the thing without a sincere fight. And I would like to be a part of it.

INT: At the time did this event bring to mind any past experiences or past events?

NAR: No.

INT: Any other time say in your life where you felt the fear?

NAR: The only, I can remember, I lived outside Washington, in... outside Washington, D.C. in the late maybe 1959, 1960 and I can remember having air raid warning practices, or whatever, because it was during the cold war, it was... maybe it was earlier than that, maybe I'm not thinking in the right time frame, it might have been earlier. I can remember hiding, we had to, we were told to put our heads down and cover our heads with our hands and stay there until the all clear signal was given. I can remember that.

INT: That was the same type of fear then?

NAR: Well, I was a very young, a kid, but I can remember the feeling that if this, everybody was talking about oh bomb shelters and that kind of stuff and there was a definite fear that if something happened, life would never be the same. But I don't...

INT: And it was beyond your control?

NAR: Absolutely.

INT: Can you, at the time, did you think of anything in history that was the same type of situation?

NAR: I don't know, I suppose when the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan it was the same kind of devastation, and it's hard to justify that kind of devastation on any life. I don't know that much about, you know, the events of history but that is the kind of, I

would feel if I had been there, or grown up with the aftermath of the bombs, I would've felt angry, to say the least.

INT: Do you think after already taking your chances with Three Mile Island, do you think you would rather live through a natural disaster, say a flood or a hurricane or would you rather take your chances with a nuclear reactor?

NAR: If I was given the choice of you know either a nuclear accident or a hurricane, I would probably take the hurricane because you know, we have a way of, I just think that a natural disaster is more, I don't want to say predictable, but it's more, it's not something that is totally unknown. Giving the choice of just living next to a working reactor and going through a hurricane, oh geez, I don't know. Maybe because Three Mile Island, because the whole thing came to a relatively peaceful conclusion, as opposed to the worst that could happen, maybe I would choose that, I don't know.

INT: Did any TV shows or movies come to mind at the time?

NAR: Not at the time, I have since seen the *China Syndrome*.

INT: What did you think of that?

NAR: I didn't, I expected something different, with us, actually going through Three Mile Island, the whole tension and fear was what the results of the accident were going to be as opposed to the fact that the movie, I felt that was what the movie was about but it wasn't, it was about the cover-up that something that had actually happened. And so, I felt the movie was a breeze compared to what really happened to us in real life. I would be very angry if I felt there was that type of cover-up in the whole thing. Which I really don't really think there's been. I think we got confused information and maybe we didn't get all the information but nobody certainly denied, eventually that there had been a terrible accident and that kind of thing. I really felt the movie, I got involved with it, I liked the movie, I was very...

INT: It shook me up.

NAR: Really.

INT: Very definitely.

NAR: I don't think it..Did you see it before the accident?

INT: No, I saw it after; I saw it last Sunday as a matter of fact.

NAR: I don't think the movie shook me up as much. It did shake me up but in a different way because it wasn't what we were faced with.

INT: That's true, but then again, if we don't know all the facts maybe it was?

NAR: Maybe it was, maybe there is somebody that was killed trying to get the information to us. Not very comforting.

INT: Did you think of any books or stories along the same lines, did the incident remind you of any?

NAR: I don't think so, I'm trying to think specifically, I think the only, the, my picture of the aftermath was sort of barren and desolate and decayed as the scene from an Ayn Rand *Atlas Shrugged* or something, but I don't think I thought of a specific story in that way, that kind of a holocaust, I don't think so..

INT: Did you find yourself singing any songs?

NAR: Uh, wait a minute, I'm trying to think of what...(long pause). I may of but I really can't remember.

INT: Do you think you might have?

NAR: It seems to me I did but I can't remember specifically what it would've been. Oh, I know, I remember thinking about the song *Where Have All the Flowers Gone* and in fact, I remember singing it when I was outside mowing the lawn or something. You know because that was kind of the image that, you know, that the whole thing projected.

INT: And the feeling.

NAR: The feeling, yeah.

INT: At the time did you have any daydreams that you remember?

NAR: I suppose just the daydreams about what we would do if we had to pack up and leave. What it would be like to actually have to leave everything and to lose everything.

INT: Have you had any since then?

NAR: I don't think so, I think the relief of having it resolved to the point where we don't have to think about it every minute, where it's not looming, has really been such a relief that I can't, I don't think I have.

INT: How about any sleeping dreams?

NAR: No.

INT: Do you usually remember your dreams?

NAR: Yes.

INT: But you didn't have any?

NAR: No.

INT: Was your sleep disturbed in any way?

NAR: Uh, I think during the height of the thing I had a hard time, in fact I know specifically I had a hard time going to sleep or I thought I was going to have a hard time going to sleep.

INT: Did you leave the radio on or anything like that?

NAR: I can remember leaving the television on in the bedroom.

INT: What changes happened to the people around you during the incident?

NAR: Uhm, well I felt that all of us were divided into two groups, those who were really concerned and those who weren't and I can remember being very angry and irritated and I have the feeling that in fact I know, from the people I've talked to that it was more the women that I know who were deeply disturbed. And the men who tended to feel, now that's a gross generalization because obviously I know a lot of men who were deeply disturbed by the whole thing, but I can remember in my own particular instance having my own husband be one of the ones that wasn't reacting emotionally and wasn't angry and wasn't, had a lot of faith in the people in control.

INT: Do you think that was at all a cover-up of being tense?

NAR: I don't think so, I really don't think so. I think that, in fact I've talked to, maybe its not true, there were women that I talked to who simply didn't listen to the radio, didn't register, didn't occur to them that there was something very serious going on.

INT: How about the people that were kind of anxious about the situation, do you think it changed them in any lasting way?

NAR: I'd like to think it changed them in a lasting, changed people in a lasting way. It's very; very easy in fact it's frighteningly easy to slip back into a complacent lifestyle. And just forget that the whole thing happened. It's... I know I have a tendency to do it and its only when, in fact when I sat down to watch the *China Syndrome* I almost felt like I couldn't watch it because the same things that started to happen that happened in the immediate weeks after the Three Mile Island incident. And that is every time I would listen to or read something about the whole thing I'd get a real, physical knot in my stomach and feel sick. That seems to have faded a little, but it hasn't been, I mean I went to see the *China Syndrome* last week and it was still there, it was still a feeling.

INT: Kind of a gut reaction?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: So you think the incident did change you in a lasting way, the way you think?

NAR: I think so.

INT: What jokes did you hear about radiation or about Three Mile Island?

NAR: Immediately they were everywhere.

INT: Within a day you think?

NAR: I think within two days there were jokes going around about people glowing in the dark and I can't remember specifically a lot of them, but I remember talking to my father on the phone maybe Friday or Saturday and having him say, and I made a point of saying its absolutely remarkable the humor that's grown up around the whole situation. He said, yeah, you know they're hearing them down there too. Well, by Saturday night, *Saturday Night Live* had a whole thing on the Three Mile Island.

INT: Did you see any posters or graffiti or hear any new words, funny remarks?

NAR: Funny remarks, uhmm...I don't know, the t-shirts seemed to be out very quickly, I survived Three Mile Island, and I glow in the dark, I'm from Harrisburg, bumper stickers and I wish I could remember some more of the jokes or lines but I really can't.

INT: Did you hear the jokes from other people? Or did you just hear people telling you about the jokes?

NAR: I think I remember more hearing people telling me about them, about seeing bumper stickers, about hearing jokes and about that kind of thing.

INT: Did you laugh when you heard them?

NAR: I think I did. I was amused. I can remember by the bumper stickers and everything else. because the whole thing was still very serious and still very drastic and any kind of comic relief associated to it was welcomed. I don't anyone, I don't think it lessened the seriousness of the whole thing but the fact that in a situation, I was amazed, I was absolutely amazed that in a situation like that people can start thinking of jokes and funny slogans, it was incredible.

INT: What do you think the reason for that would've been?

NAR: Uh, well I don't know. I don't if it was people who didn't think it was serious, or people who thought it was. I mean there are funny images that come from it like glowing in the dark, you know, that's a funny image, if you've been exposed to radiation that's a

terrible, horrible, drastic thing and yet the image of somebody floating in the dark is amusing, funny, I don't think it lessened anybody's feelings about the seriousness. Anybody who had the feeling that it was serious. But it was amazing.

INT: Do you think it was a way of relieving tension or anything like that?

NAR: I guess, I'm sure it was. I know it made me laugh, you know in spite of everything and I was pretty tense. I think comic relief, I think that's the amazing thing about all us human beings is to come up with something funny in a situation like that.

INT: Can you think of any joking from other crises like Kennedy assassination or Jonestown, invasion of Cambodia, anything like that?

NAR: Not in particular, no I can't. I'm sure there were but I can't remember them.

INT: Have you developed an opinion about nuclear power?

NAR: Uhh...Yes. I think it's a mistake to develop nuclear power all the way around. I think that all the issues that we've all heard about are overwhelming, the nuclear waste, the nuclear accident, the nuclear, the cost of nuclear power, the dangers, everything. I think it's a mistake to go on developing nuclear. I think it was a big mistake to put so much effort into nuclear power when there are alternatives. There's coal, there's sun. I really believe in solar energy, I think that's a, it's absolutely amazing that people have continued to build houses in the same old straight forward traditional way when all you have to do is turn it around a little bit so it faces a different direction and position your windows and you can take (end of side A) we have the, I'm not talking from a technical point of view because I really don't have that much knowledge on the subject. But if the same money and effort had been put into developing that kind of thing, we could be much better off and much safer. I really feel like it's wrong, wrong for us to use nuclear energy.

INT: So you like the natural sources better?

NAR: Yes, and I also think and this is uh, I really think that we could modify our lifestyle all of us are so spoiled, and all of us could without suffering, without being miserable, without having our life be unhappy, we could modify lifestyles and stop using so much, stop spending so much, stop heating our houses so much, stop running our air conditioners, and all that kind of thing. It's absolutely, its not even necessary to happiness, you know, and that would make a large difference, I really have strong opinions about that. I don't think we need a lot of possessions of a lot of rooms in your house or a lot of, we don't have to go have 3 cars or that kind of stuff. There are a lot of things that we could all voluntarily, not voluntarily, you could live without, and you could modify your lifestyle. People who are suffering because they have to turn their heat down to 68, it's possible to live with your house at 58.

INT: And it may be even more natural?



NAR: Sure, and there are people who couldn't do it like older people and that kind of thing. But just the majority of people making that kind of compromise would help a lot.

INT: Is there anything else that hasn't been covered that you would like to say about your feelings or your thoughts when you think back on it, something that you remember or stands out in your mind? Anything like that?

NAR: I don't think there is anything else in particular that stands out. I've talked about all my feelings, I think the main feeling that I remember is working outside in the sun, maybe on Saturday or Sunday in the garden doing all the normal things that you do and at the same time just looking up and thinking that hideous monster is over there and at any minute this whole thing could disappear and it could be irrelevant and you know it just was an absolutely incredible feeling.

INT: How do you feel about it now, do you think you overreacted or?

NAR: I don't think I overreacted at all, I think that all the possibilities that I feared were real possibilities. I think all the feelings of anger that I had were absolutely justified. And I still do. And I think they have said that there wasn't really a possibility of a hydrogen explosion, well you know, that's fine to know now, but the fact that we were told that there was then doesn't, I mean as far as I'm concerned that makes all the fears I had valid and all the anger valid. It doesn't make any difference that it wasn't really there in the first place. At least they say it wasn't really there.

INT: Did you feel any responsibilities to your family or your community, anything different than you would've normally felt during the incident?

NAR: I felt like we had a responsibility to be rational and not to panic and I felt like had there been an evacuation that we had the responsibility to be, to think and to operate normally, to have a responsibility to the rest of the people in the community as well as, that was a real moral dilemma too, whether or not you should pack your family and get out or whether you should go to an old folks home and get someone to get with you and that kind of stuff.

VOLUME ON TAPE DISAPPEARED

INT: Did you feel any conflicting responsibilities (volume too low)?

NAR: I felt conflicting responsibilities to the community. I guess conflicting responsibilities to our property, whether or not I should pack up and leave and go away for the weekend (unintelligible)...I think that is where my husband was much more clear cut in his thinking, he absolutely felt the responsibility to stay here and until the last possible moment. Just assure that nothing would happen to our own house, our house is important to us.