

Date: June 5, 1979

Occupation: College administrator

INTERVIEWER: When did you first hear about Three Mile Island?

NARRATOR: That's interesting because I don't honestly remember. I've asked myself that, how I first heard it. It was the Wednesday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, but what time during the day and how I first heard about it I have no recollection what so ever. So much happened afterwards that it just sort of blocked it out.

INT: Did you know that there was a reactor before the incident?

NAR: Yes.

INT: Did you know how far we are from the reactor?

NAR: How far we are? Yes, between twenty-two and twenty-three miles.

INT: When you first heard about it, or at least becoming aware of it, how did you feel when you first heard about it?

NAR: When I first heard about it on the Wednesday and Thursday, I would say mildly concerned but not overly concerned at that point.

INT: Did you talk to anybody about it at all?

NAR: I don't remember much before Friday. From Friday on is what I remember most vividly. We talked about it at home, we talked about it in the office here and we talked about it with students. But I don't recall any of the details of it. Everything prior to Friday is pretty much a blank.

INT: You said that you were concerned about it did you feel that it was a serious situation or crisis?

NAR: I didn't know. I didn't know, and was concerned partly because I didn't know.

INT: After you first hear about it, did you try and seek out further information?

NAR: Yeah, we kept close contact with the radio and also through the college officials.

INT: Did you talk about it with your family or, well you mentioned already you talked about it here at work, did you talk about it with your family?

NAR: Yes.

INT: What kind of things were you talking about? Here and at home.

NAR: Well, at home, obviously there were two different levels of conversation, the conversation with the children, who had heard about it as well as more on the level of trying to explain what it was about with as little knowledge as we had but explained something about nuclear energy and what it was all about. With my wife the discussion was a concern for potential danger and our own situation. Again we listened to the evening; we watched the evening news on TV and then kept the radio on for the hourly newscasts, and then the special bulletins.

INT: How about here at work? What kind of things were you talking about?

NAR: General concern wondering what was going on, the fact that we weren't sure, nobody was sure what was going on and how serious it was.

INT: Did your attitude change along, as the incident developed? Did you find your attitude changing?

NAR: My attitude changed Friday, drastically.

INT: Why did it change drastically?

NAR: Well, because, I was teaching Friday morning from eleven to twelve. I came back to the office at twelve, it was in the period that they had announced about the release of radiation and the fact that the people in the Harrisburg area should stay indoors, and I don't remember whether they announced the evacuation of pregnant women and small children right at that point. I'm not absolutely sure, but I came back to the office, the radio was on in the secretarial area and everyone was standing around talking about it and I immediately called my wife who also very concerned at that point. So I would say my attitude change from mild concern to very serious concern, at least mine as of five minutes of twelve on Friday morning.

INT: I'm sure that you could see other people were reacting to this in different ways, how did you feel about their reactions?

NAR: How did I feel about their reactions?

INT: Like for instance I'm sure that some people might have been slightly panicked, some people might have been blasé about it. Just the way that people were reacting around you. How did you feel about that... It's kind of a broad question, but...

NAR: Well, I think my attitude, which I can't tell you when it started, but it developed as Friday and Saturday moved on, was that everyone had to make his or her decision as to what attitude to have and what to do about it. What action to take if any, at that point. So I don't remember being influenced by other people's attitudes.

INT: But you did see them changing?

NAR: Oh yeah. Yeah. Again, the difference between when I left for class and everyone was working and when I came back from class the radio was on and everyone was standing around and it was obviously in the air of great concern and greater tension and worry.

INT: Do you feel that was right, the way that they were reacting?

NAR: Given the information that they were supplied by the media, yes.

INT: Did you...

NAR: The fact that I think influenced a lot of people is the fact that people in the Harrisburg area were being told to stay indoors with the doors and windows shut. O.K.? That plus the fact that by the twelve o'clock noon newscast, which I stayed to listen, they were talking about the fact that the roads out of Harrisburg were already jammed by cars of people leaving. So those two things already created... a bit of a crisis atmosphere.

INT: Did you follow the TV, the radio, or the newspapers?

NAR: Radio.

INT: Radio Mostly?

NAR: Well, TV for the CBS news, six thirty news and eleven news. We watched those faithfully, which we don't usually do but we did Friday, Saturday, Sunday and from then on. We kept the WHP station on and listened each time Met Ed gave its announcement that everything was fine and five minutes later the NRC made its pronouncement that everything was not fine.

INT: Did you follow the newspaper at all?

NAR: Yeah, but the information on the radio was more current because by the time the newspaper comes out at four it had going to press in the morning and it was a bit behind time as things were developing rapidly or at least as news was being released rapidly.

INT: How do you feel the media handled it? This whole situation?

NAR: ...It's hard to say because I don't know what information the media was getting. I really don't know, and I don't know what their sources of information were. The local, and by that I mean the Harrisburg WHP radio and TV were nowhere near as... dramatic and crisis oriented as I thought the national coverage. The national coverage on CBS was... flamboyant isn't that right word but it was, more spectacular. And one of the big dilemmas was whether or not we were getting the right information from the local news coverage which was more toned down or the national news coverage which inevitably made it sound worse than the local news coverage was saying that it was. Now, I can't

sit here and accuse the national news coverage of blowing it up because I don't know what their information sources were. They may have had a broader spectrum, I suspect they did, of input from around the country. And that, plus the limited knowledge they were given, that may well have lead them seriously to the conclusions that they were giving.

INT: How about the government? How do you think the government handled it?

NAR: Well, my attitude is different in retrospect. At the time I was extremely relieved when the NRC came in and particularly when they took over control of the news emissions because we were getting such conflicting reports. And at that point I had a lot more faith in Denton than I did in Met Ed. I forget now what the exact question was.

INT: Oh, no. I was asking you how you feel that the government handled it.

NAR: O.K., at the time. Now, in retrospect reading about what happened I would have quite a different opinion. I don't think they were notified soon enough. I don't think they reacted soon enough. And from what I read in the paper, it appears as if they didn't know much more what they were doing than what Met Ed did. At the time they were very reassuring.

INT: How about Met Ed? Do you think they handled it as well as they could?

NAR: No, I didn't trust them at the time and I don't trust them now.

INT: Was there anybody that you particularly trusted or that you felt was reliable more than others? One particular source that you could look?

NAR: Well I was in hopes that I was right in putting my trust in Denton and his staff in that I assumed that they were the most highly qualified and the most capable in that kind of a situation. As I said, Later, news reports, reading transcripts of their conversations has led me to change that opinion some but at that time I did.

INT: Was there anyone you particularly mistrusted more than another?

NAR: ...Mistrusted?... Well obviously Med Ed, O.K. I was skeptical, I would use that rather than mistrust. I was skeptical as to the kinds of information that were being fed into the Civil Defense Network. The Civil Defense Network was saying that in this area, I'm moving on to Friday night, Saturday, Sunday, it was saying in this area everything was fine and that we were to be to a point where evacuees were to be brought to. I struck me that that contrasted terribly with what I was seeing on, particularly on the CBS news, when they started talking about possibilities of a meltdown, what that would do, knowing also that area, this whole area is heavily limestone, there is a lot of underground streams which could well carry radiation and other effects of the meltdown. I question the sagacity of saying that this area was perfectly safe. I don't know if that answers your question?

INT: Yeah. Did you feel then that those in control, well, actually, who were in charge were controlling the situation? Did you think they had things pretty well in control?

NAR: I had no idea. And that's part of the problem. If I had thought that they knew what they were doing and had it in control and knew what they were doing I would have had a quite different attitude.

INT: Well what made you uneasy about it, the information they were giving you...?

NAR: Information, and the lack of information, and conflicting information.

INT: Now you mentioned before, I have a question here that goes do you feel now that those who were in charge were in control? In retrospect do you feel that everybody wasn't in control?

NAR: Well, again I can base my comments only on second hand information about what I've read and seen printed about what was transpiring at the time. In retrospect I would say no, they were not in control. That would be my interpretation of what I've read since.

INT: Do you think they are in control now?

NAR: I haven't the slightest idea. I hope so, but I'm not totally reassured by any means. The fact that there is still, what, six hundred to eight hundred thousand gallons of highly radioactive water sitting in the building with four foot cement walls twenty and a half miles from here doesn't reassure me at all.

INT: You mentioned that you did worry about the situation, it did concern you. What worried you most?

NAR: O.K. Now what day are we on or are you? ... because my worry, my concerns changed as time went on.

INT: O.K.

NAR: Do you want me to get into that?

INT: Sure.

NAR: A series of things happened. One, the incident clearly was becoming more critical, and I say clearly based on the information that we were receiving. We continued to be told by Civil Defense authorities that Carlisle was perfectly safe, but I've already mentioned my doubts about that. As Saturday wore on, by early afternoon, as I said we were listening to WHP radio, they mentioned, one newscast, the possibility of evacuation. The next newscast, about a sentence or so. The next news cast was about two or three sentences. The next news cast was a paragraph. By Saturday night it was

the major proportion of the newscast were evacuation plans and what would happen. Alright? That heightened my concern. The fact that they were making, the national news cast was making a lot about hydrogen bubbles, about meltdowns, and there was no clear implication that anybody was in charge because it was a situation that had never happened before and they didn't quite know how to control it. That raised my concern. I've forgotten the original question.

INT: I was just wondering what worried you the most out of all this.

NAR: O.K., what worried me the most out of this was by Sunday. Two things. One, it was an unknown and invisible danger. Unknown because it hadn't happened and it'd never been coped with before, so there was no way of knowing what was going to happen. Invisible because if anything happened, radiation is invisible. In my own mind, I remember back very visibly the experience of the black-out during World War Two and we had to keep black out shades and we had those black blinders that you put, covered half the headlights on your car. I can remember as a child every time an airplane went over, you heard it and the fear was there. I lived on the coast of Maine where two German submarines were sunk during World War II. We could hear the guns. We never knew whether they were practicing or whether they were actually sinking a German submarine. But in all that situation, it was visible, you heard an airplane, you could hear the guns. In this situation it was totally, the danger was totally invisible. In other words, unless one was near the radio and there was – and knew there was an explosion the radiation could be coming your way, you could be out of your yard and not even know it was surrounding you.

INT: Did you make any plans different than you normally would have done?

NAR: Yes. We prepared to pull out and to leave it we decided the situation was... Oh, the other thing, you asked me what worried me the most or something to that effect. One was that, there were two things. The other thing was the fact that I did not believe it would be possible to orderly evacuate all of the people they were talking about to evacuate. I knew that from the media they were planning on evacuating Harrisburg by school bus. I thought that, I judged that that wouldn't work because if an evacuation order comes and someone has a car sitting in the driveway full of gas and you are told you are to walk three blocks east and to wait until a school bus picks you up the first thing you are going to do is hop in your car and try to take off. So I feared massive traffic jams and I feared the impossibility of getting out if an evacuation was called. So there was the unknown and invisible danger on one side and the fear of not being able to get out if we had to get out, on the other side. And I had to balance those in my own mind and make a decision as to what I wanted to do, if anything, and to hopefully make that decision before the decision was made for me when I might then at that point be no longer a free will agent.

INT: Stuck on 81 somewhere...

NAR: Yeah, exactly. Now you asked what preparation?

INT: Yeah, what kind of different plans were made?

NAR: We have a small pop-up hot top camper, which had been in storage for the winter. Saturday morning I went to the garage where it was stored and I brought it, I hooked it to the car and I brought it back to the yard. Part of the storage process, we had all the mattresses, cushions, gas bottles and all of the equipment up in the attic. I brought everything down from the attic and prepared the camper for use. We planned, sat down and planned meals so that we'd know what we could- what we would take with us. I got a full tank of gas. All of this on Saturday. And so that- those were the preparations that we made.

INT: Did you change any of your ordinary routines?

NAR: Well, I don't ordinarily do that on a Saturday morning. So the weekend routine was disrupted by that, plus the fact that the last thing I ever do is spend the weekend listening to the radio.

INT: Right. Ok. What did you think about leaving the area?

NAR: Well... what did I think about leaving the area? I thought if I have to leave I'm going to leave but I have to get out before I'm told to because I may not be able to get out.

INT: Well, would you have left, for instance, they started the evacuation process, let's say they say 'Ok, anybody within a distance of five miles is being told to evacuate.' And then they go 'now ten miles, fifteen miles.' Along that gradient could you of related it to well ten miles and would have left or something like that?

NAR: No, because my thought would have been, particularly Sunday when the wind was blowing not necessarily, well it was then blowing away from us but it wasn't on Sunday. Anyone who- and if there was any sort of an evacuation I would have, no matter who was evacuated, I would have gone. I would have wanted to be gone before that happened.

INT: Alright then, what finally made up your mind to stay?

NAR: We didn't stay.

INT: Oh, you didn't stay!?

NAR: No.

INT: Ohhhh, I got the- ohhh, so when did you leave!?

INT: Sunday.

NAR: Oh, you did leave Sunday! So why did you finally leave on Sunday?

INT: Because I was awakened at, uh... Well, I had two phone calls Sunday morning. One from a friend who is a psychic, and who called to say that eleven o'clock was going to be a very crucial time and that things look about around eleven o'clock. This friend is a psychic who, whose predictions have been proved over and over. I mean, I have seen it happen in a number of things that she has said and they all turned out to be. And as it turned out if you look at the records eleven o'clock was a very critical time on Sunday morning. She said that she didn't know more than that, but she though- wanted me to know that. OK, the other phone call was from a friend who I will leave unnamed who has... I'll say the friend is a scientist, who has a scientist friend in Harrisburg. The scientist friend has a friend that worked in the public information office of the state. The friend in the public information office of the state called the first scientist, Sunday morning, to say things are worse than we are telling the public. If I were you I wouldn't stay around. That friend called my friend who in turn called me. Those two phone, one at seven and one at seven thirty decided us to leave and that we would leave before eleven o'clock. So we got up, had breakfast, put the food in the camper, packed the bags for the kids, closed down the house and left.

INT: How long did you stay away?

NAR: O.K. well let me make a couple comments about the leaving process.

INT: Sure.

NAR: It was very interesting experience and in retrospect, one that I am glad I had. Because it made me realize how, in a situation like this, how unattached I am to material things. We took nothing of value with us except money. You know, we cleaned our piggy banks and stuff like that. But we left, we didn't make any decisions about well, what are we going to save. We just left everything, locked up the house. I remember thinking "I wonder if I'll ever come back." "I wonder if, if I do come back the house will be here." Or "If it is here it will be stripped clean by looters." I wondered, but I wasn't worried about it. We had a full tank of gas, so we had the possibility of getting away. We had enough food to last us for a number of days. We had... we scraped together about a hundred dollars in cash. And we had the camper so we had a place to sleep. And that's all we needed. The five of us, and that's all we needed. It was a very, very freeing feeling. I have never felt so freed in my whole life as when we started off. We didn't know where we were going.

INT: You had no plans?

NAR: Well, we had made tentative plans. We had called some friends in the Washington area who had said we could come down, but at that point we weren't ready to go that far away so we headed northwest which is the direction from which the wind was blowing.



INT: Was there anything that you wanted to take with you, you were mentioning that you took...

NAR: No, just what we would need, and we needed in the immediate future. A full tank of gas, we figured that would get us far enough because with the camper I could still get twenty-one miles to the gallon, so we could get quite a ways away. And food that's all we needed because once you get far enough away you can buy food, unless it's a major catastrophe in which case everyone's in the same boat.

INT: How long did you stay away?

NAR: So we went to, we ended up going way into Perry County. We have friends that live high up in Perry County on a big farm and we took the camper up and went to their house and set the camper up in their backyard. And that was Sunday and we stayed until Tuesday afternoon. Now, by Monday, and of course, listening to the news stuff, by Monday, I came into work. I commuted from Perry County and went back to my family and stayed up there. And Tuesday I did the same thing and then Tuesday I went back and got the family Tuesday night. We left the camper there, we left it there until the following weekend in case, all set up in case we needed to get back to it. Now, you've got to remember in all this that along with all of the other pressures, maybe you don't want all these details.

INT: No, no, go ahead.

NAR: Along with all of the other pressures, the psychological pressure and the dangers and everything, there is another factor and that is that my nine year old has been- has had a series of illnesses, operations, and so forth during her life. She has already had probably up to twice the dose of X-rays that a normal human being has in- I don't mean normal, but a human being has in a normal course of his or her lifetime. Its already a concern that she's had so much radiation through X-rays so that was very much on our minds as well. Even to be overly cautious to protect her obviously and her reproductive systems. The maximum given the fact that she has already had very high dosages of X-rays.

INT: Did you have any mental pictures of what was going on at TMI?

NAR: Mental pictures?

INT: Did you imagine what was going on?

NAR: No, because I'm not a physicist. I didn't understand that much about nuclear energy. The only mental pictures I had I suppose were those formed by the CBS news when they showed diagrams of what was- what they though was happening.

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

NAR: I haven't the slightest idea.

INT: Do you think it might in the future?

NAR: I have no idea. I hope not. Why don't you ask me the same question about what's going to happen and I don't know that either. They've got all that contamination to get rid of. I haven't the slightest idea.

INT: (indistinguishable)What other aspects of you life have been affected? Do you feel that anything else in your life, besides, you know, what would be health considered, do you think that anything has been affected?

NAR: Um...yeah, physically. We, particularly, my wife and I, more than the children, have been, since then, a lot more tired than we would have been in a normal spring. A lot of it is the emotional strain that we went through during that weekend and the tension that one continued to be under there is still a little bit now. Plus the fact that, obviously, work here got jammed up, and that cause a greater physical strain as well.

INT: How about the community? Do you think it affected the community in any way?

NAR: ...I don't know. The attitudes of people around us were interesting in that we live in a neighborhood which is, except for us I think almost exclusively retired people. Not- obviously the neighbors saw us preparing the camper and we were talking to them all. I think they all said, now these were older people, I think they all said, I don't remember any exception to it, 'yes, if I had young children I would be doing what you're doing. For us it doesn't matter, no matter what happens we're going to stay here, in our own homes, just stay with the ship and see what happens. But if we had young children like you do, we would be- we would be leaving too or seriously considering leaving.'

INT: If the worst had occurred, the absolute worst...

NAR: I don't know what that is.

INT: Right, well, what do you think that might be? Have you speculated?

NAR: My speculation is drawn from information I have received from different people. It is speculation on that. I think what I feared based on that information was if there were a meltdown and it went down to the floor of the reactor building into the Susquehanna, I was told there could well be an explosion and once it hit the underground streams further explosions and the radiation being carried both by air and underground throughout the area. Again, the invisible danger.

INT: How do you think that might have affected your health?

NAR: Adversely.

INT: Anything in particular, or...

NAR: I don't know. I don't have that much experience with it. I was particularly concerned for the children and their reproductive organs and their life. And then the other affects of radiation, cancer...

INT: What other aspects of your life, if the worst had happened, (indistinguishable) but if the worse had happened, what other aspects of your life do you think would have been changed?

NAR: I don't know because I don't know what the worst would have done. I mean, if the worst would have closed the college, then that would have been a serious change in my life. If the worst had endangered or contaminated Carlisle, that would have been a serious change in my life.

INT: What kind of things do you see changing, for instance if Carlisle had been, lets just say overtaken by radiation?

NAR: Well, I certainly would have lived in the camper for a heck of a lot longer than we did. I might ever have come back depending upon how bad it is. I mean I didn't dwell on that, I haven't been dwelling on that since because there is no sense to that.

INT: Do you think that the food and milk around TMI had been affected? Do you have any concern for that?

NAR: Yeah, I am concerned about it, not just from the incident. I am concerned about it from the fact that there is a nuclear plant there and I think that presents a potential danger, particularly to growing things and the production of milk. And I think that that potential danger was increased during the Three Mile Island Incident just because of the release of radiation into the atmosphere. It makes sense.

INT: You said you don't picture a lot of this happening, but can you picture what radiation would have done to the life around you? What kind of effects it would of had?

NAR: No, because I'm not qualified or trained to do that and therefore I haven't been dwelling on that.

INT: Did you think of your own death?

NAR: ...Did I think of my own death? Um... I don't think I did that much. I certainly didn't dwell on it... I have a very strong faith so dying is not all that scary to me. My principle concern was the children and to protect their health and safety.

INT: Did you think that you would survive all of this?

NAR: ...Well, I was going to sure try. I was going to make my best effort for it.

INT: Did you feel it got down to where you were going to get out of this alright? Or were you just completely unsure?

NAR: Who can predict that? Who can predict you can go back to you room without getting killed?

INT: Right, but I feel within myself that I will.

NAR: Yeah, well I felt that I would too.

INT: O.K.

NAR: Oh, I see, I got you now. I got your wave length now. Yeah that's why I was doing things like preparing the camper. That's why I kept a close ear on the news reports as they began to escalate the evacuation because I wanted to get, if it looked as if it was getting close, I wanted to get ahead of that to have a better chance of surviving. Yeah I see what you are saying.

INT: Now, you thought you would survive, what reassured you about this, like your own capabilities of understanding the situation or...

NAR: Yeah and trying to make the best ration intellectual judgment that I could make on what to do for the safety of my family and myself given the situation.

INT: Did you think about God during the situation?

NAR: Oh, sure.

INT: How did you felt that He figured into all of this? Do you feel that He has some sort of character to play and all of this?

NAR: ...Well, I did an awful lot of praying that things would calm down, sure.

INT: Is that what you prayed about primarily?

NAR: Yeah, for safety for everyone in the area. That the situation would- that man would be able to get in control of this thing that he had leashed, let go. Leashed, unleashed, that's the world I want or on that little island in the Susquehanna.

INT: Do you feel God had anything to do with what so ever?

NAR: I wouldn't be surprised. Not at all surprised

INT: We'll get back to that. I, myself, and very interested in this. Did any Biblical stories, or events, or any saying cross your mind?

NAR: ...Gee, I have to give that some thought. I don't remember...

INT: For instance some people relate this to revelations...

NAR: No...

INT: The end of the coming end of the earth.

NAR: No...I've often thought if man destroys himself, it will be through nuclear energy. I've often thought that. I didn't see this one plant in the middle of the Susquehanna in Pennsylvania destroying the earth. Could do, could make a small step forward in there, but...

INT: Did the idea of Satan at all cross your mind as somehow getting into this?

NAR: ...It depends on how you define Satan?

INT: No, it depends upon how you define Satan.

NAR: ...No, I don't think so. I don't recall that I did.

INT: ...Do you feel what happened at Three Mile Island is, uh...

NAR: By the way, your feels should all be things. The questions are improperly phrased.

INT: Uhhhh...

NAR: Do I think? But anyway that's O.K. It's an editorial comment but go ahead.

INT: Yeah, O.K., for instance the way its structured, I have did the idea of Satan, the last judgment, or the end of the world enter your thinking or feeling?

NAR: I'm just teasing you.

INT: O.K., yea, I'm not very good at this, first of all this is the... uh...

NAR: That can be removed from the transcript because I'm just teasing you. As a grammarian I'm teasing you a little bit.

INT: Yeah, also this is the first time...these questions...I've been interviewing kids the whole time and these questions, surprisingly, take on a whole new light when you are talk to an adult and especially an adult that is intellectual to being with, that's thought a lot

about it, that has family to think about and uh... This is a new experience and I am still trying to feel these out a little bit. Um...Do you feel, do you think, that God was trying to tell us something, like an instruction or a discipline of some kind?

NAR: No. No, I don't think so. I think-I hope that man learned something from this.

INT: Did you attend any religious services during the crisis?

NAR: No- not- well, yes, mass. But not- we didn't- we didn't- we very regrettably didn't get to mass on Sunday because it was Sunday morning that we left. The friends we stayed with at Perry County had a house guest arrive shortly after we did who was a priest who then said mass for us- a home mass, not because of Three Mile Island, but as a home mass. Yes, in that sense, yeah.

INT: Where did you attend the mass?

NAR: In the home of the friends, in the backyard, our camper was back.

INT: The mass, you attended one here though, didn't you?

NAR: No, I didn't Sunday morning. I did not Sunday morning.

INT: No, but before then, when there was still a crisis situation? Like, well I don't know when you, did you say you went to mass?

NAR: I normally would go to mass, well the family goes either Friday afternoon or Sunday morning. We had planned to go Sunday morning until those two phone calls came in.

INT: Oh, but you didn't attend a mass before then?

NAR: No.

INT: Oh, Oh, I see. Does your faith say anything about the rightness or wrongness for man's desire to use nuclear power?

NAR: ...I think my own faith helped me a tremendous amount in this. It gave me a great deal of strength. I think one has to look at the question of moral responsibility for setting up something that is potentially dangerous as these plants have proved themselves to be. Yeah, I think we ought to say something about the moral responsibility that as Christians we have to protect mankind against the kinds of follies that these projects can prove themselves to be...Is it fair, is it morally correct to endanger hundreds of thousands of people? Now, the answer to that previous to this has been there is no danger. Therefore, the question is irrelevant. Now we have proven there is a strong danger and that question has to be pursued and pursued rigorously.

INT: Do you think religious people or religious institutions should make some sort of stand for the rightness or wrongness of the use or lack of use of nuclear power?

NAR: I think whatever stand is taken has to be made after very careful study of whatever the situation is in this case nuclear power. I don't think it is anything that one rushes into. I don't think any church ought to come out and say "We condemn nuclear power in total." But I think the implications of nuclear power and the moral responsibilities have to be weighed very, very carefully...Because you are affecting people who are not involved in the process. And that's where I think the moral wrong comes in.

INT: Did you feel you had certain responsibilities, I sure you did, and this is sort of a redundant question but there are following questions, did you feel you had certain responsibilities during the incident?

NAR: Yeah, I had my primary responsibility was to my family and myself. O.K, and their safety. I was not involved at that college in a level of responsibility towards the students. If I had been, if my responsibilities were other than what they are, then I would certainly have responsibilities towards the students as well.

INT: Looking back I remember that you said the people in the community where you live were watching what you were doing and they were talking to you about it. Did you feel you had any responsibility towards them?

NAR: Yup, I made sure that they knew as much as I knew. I found in a couple of cases older people who had not been following the developments...that they were not as well informed, well informed in quotes, because I don't know how *well* informed any of us were, but they didn't have as much information as we did and I felt it was my responsibility to see that they had all the information that I had so that they could best make whatever decisions they wanted to make. I did not try to influence anyone, one way or the other, in terms of what responsibilities, what decisions he or she ought to make. I thought I had the responsibility to see that they had all the information I had.

INT: Did any of these responsibilities- it sounds like you have quite a few- did you run into any problems with responsibilities conflicting?

NAR: ...No, I didn't. No.

INT: How was your job affected by TMI? ...Like for instance- first of all I imagine there was quite a lot of commotion going on through the whole school there was.

NAR: Yeah, obviously. Now, by Friday afternoon, of course I had a full schedule of appointments, there was considerable nervousness among the students that I talked with more time- quite a bit of time- was spent exchanging information, less time discussing what the appointments were made to discuss. I don't normally work here, at least on the weekends, I often work at home. I didn't that weekend. By Sunday, while we were setting the camper up in the backyard of our friends, oh, this was about, I'm guessing,

four or five, five o'clock something like that, we had taken a portable radio with us and we had it tuned to WHP at which point they announced, erroneously as it turned out, that Dickinson College had closed. I was concerned about that because I had attended the Friday night and Saturday night sessions here, information sessions here, at which point-during which we were told that the college that the college would not close unless new and drastically dangerous information were received. As it turned out, I immediately telephoned my superior, the Dean of the College from my friend's house and was told that the news report was erroneous that the College did not close but that classes had been suspended. And then I understood better what had happened, I was thrown off by that erroneous news report. So obviously during the following week I didn't teach so my job was affected. I had had a full week of appointments scheduled. Only about eight to ten percent of those were kept by the students who were here. Some students who were here and had appointments scheduled later took advantage of that time to talk to me earlier. And then at the end of that week when the rest of the students returned, we had the problem of fitting into an already full calendar the appointments that were missed. So to that extent, it cause more problems for us after that. I spent that week, a good part of that week working on projects here that I had not been sure when I was going to get to or how I was going to get to them given a full schedule of appointments. So that one can say in that sense, it helped in terms of projects but it caused a problem in terms of them making it up, or squeezing in all the missed appointments.

INT: This is- I'm not quite sure how this is going to fit in- Did you have things to do which you otherwise had not have had to do? ...I guess, O.K, preparation for evacuation might be an example of that.

NAR: Right, obviously commuting to work. I normally commute on bicycle and I was commuting from Perry County so I was spending more time that way... You know, obviously whenever I was in town I would stop at the house and get clean clothes and check things out. Things that I wouldn't normally do. But otherwise, no.

INT: How did this affect those around you, including yourself? How did it affect you? Like, for instance I imagine it was an inconvenience?

NAR: Yeah, it was an inconvenience. It was also I felt a great deal of tension. And prior to leaving Sunday, I felt a great deal of pressure on me as the- the one along with my wife, the two of us, responsible for the safety of our children to make the final decision as what we should do, if anything. So, there was an emotional strain from the question of the danger, which I spoke earlier of the unknown, the invisible, and the pressure of trying to do whatever is best for the family in time for that action to be effectual.

INT: Did you have any ideas, you know, moral, ethic, on how the best way to behave during this situation? What kind of guidelines did you use? How do you feel was the best way to handle a crisis of this sort?



NAR: Well, certainly to try to stay calm in the sense of lucid, rational, able to gather information and use that information to make the soundest and best possible decision, given the responsibilities that I had.

INT: Was there anything that made it difficult for you to act that way?

NAR: Yeah, the fact that I was getting conflicting information and I wasn't sure that I was getting the correct information, or all the information. That was probably the most frustrating aspect of it. Terribly frustrating not to know.

INT: You touched upon this with your story of World War II, at the time did this event bring to mind any other past experiences or past events?

NAR: That I think is a most vivid one, the World War II experiences, I have not, I know other people for whom it brought back events when they were in military service or in combat, I had not had that experience. So, I didn't have those kinds of memories.

INT: Would you consider this incident more or less frightening than a hurricane or a tornado or a flood or something like that?

NAR: More, because I have experienced hurricanes. Agnes here, and then growing up in Maine, on the coast. A hurricane can be tracked, it can be seen, if not immediately with the naked eye, it can be seen on radar screens. Experts can tell you precisely where it is, how strong it is, which way it's moving, ok? One sees the rain coming. One sees the case of a hurricane, one sees the coast, the ocean, and one knows- one can predict what's going to happen in the case of a hurricane. You know what high winds will do. You know what a raging surf and sea will do, ok? So, you have a whole series of knows. You don't know how they are going to fall together, and don't know then therefore how serious that incident is going to be, but you are working with something you have experience with, that experts tell you exactly and you feel confident they know what they are saying. Where it is, how strong it is, when it's coming, how it's coming.

INT: We're back to this seen and unseen danger.

NAR: Right.

INT: Did any TV shows or movies come to mind from all this?

NAR: No, we don't watch TV. We watch TV very rarely so there was no analogies there. We hadn't seen the China Syndrome, didn't even know about it until Three Mile Island's event had begun. Obviously, people were then telling us about it (indistinguishable).

INT: Were there any books or stories that you've ever read that this was reminiscent of or reminded you of?

NAR: ...I don't recall any. There was some interesting ironies from all this. I remember one- I think it was Saturday night, but I wouldn't swear to it, I think it was the Saturday night newscast, it was either Friday night or Saturday night that CBS had an hour long special on the events at Three Mile Island. And during that hour special, they were interviewing people in California as they came out of the China Syndrome and one man, I remember one comment something to the effect of "Well-," they were asking him to relate to what he had just seen to what was going on and he said something about, " Well, it was too bad that all those people in Pennsylvania had to die." And I remember sitting there thinking, well, the irony of that. It's so easy for him to say.

INT: really, yeah. Did you find yourself singing any songs or lyrics of songs, any of those come back to mind?

NAR: I don't recall that there was anything special or unusual. As a family we sing songs in the car whenever we go traveling and we were singing songs in the car, but nothing different from what we usually do.

INT: Did you have any day dreams that you can remember... of what was going on at TMI, or what might happen around here?

NAR: ...Oh gee, day dreams, I don't know...

INT: 'Cause, uh, you know, you sit here in the office and just be thinking actually of what's going on.

INT: Well, obviously, everyone was thinking of what was going on. Everyone was thinking- no, I won't say everyone- *I* was thinking, particularly again, the same-old-same-old, what should I be doing? What actions should I be taking? What are the possible consequences? What will happen if they call an evacuation? What should my own decision and my own role in all of this be?

INT: Did you have any dreams at night time...about this?

NAR: I don't recall that I did or didn't.

INT: Was your sleep disturbed...except for Sunday morning when the phone rang?

NAR: One never- at least I never, sleep soundly and deeply when I am nerved up, when I am under pressure, tension, and have a great deal going on in my mind. So I did not sleep as well at any point during this.

INT: What kind of changes happened to people around you? What kind of changes did you see?

NAR: It depends. The older people, those without young families, I didn't see too many changes. It was those who were pregnant, those who had small children. They were the ones that obviously had the same kinds of concerns, worries, tensions.

INT: Do you think that it affected them in any lasting way?

NAR: I can't comment on lasting. It certainly affected them at the time. I suspect, particularly for people who were pregnant during that time, women who were pregnant and, well, husbands and wives who were pregnant, and for people with small children living in the area. You probably don't know this, my wife is a certified teacher of childbirth education and we teach together and indeed we had a class that Tuesday night. We were prepared- we were back, the caper was still up but we were back in town. That was one of the reasons, since it seemed safe at that point, that was one of the reasons we came back on Tuesday, another one was that we wanted to teach the class which we hold in our home. We were prepared for the fact that people would be, remember that these are all pregnant women and their husbands, that they would be extremely tense and they were, that they would want to talk about it, and they did. There was a greater sense of camaraderie among the group that night than they normally did. They said long after class just talking, talking to us, talking to each other. They were asking our advice, particularly my wife who is an RN and as I said is a certified teacher. Her advice medically was to talk to your doctor, that he was the one. Some of them said that they didn't find that reassuring, I remember one particular couple who go to a doctor in Harrisburg- Maybe this is all irrelevant?

INT: No, no, no, no.

NAR: Who go to a doctor in Harrisburg, calling the doctor for advice and having the doctor answer the phone because his secretary and nurses had all left...

INT: Oh, no (*laughter*)

NAR: And they were not reassured by that. Another doctor had put a recorded message on the line at night. People didn't find that reassuring. We also- the only advice that we gave to them medically was it would wise to, particularly those whose babies were due soon and most of them were, to stock up on powdered milk for those who were going to be nursing the babies until studies could be made what if any effect there would be on the milk that one was buying and to start drinking the powdered milk now.

INT: Very good, ok. Do you think that this all changed you in any lasting way?

NAR: Nothing that has as serious, profound, emotional impact on you... can help... did that come out right...yeah, nothing can help but have an impact and have an effect....um...

INT: Like, for instance, well I don't even know what your views were on nuclear energy...

NAR: I was a supporter of nuclear energy. Now I have very serious doubts, very serious questions about it.

(Indistinguishable)

INT: How about jokes, did you hear any jokes or funny remarks about Three Mile Island?

NAR: Oh, yeah. I mean there were a lot of them. Some were sick, occasionally some were funny.

INT: Do you remember any of them?

NAR: No, not right off hand.

INT: Do you remember, well alright, did you think there was a lot of joking going on?

NAR: Well, a reaction to a crisis is to joke. It's a normal reaction, so yes there was a lot of jokes going on.

INT: Did you find a lot of people laughing at the jokes, or was there a kind of nervous laughter?

NAR: More of a nervous laughter. Or a sick laughter... The children had picked up jokes Friday afternoon in school but they didn't really understand because they had picked them up from older kids. They were sort of repeating what they'd heard without really, they were kind of sick things, without, from my opinion they were sick jokes given the seriousness of the situation, but they didn't really understand them.

INT: Did you find yourself laughing at any of them?

NAR: No, not really... Afterwards I think one tended to laugh a little more freely, that was certainly expressed by the whole t-shirt business here, although the reactions to that were quite different... My wife doesn't want- didn't want a t-shirt. I got three t-shirts for myself and the kids even though I realized that in one sense they're not funny. But as a kind of souvenirs of the situation. My wife didn't want one... The "I survived Three Mile Island... I think," which is pretty gross in itself ...

INT: It's a good saying...

(Unintelligible)

NAR: Yeah. It expressed- I liked it because it expressed... a lot. My attitude again toward the invisible and the unknown. Some of them I didn't think were particularly funny.

INT: two other people were judging the entries for the t-shirt contest and some on the were boarder line- like, they let the one, the Harrisburg (unintelligible)

NAR: I didn't think that was particularly funny...

INT: If you think that's bad, you should have heard the one that just said 'Drink Milk and Die' (*laughter*)...I thought that was very clever.

NAR: The one I liked the best, which I feel very comfortable with and would like to have had one, even more than the one I had, was the one showed the picture of the lung cage and said "But I didn't want another X-ray."

INT: Really, I hadn't even seen that one, really? What joking do you remember from other crisis? I can give you Pearl Harbor, Kennedy assassination, invasion of Cambodia, Jonestown, Guinea, any of those. Do you remember any joking going on from any of those?

NAR: ...Not vividly...Not enough to comment on really...I'm not a joke kind of person so, I never remember them.

INT: Have you developed any opinion about nuclear energy? Sort of sum up with that.

NAR: ...I was naively for it before. Naively, I say because I thought that they knew what they were doing and had things under control... My attitude has shifted. It was not shifted to the extreme that I think that all nuclear energy should be stopped forever and ever. I think that, let's look at nuclear power because that's what we are zeroing in on, I think nuclear power ought to be stopped right now until this incident can be studied thoroughly and the appropriate conclusions drawn. Until the whole question of safety at nuclear plants can be rethought from ground zero, because obviously the thinking that was done the first time was not completely satisfactory. If the result of that can be different kinds of control systems, safety systems that can convince people more knowledgeable than I that indeed they are as close to being fail proof as one can get. Then, I think we could go back to nuclear energy. My hope is that nuclear energy will only be an interim supplier of energy until two things can happen: one, we can bring the demand for energy down; and two, we can develop solar energy. (indistinguishable) Which is what trees have been using for years. They unfold their solar panels and use it. Its about time man learned to do that.

INT: Well, actually the point on 60 Minutes, which surprised me, I'd always thought of it as like, you've got to work on solar power. There's houses right now, it's just as cheap to build your houses with a furnace (indistinguishable), as it is with solar power. There are houses that have already been set up and its working. The problem is that the government hasn't gotten behind it, so it's (indistinguishable). But I was watching this show, and it's amazing! The houses are beautiful. They're completely efficient. One complete- one office building used- they have a back up little heater in case what the

store from the sun can't be used. It costs them a dollar-forty-nine for the make up. It's just incredible that this has opened up to us.

NAR: I don't know if you know Prof. Shearer, or not but he has a solar heat panel that he did out of discarded coke and Pepsi cans which heats a significant portion of his house.

INT: Very good. How about, you say that you hope that they can provide new safeguards, nuclear energy can be made.....

NAR: (indistinguishable ) and until that's done I think that we have to make the sacrifice, well I generally think that we should make the sacrifice of less energy anyway. We consume far too much energy. And until those safeguards can be developed, if they can be developed, I'm not saying they can, I think we ought to be- I don't think this will happen- I think we ought to be forced to do with less for public safety. I think we have a moral responsibility to humanity to do with less until, and if possible, safety can be assured. And if it can't, then let's do with less anyway. We have to do with less.

INT: That's an interesting thought. I hate to just follow this up with this question, but...it's an interesting thought because people- you said that hopefully that they can get nuclear energy safe and only until then will nuclear energy be acceptable. If you were living in your house and...

NAR: they wanted to put one down the street...

INT: Right, would you want that?

NAR: Not at the present time, no. I would reserve the right to change that judgment...I'm not sure that man can reach the level of sophistication great enough to be able to unleash what he has unleashed and control...I'd have to be assured of that.

INT: Anything else you'd like to add?

NAR: I don't think so.