

Date: June 26, 1979

Occupation: Assistant Personnel Director for Cumberland County

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember when and under what circumstances you heard about a problem at Three Mile Island?

NARRATOR: Ooh, I would say the first was probably here in the courthouse.

INT: Here in the courthouse. Do you remember -

NAR: The Emergency Preparedness Office, being downstairs. We were... I wouldn't say that we had any information prior to the general public, but maybe a little bit more, a little bit, maybe minutes faster, that's about all. *[Unintelligible comment; INT laughs.]*

INT: Did you, at that point how did you react?

NAR: Initially when I heard about it?

INT: I wasn't really fearful. Originally because I wasn't really aware of what the nuclear power plants were all about. The more publicity they got, you know, the more I thought about it.

INT: Initially, do you remember what day of the week that was?

NAR: Tuesday, Wednesday? Wednesday, probably.

INT: Okay. Did you know that there was a nuclear power plant there before?

NAR: Oh, yes.

INT: How far is TMI from us? From Carlisle?

NAR: From us? 27 miles.

INT: Did you know that before?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: Now, you said at that point, at the initial point you weren't that worried, didn't seem to be.

NAR: No, not really.

INT: Now, that apparently changed over time?

NAR: Apparently. *[Laughs.]*

INT: Do you want to tell me about that?

NAR: Sure. Well Thursday basically at work everyone was – in a slight panic. It's the first time anything like this had ever happened around here. And everyone was instructed to stay off the telephones, keep the lines open, you know, and being in personnel and working closely with the commissioners – you know, we helped out in any way that we possibly could. I wasn't really, I wasn't *really* that concerned even Thursday. Friday – you know, I really started to think, and first I had plans to go out socially Friday night, but the more I thought about it, the more I became concerned. I'm not really a panic person, but when my mother called me and she has said that my father had been saying "Why don't we go down to New Jersey" – then I started to panic, because my dad has been working at the Navy depot and he's worked with nuclear power for thirty-some years. And I thought, if my dad is saying, you know, "why don't we just go?" – you know, he was trying to save the family from panic. And I thought, well if my dad's concerned enough to say why don't we go, and he had called my mother three times at work – which is *extremely* unusual for him to do, because he's all business. I thought that maybe there was something to think a little bit harder about. And then, Friday after work, of course, we all went over to the Gingerbread Man for a drink. And I had, one of the girls in my office had taken my daughter home, and I had called my mother and told her where I was and in the event anything occurred, call me. She apparently put a call through to the Gingerbread Man, of course I never got the call, and when I got home my babysitter said, well, your mother called and they're leaving for New Jersey. Well my cousin was a student at Dickinson at the time, and he wasn't going along. He was – you know, he knew it all, he didn't have to evacuate the area, he didn't have to go home with his family, being the only child his mother was scared to death, you know. But he didn't have to go, he just knew it all. So, I said, well, you know, I said, now don't panic, one of the girls in the Commissioner's office was getting married the next day and I said look, I said, if things get really involved, and it looks really bad Saturday, I'll come down, but I'd like to say here and go to the wedding. Well of course my mother, being very upset, leaving one of her children behind, you know – "Well, how can you consider going to a wedding, how can that be more important than your life and your daughter's life?" Well, I started feeling, you know, I felt really bad. Well, several of the people at work here were with me, and we sat around and we watched the news broadcasts on TV, and one of them said, "well I really think we just better get out of here". You know, and it was the weekend, so I only took clothes for the weekend figuring, well, it'll all be over by Monday, you know, no big deal, so I'll just, you know, I'll go, I have plenty of time. I wasn't really doing it because I was scared to death, but I thought what the heck, I need a vacation, I'll go down and see my grandmother and my aunt, and I hadn't been down for a long time, you know, my whole family is going to be there, I thought, you know, big family reunion. However, the more the broadcasts came across the television, the more I seriously, you know, I thought, "I don't really want to go back there". And I was away, and I thought, you know, why push it? I have a four-year-old, at the time she was four, pre-schooler – She doesn't need that exposure, they don't *really* know what's going on,

and anything they're telling us on television – I'm gonna say to myself, that there's probably twice as much happening, and they're not gonna tell us.

INT: Why?

NAR: We're definitely not well-informed by the government. There have been enough circumstances in the past, I would even say in the past ten years, that have happened that only a select group of individuals know about. And they're very detrimental. The amounts of radiation that – You know, my girlfriend lives *right* across from TMI and I have a cousin that lives right on the other side of the river, on the east shoew, only about two miles away. And the amounts of radiation and the gasses that had been released from there, it's an unbelievable amount, that was prior to TMI that no one ever knew about. Of course, after TMI they started coming out with it and the different commissions and so on and so forth that they've set up, and, you know, there's a lot more information, but – Well, just take, just this week, with the radiation that had escaped and they said it wasn't anything compared to what has already been, has already been...  
*[Stops; INT laughs.]* Oh, geez! But nevertheless, so I stayed in New Jersey, until Sunday. My neighbors went with me. When I came home, I had taken my kitten over to my neighbor's house and asked them to baby-sit and then they started to panic, and they didn't have any relatives out of town, so they also went, and took *their* daughter.

INT: What'd you do with the cat?

NAR: The cat stayed by herself *[INT laughs]*, it was just a baby kitten, she was only seven months old! Poor little thing. But, nevertheless, we had quite a house full, in a three- bedroom house we had 27 people.

INT: Most of them had come...

NAR: All.

INT: All of them had come.

NAR: Except for two. Two lived there, but the rest of them came. Friends of my parents, and their three kids. My parents, my sisters, my friends... so we had quite a houseful. And the tension was unbelievable.

INT: Where did you go in New Jersey?

NAR: Between Atlantic City and Ocean City, in a town called Linwood,

INT: On the ocean.

NAR: Along the shore.

INT: Okay, now, you said the tension was incredible?

NAR: It was – In the house, with all of us there, naturally when you have that many people in close quarters, it's going to be tense, but the thing that was most upsetting, I think... Of course everybody started drinking because they were scared, didn't know what to do, and, a couple drinks in them, and in that mood it only intensified it, and they – you know, were at each other's throats. The one woman's daughter, one of the daughters didn't come down. And comments were flying that under any other circumstances would never have been said. Very gentle people were saying very harsh things. "Your children don't love you, that's why they're not here." It was unbelievable. Um... One incident was, the daughter wasn't coming because she said, "my husband doesn't want to come with me, and I don't want to leave him here." A young couple, fairly newlyweds, maybe two years married. And another comment was made by one of the other women, "Well, your children don't love you or they would be here. Who do they place first, their husband or their parents?" You know, unfortunately I got in the middle of that situation, and my mother said directly to me, well, she made statement prior to that time, "I know if you had to make the choice of your husband and your mother, you would come to your mother." Okay, having a very very close relationship with my mother, and considering the fact that I'd been divorced for several years, she could very easily say that. Of course the woman that she said it to, called me and said, if you had the choice, what would you do? I said, "well since I'm not married, I really can't say." Because I didn't want to take sides. My mother and I are very close, and my mother's a very calm woman, she'll tell it straight out. But she was just so upset and so excited, and so was the other woman, that they were just at each other's throats. It was *unbelievable*, being far enough away from it, being, themselves in a secure and safe area – just the effect that it had. You know, as well as the neighbors, the community down there was just – it was unbelievable.

INT: Oh really? Even there?

NAR: It was terrible. First of all, they were getting *really* bad broadcasts.

INT: Okay, why don't you talk about that a little, was everybody following the news and following the television and so forth?

NAR: Definitely. The television was on, the radio was on, and every newspaper that came out we were - we *went* for. You know, we were trying to keep as well informed as we possibly could, in addition to calling the hotline, you know, every hour on the hour... I would say that the telephone bill for the two days, the two-and-a-half-day stay, and the people that were there, was somewhere in the realm of 200 dollars. Because everybody kept calling back home. Friends that had gone down with me, still had sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, all in this area, because they're Carlisle residents, born and raised, and they were not going to leave because everything they ever had was here. You know, and in addition, my sister came – In those three days, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, my sister made three trips back and forth to the Shore because she was so concerned about – you know, if it wasn't one thing, it was another thing. And I mean that certainly didn't help the energy crisis, you know – *[INT laughs]* driving back and forth like that, she has a

Volkswagen, you know! But, being concerned, you know, the boy she was dating had stayed here, she was worried about him, she came home one time because they were, believe it or not, scared to death about the cats. And my younger sisters, being very compassionate, and had a rabbit in the yard and my dad kiddingly said, it's gonna turn green, and he'll *glow* when we get home. And my sisters just went – my sisters are 13 and 15 right now, you know, and they were just so upset and heartbroken because they really thought this was true. But people did stay on top of the news, and they did put some broadcasts out even through the major networks that weren't accurate, and it did cause people to panic even more, but there were just so many trips, just that, you know, and that people that were there, back and forth, to Pennsylvania, thinking, “well I better go back and get this because if I don't I'm not gonna have...” You know, and then thinking, “oh my gosh, here's an older relative that nobody thought anything of” – the tension was just unbelievable. Well, from there we went to Connecticut, we left New Jersey and went to Connecticut on Sunday afternoon. Right, we went down, okay, I should back up here. We went to New Jersey Friday night. Because even though I said I wanted to say for a wedding on Saturday, a report came across at 10:00, and I decided I that, “yeah, I guess it's serious enough. Ah, no big deal, we'll go.”

INT: What were the changes there? What made you decide?

NAR: Well first of all the fact that they came across and had an hour-long broadcast specifically on TMI, I thought, okay, we better sit down and listen to this. Plus, my father's feelings... My mother was completely irrational. Okay, and which she's – a very level-headed person, she isn't the kind of person that's just gonna jump, but I think my mother's been with my father for 30 years now, and she knows that if my dad says, “why don't we take a trip” – there must be something involved, because it's not like him *at all* to say, let's go for a vacation, because he's a workaholic, and he just will not take off work. So I think more than anything that put fear into her. And, so we all went to the Shore, and my parents had gone down and then I called that night, I guess we left here about 11:30 at night, and told them we were on our way down. And we got down there and of course we just put our junk on the floor and slept, because that was about it. Anyway, Sunday we decided that there was so much tension, which made *me* even more uptight, so I said well – and the guy that I've been dating, his parents live in Connecticut, he hadn't seen them for a long time, so, you know, we might as well go to Connecticut. You know, just make a vacation out of it. Well, I had talked to my boss before I left, and I said that, you know, there was the possibility and probability that I would not be back for a week. So, of course, you know, she tried to talk me out of it and said, oh, no, you don't have to worry, I talked to this professor, and that – you know, and so-and-so, you don't have to leave, you don't have to worry. I said, “I'm not really doing it so much because *I'm* really scared.” I said, “but, they are talking about pre-school children, I do have that consideration. My family is gone, and they are scared to death with me being here.” You know. I said, “in consideration of what everybody else thinks”, I mean deep down inside I could've been scared to death but I didn't have to admit it because I had enough other things going on that I should give consideration to. Nevertheless. We went to Connecticut and we stayed in Connecticut for three days. And... It was miserable weather. Rained the whole time. *[INT laughs.]* Oh, it was so bad, you walk outside and

you were just *drenched*, oh it was terrible. But nevertheless the reports up there were unbelievable, the tanker that was coming down to collect the gas wrecked within an hour of the time that we got into New Haven. And unbelievably, going north, the amount of cars that had Pennsylvania plates on it, and U-haul trucks, that were just jammed packed with everything that the people owned. And I'll tell you, by – I guess it was, I would say... it was either Monday night or Tuesday, I really started giving serious consideration to not ever coming back to the area. Because I thought, they're never gonna tell us exactly how much radiation has escaped. I just read in the paper that they weren't equipped to handle such an emergency case so we'll never know what escaped. Which, you know, that's... Nevertheless I was so concerned about, even though the soil tests had been coming up with the fact that there were no traces, and it was not harmful, they didn't know anything had happened at Hiroshima until 20 years later. You know, so 20 years from now I'm gonna all kind of problems.

INT: Did you make that kind of association then?

NAR: I did, yeah.

INT: You thought about Hiroshima?

NAR: Oh, yeah.

INT: Did you have pictures of what was going on down there?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: Could you tell me about them?

NAR: Well, I tell you, I've never really been a history person, in my life, but – I can remember when I was a really small child and I would say maybe, maybe it might've been 1954, and I can remember hearing an air raid siren. And even though recollection at that age isn't very great something in it *was* devastating to *me*, to hear this air raid siren and to remember running and hiding in the basement. So, anything all my life that's ever had to do with air raids or bombs... you know, it shakes me up. So the association of what had happened at Hiroshima, how it was covered up or whatever, not realizing the total effects, I would say that they had the technological advancement at that time to know what was going to happen, or to be able to project. And they *didn't*. They didn't tell the people. That's not to say that they didn't do it. But I just don't feel that the public was well-informed as to what actually the consequences could be. So of course, I blew everything out of proportion in thinking of TMI and I thought, you know, I had it all laid out exactly how they were evacuating Pennsylvania. I sat there, and we talked about it, a friend of mine and I had sat there and talked about it. And it was very – It would be so illogical of them to try a mass evacuation because it would just, it would be bedlam, they would never pull it off. Because so many people would hit the highways at one time, it would just be mass accidents, people would be sh – you know – killed. At all expense. Just to get out. So the most logical thing is to, and as they did, start the

pregnant women and the pre-school children. Okay so you hear that, and they're gonna leave. They're gonna get out of the area. Okay that's one step. Then there's gonna be those people that are just gonna *run*, all you have to do is say "run", and, you know, even hint, and they're going to take off. And there's the older people, the senior citizens, and so on and so forth, and if they have, you know, a child that's living in this area, they're gonna come get their parents, they're gonna be worried about them, and they're gonna take them away. Then there's gonna be the people like me that think, "well, you know, I have the time, I might as well take it," – but also I had a preschooler, and that got another whole segment out. I mean, you know, I don't even remember what the percentage of the population was at the time, that had already evacuated. So that in the final analysis if they had to say, "get out", they'd have only been working with maybe 30% of the population of these five counties at that point. Obviously they weren't going to say, "oh, mass evacuation". But then of course there's those people that are gonna hang around and hang around until they say, "yes, you definitely have to leave". And by then, I mean, all the exposure we had already had to the radiation wasn't going to make a difference. The only think that would have been harmful was had it blown up. But nevertheless, the effects, the after effects of Hiroshima, and I think the more I start talking about it, and the man that I was talking to in Connecticut was *very* – could tell you anything about bombs and, you know, what had happened historically over the years and really filled me in on Hiroshima. I had made the association, but the more he talked the more afraid I was to come home and plant my vegetable garden, grow my flowers, have my daughter out playing in the yard. You know, eating the food, drinking the milk, of this area. I just didn't want to do it. I just wanted to come home, sell my place, and just get out of here. Of course I'm not really an irrational person, you know, and that was the things that went over in my mind. But I still subconsciously think that if I had the chance and I have a good opportunity for employment, I would leave. And even though I would really be hesitant, I would say six months ago, I'd really hesitate to do that, because I've been born and raised in the Central Pennsylvania area. But now I think it's not *just* me, you know, and it's not *just* my family. What about my kids? Because they'll never – I don't believe they'll ever tell us what the severity is. And I would say, twenty years from now we'll see the results, we'll see how many people have gotten cancer from the incident, or what other ailments have come up. How it's affected our cattle, how it's, you know, and all the different things that are, you know, any type of mutations and anything else that are gonna ever come from it. It's going to be time until it's gonna physically show but I still think that – with the technology, with the physicists that we have, I am sure that they have a good idea of what the possibilities are, not necessarily that that's what's going to happen, but I am sure they can project a lot more than they are *ever* going to tell the public. It'll be twenty years before we'll really see what's going to happen.

INT: Do you think something that happened at TMI might have affected your health, that actually happened there? Now, you know, there's the ones that we've been talking about, what you thought *might* happen, but we're also talking about what you feel *did* happen.

NAR: I wouldn't say *immediately*. I wouldn't say that right now that I feel any less healthy than I did before I left. I'm sure that my grandmother being a hypochondriac has decided she has all kinds of illnesses, and it's based on TMI. I don't really feel that way.

I haven't been for a check-up since, except when I went to the dentist, I was leery of getting X-rays thinking if I did have this additional exposure to radiation [*laughing*], do I really need to have my teeth X-rayed. You know. And it just, it goes through your mind. You know, I think, not physically, it hasn't caused me any ill health, but mentally it has caused a lot of strain. And I'm sure that the majority...

INT: You feel worried about it.

NAR: Oh, yeah. I'm sure the majority of the population has, even those people who walk around and say, "No, nothing. Nothing, happened, everything is under control", you know – "don't worry about it." You know, look at what the test samples are showing. I really don't feel those people are even confident that nothing really did happen.

INT: Can we – you talked about not being told. I'd like to try to separate out some levels there. How do you feel the media did with this thing?

NAR: Terrible.

INT: Go ahead.

NAR: I don't really think... I think they did a good job of not causing an immediate panic. Okay. They gave it to us in steps. The fact of the matter was, the initial time that I had heard of it, the major amount that was released in the whole time had already been released. Okay, now, of course it could have been an accident, they didn't know about it, but the thing is, for the years that TMI has been down there, they have never told the public the amount of radiation that's being emitted from that place. *Never*. *Never*. So...

INT: Now, then, we're talking about Metropolitan Edison company?

NAR: Well, I would say.

INT: Yeah, the company.

NAR: Yeah, I would say that the company has never... Well, I would really feel that the governments in that area, specifically Goldsboro and Middletown, okay. I wouldn't, I don't know, I have not been in contact with the people that are running in those areas, the commissioners and so on, to know whether or not they had been advised. And they were shielding the information.

INT: So you think it possible that the local level of government was also shielding the information?

NAR: Sure, do you realize... You know, the thing is, if they ever would tell what had happened at TMI, the economy of Pennsylvania would be so devastated that *no one* would live here. Really, it would cause a mass evacuation and it would devastate the economy. They're *never* gonna tell us. You know, if people knew what had happened

*really* to the soil. Even though they're saying, they're finding no traces of this, but what *are* they finding traces of? They're not telling us! Okay, the average person knows nothing about nuclear power, other than what you pick up and read in a magazine or in a newspaper. You know, no more than the submarines that are being bombed everyday in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, that are being blown out of the water and nobody knows about them. You know, but you'll have these retired military men that'll sit down and they'll say, "I remember when this happened." Of course, years later you find there is documentation that it did in fact happen. But that was fifteen years later. That was so far after the fact that it couldn't have caused a panic if it wanted to. You know, and I really believe that that's what they have done with TMI, and I don't think they'll ever come right out and say what has happened.

INT: Why not?

NAR: Basically because I don't think that – I am not one of those people that says that now that this has happened we should have no nuclear power. I don't believe that. And, I think that there are too many people that are saying, this happened, how must worse is it gonna get, we must stop nuclear power. There's too many people saying that, and I think the *reason* for the people saying that is basically uneducation. They have not been given the facts. They have not been told what the alternatives are. They haven't been able to see the projections of what will happen if we do not have nuclear power. You know, I'm not *pro*-nuclear power, but I'm not *anti*-nuclear power. I just don't know enough about it to really make a decision. But I think that there are too many people that do not have an insight into what nuclear power is all about. They know that it caused a panic. They know there were hardships... and they don't want to see it again, therefore, ban all nuclear power plants. I believe it needs more research. And there's just so many things that they could find out about it, they *could* make the public more aware. The media is, you know, everybody either reads a paper, watches TV, listens to a radio or word of mouth. But they have never, before TMI – you know, I know that there are people that lived in Steelton and Middletown that did *not know* what those structures were. You know, my cousin is a prime example. I called my cousin at eleven o'clock Friday night, and my cousin lives within a mile and a half of the Three Mile Island reactors. She didn't know what was going on. She had a preschooler. She wasn't concerned in the least. I got so upset and so frustrated, I just started screaming at her to get out of there, because, it's like, you know, even *if* nothing's happening, they're *telling* you to get your preschoolers out, so the least you could do is get her out. You know, but she wasn't concerned. It's not that she's totally ignorant. But she just didn't know anything about nuclear power. And I really think that the public needs an education, if they are to continue having nuclear power plants, to build them, to open them, they have to educate the public, as well as with anything else that they have ever tried in the past. You know, any time they have started with, a new medicine, whatever it be, you have to inform the people that are taking it. You don't, you know, to me you just don't undertake a major project like nuclear power without telling anybody around what it's about and then a disaster happens everybody panics. Well, sure they're gonna panic, they didn't know anything about it. They never heard of nuclear power. What are the benefits of nuclear

power? What do we stand to gain? What do we stand to lose if we do not have nuclear power? You know, and I think it's a real education course, is what they really need.

INT: They should engage in public education at this point?

NAR: Right. Oh, I really think they have to.

INT: In looking at all the sources of information you were looking at, was there anybody that you particularly trusted?

NAR: It's terrible that you ask. *[Both laugh.]* Denton I would say that I basically trusted.

INT: Did you? What do you think gave you confidence in him?

NAR: Well, it could have been a false confidence, very easily could have been. With the publicity that had come *before* his statements were made, the greatest amounts of skepticism arose *[laughing]*. And – he would answer questions that no one else would answer. So even though he may not have been giving a truthful answer, the confidence began to build in him, because of the fact that he would answer those questions that no one else would. And I think that's probably, you know, he said things that it wasn't all a bed of roses that was happening. He told a story saying, this is how it really is, and because he was so matter-of-fact gave people confidence in him because most of, half of what he said, no one else was saying, or else they would say the opposite. And I think that's what build the confidence in him was the fact that he initially took the step forward and gave a matter-of-fact basis for people to follow. And because he did that... and besides, he looks honest. You know, that was one comment I heard. "Well, you have to believe him, he looks so honest." I thought what a, what a – judgmental factor, you know. But some people, if that's what they wanted to do, more power to them. But personally I think that he did come across in a way that anyone who was – so prejudicial at that point, and so scared, they had to have somebody to turn to, and he just came out with that, "you can listen to me. This is how it is. I'm not going to cover it with sugar," and he laid it on the line. Now, whether what he was saying or not was true, at least he gave the people somebody to turn to, and the people turned to him. And they listened to him. Because there were so many people saying so many different things, that, you know, everything was splitting, the allegiance for all these people was just going, was going haywire and it was just causing mass chaos. So, when Denton stepped in and started talking people started listening. Whether or not it was true, like I said I don't know, and it remains to be seen. But at *least* he took the initiative to take the step forward and give somebody to look at.

INT: Did you feel that the people over there were in control of the situation?

NAR: Oh definitely not.

INT: What made you anxious about that?

NAR: Well because of the conflicting reports that came out. You know, within a thirty-minute period you could hear three totally conflicting reports, as to, this happened and that happened, the hydrogen bubble that had formed, the *sizes!* That was hysterical, the way they estimated the size of this hydrogen bubble. And then they came out – two weeks ago I read an article in the Sentinel that they are having the same hydrogen bubble problems all over again because of the zirphon, because of the way they did the cooling down, because it was too fast, you know. The reaction to the zirphon, the hydrogen bubbles are now forming again. But I read it in *The Sentinel*. There wasn't a word mentioning in *The Patriot*, which is a much bigger paper than *The Sentinel*. And I'm not a regular reader of any paper. If I feel like reading the paper I'll buy it, and if I don't I don't buy it, you know. But I just happened to be in someone's home, and they had *The Sentinel* laying there, and I picked it up and I read it and said "Oh, my gosh!"

INT: You're sort of answering the next question I was gonna ask, but I'm gonna ask it directly, do you think they're in control of it now?

NAR: No.

INT: Not now, either.

NAR: Oh, no, uh-uh. Definitely not, I don't believe that they're any more in control of it now than they were before. Whereas before, it just looked like they were less in control because of, you know, the panic and the emotions that were involved, the emotions of the people in that area. And even after that, for weeks after that, and you'd be out, and you'd be shopping and you'd hear someone say that they worked at Three Mile Island, and the *reactions* – their reactions to this whole situation were just – I was just shocked. I stood in K-mart one day for a half an hour! And I stood behind at the counter and I just listened to this man talk who had been at Three Mile Island the whole time the whole thing was going on. It was just amazing. But I really don't believe they have it any more control now. You know, they're saying, like I said, I just read an article in the paper that said that they'll never be able to measure the amounts of radiation that had been omitted because they were never equipped to handle that kind of emergency situation. Therefore, they're not *ever* gonna know! So how can they possibly sit there and say now, "Okay, everything is under control. This is never gonna happen again", when they don't know what caused it. You know, it's a cause and effect situation. You know, you may see the effects, but what caused it? You're never gonna be able to solve the problem without knowing the initial cause.

INT: Did you take anything in particular with you when you left?

NAR: I'll tell you what I didn't take that I was very upset that I *didn't* take. Okay. The most – you know, other than my daughter and my family, my most valued possession is my pictures. Okay. And I happen to be one of those people that's deathly afraid of fire. And I have all my photo albums laying right on my television stand. Well, there were five of us sitting in my living room when all this was going on and I, they said well, are

you gonna pack. Well it all of a sudden became a panic and a turmoil and getting packed. My daughter was in bed, I had to get her up. And I have a very small car, so I was really limited. I would try and fit it, I was really limited to what I could take. And, you know, I said well, the one thing I want to take if I don't take anything else is my picture albums. And they humiliated me so bad for saying that I wanted that, but that's my history. That's my life history, and without that what do I have? And the whole time I was in Connecticut all I worried about was my pictures. Really, I could have cared *less* if my home and all my money...

INT: Did you think you might not be able to come back?

NAR: Oh yeah. Yeah. When I started thinking that, that's when I *really* panicked. I mean I was okay, I didn't lose my head and I didn't, you know, I didn't go into a rage or anything. And I obviously would never do that in front of my daughter because she would panic the second I do. But that bothered me, not having those pictures bothered me more than anything else, all my coin collections, anything of value that I had, nothing bothered me more than my photo albums, because that is my life history. Everything else could be replaced, but they could never be replaced. And I think that's what bothered me more than anything else. And then knowing that my family came back, I guess my family came back on Tuesday, and I didn't come back until later and I was still a little scared. But people started coming back, you know, drip by drip. The one possession that I wanted to take that they humiliated out of and if anything like this *ever* happens again, it's the first thing I grab after my daughter.

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

NAR: As far as area that would have been affected?

INT: Whatever you think might have happened.

NAR: The worst that would have happened. Well, I just, lemme see, that's a very good question. Area wise, I don't know how powerful the bubble was to say that Pennsylvania would have been blown off the map. I'm quite sure that within, I would say within a thirty mile radius, there would have been very, very devastating effects to the, to everything. It would have been uninhabitable. On... I believe I heard a projection somewhere, you know, in hundreds of thousands of years. That that amount of radiation being projected on a small area, the total effect, I think the economy of Pennsylvania just would have been so devastated that I don't see what they could ever possibly do within a period, you know, a short period, within a century, I don't see what they could have ever done to bring the economy back up, that this state could feasibly be inhabited at a reasonable rate. I don't know what they could ever do in the future to bring people back to Pennsylvania, knowing that this is happening. Had an explosion occurred, I think that even though I can sit there now and I can still say I'm not anti- and I'm not pro-nuclear power, had there been an explosion I think I'd have to go a little bit anti-, *because* that's my hometown. Seemingly more people across the United States were more devastated by this than the Pennsylvania residents were. Not that we were more on top of it, but it

was happening here. We were there step by step, you know. It's like watching a plant grow. If you see it the whole time, by the time it's five feet tall, it doesn't seem to you like it really grew that high, but somebody seeing it when it was two inches tall and then five feet tall, it makes a difference. And I think that's what happened with TMI. We were here through the whole thing. We could experience each part step by step. But all the public heard was the initial and then the, you know, the final impact. And I think it was more devastating to them on that basis. But had an explosion occurred I really feel that they would have had... I think that there would have been mass, I would say probably riots, people would have gotten violent at wanting those power plants closed in their area. Because all they knew was the beginning and the end. They didn't know everything, they didn't experience a lot and as a result I think that they would have just *demand*ed that the power plants be closed down. Of course it would have filled up every jail in the country and state and everything else in all the states that do have the nuclear power plants. And I think that they seriously... I don't know whether they would have forced them to close down or not. I don't know whether the federal government would have forced them to close down completely until they could have a chance to investigate. More than likely they would have if for nothing less than public pressure, and political pressures.

INT: Did you think about your own death at all?

NAR: Well, I couldn't say that I didn't. You know, I was more concerned about the fact about the fact of whether I would ever want to have other children, being here and being exposed. To however much, I don't know. But to me, taking that one in a million chance, which the odds are there anyway, that could be something wrong with the child, you know, an unborn child, but – I think I would just be so devastated if I *had* been pregnant at the time of TMI.

INT: Do you feel that still? Are you anxious about that, about having other children?

NAR: Well, it bothers me, and then again I think, well, you know other people are doing it. Maybe I really shouldn't be concerned. You know, and still people say, life goes on...

INT: *[unintelligible question; both talking]*

NAR: Oh, it's there. And it is in everyone and I don't think that anyone can sit there and say, "it had absolutely no effect on me. I have never given consideration to the fact, will I have cancer, am I going to die younger, am I going to have problems with having other children." You know, I really think that thought has passed through everybody's mind. I don't think my major concern was for death because I did leave the area, and I didn't think at that point that I had had enough of an exposure that it would cause me immediate harm, physical harm.

INT: You felt fairly certain that you would survive it?

NAR: Being in Connecticut, I felt *[laughs]*, I felt a little safe. Had I remained in Carlisle, no. I *know* I would have panicked and I would have been scared to death. And I also... Now that I did go away, okay, and even though my initial rationale for going away was not panic. I just figured, well, heck, you know, I might as well go and if something else happens well then thank God I left. You know, and if not... But nevertheless, had I stayed in Carlisle, I don't think I could even sleep nights, I really don't. Because I would have been so afraid that maybe I did get something more, you know, a whole lot more. But like I said the initial amounts of radiation were released long before I even left the area, so. But had there been an explosion, I'd have felt safe in Connecticut, but I would have still felt that radiation amounts could have been carried in the air, but not as sufficient had I stayed in Carlisle. Which I would guess with probably a nuclear reactor like that going I would say that it probably would have taken Carlisle off the map.

INT: Did you think about God during the incident?

NAR: Boy did I pray a lot.

INT: Did you?

NAR: Oh, yeah.

INT: What did you pray for?

NAR: Mostly for the people in this area.

INT: Did you?

NAR: Mostly for the people, a lot for the government.

INT: Why for the government?

NAR: Um... Basically hoping I think that they could... in some way be more – more concerned about the public because I really don't feel that the government is people-oriented anymore. You know, I can only associate that right now with the gas crisis. Because there may be a long-range shortage, but at the present time the crude oil is there, it's just not being refined. And devastation, and finding out that we only have, in Cumberland County, enough gas to supply us for *seven days*. Emergency vehicles and all. You know, or the fact that the gas stations are – I'm going off on a tangent because right now I'm on the gas...

INT:*[unintelligible question; both talking]*

NAR: Yes, because we're all ready to start with the emergency procedures for this gas crisis. But even gas crisis, there again, you know, I'm still relating back to the fact that the government – The government is not in control. They're not. You know, years ago, years ago, it had to be ten years ago, in high school I can remember one of my instructors

saying to me, “The day will come when there will be a gasoline shortage for your car.” And everybody said “Oh, no.” You know, we weren’t even driving at the time, I was less than sixteen. “No, you’ll never have a gas shortage, you must be kidding me. We’re only paying twenty-one cents a gallon.” You know, I can remember five years ago when I was only paying twenty-nine cents a gallon. *[INT laughs.]* Five years ago! And now it’s ninety-nine, you know! So I really don’t think that the government is in control. As far as all the SALT talks... Anybody, there are too many nations right now that can push a button and blow the earth up. You know, what *is* the sense in all this additional power? Why spend all the money on the arms races? Well, sure, we can have competitive arms that if we’re going to go to battle with somebody – If they’re gonna get angry enough that they’re gonna go into war – you know, the nuclear thing is there, push a button and it’s all over. Why concern yourself? We *both* have enough power to totally wipe the world out. So why continue making all these other menial things? Because if push comes to shove, they’re going to push it. And nothing’s gonna counteract it.

INT: You prayed, you say. Did you think that there might be a message here?

NAR: Well, I talked to so many people about religion while I was away. And different, different religions. I’m a Lutheran, I talked to Episcopalians and I talked to Catholics, and it’s interesting. Because, well, Catholicism, Episcopalians, and Lutherans are so intertwined, you know, that it was really interesting to see the different things that people were saying, and of course everybody was concerned about the same thing, and it was praying for the safety and the fact that it did not explode. But I think even more so than that, you know, people started to think, “well, in the Bible it does say that we are going to – you know, that this is going to happen.” And after that, I would say a couple weeks ago I had dinner and it was with one of my uncles and it was just – it was so devastating, I mean I went home and I was in tears, because we actually, you know, we sat there and we talked about it. You know, this just could be what’s going to happen. You know, with the nuclear power. Not just TMI. It just, that is just one incident. But it can go on from there, as if, “look, this is what happened, and that’s only a small scale.” You know, “shape up or ship out.” *[laughing]*

INT: You were kind of associating this with the end of the world, perhaps?

NAR: I would say that that could lead into that. You know, it says...

INT: And God must be saying “hey, shape it up”?

NAR: That’s it. You have your chance, now don’t blow it. And it’s just... it was so interesting to hear so many people, but everybody seemed to have the same concern, and that was the fear that this *just* might be the end of the world. You know, and I can’t say that I didn’t think that. Any feasible thought, anything that went through my mind, I thought about it because that’s all I did. I had time to think. That’s all there was on television. You know, you had time to sit around and you really had time to wait it out and to see really how you felt.

INT: Did any Biblical stories or anything like that, apart from the Last Judgment occur?

NAR: Well, I couldn't really say specifically, but I found myself – even though I don't do it on a regular basis, now I go to church every week – but I can't say that I really walk around the house, and pick up the Bible and read passages for comfort. Now I, you know, I get my magazine that comes monthly to my house, and I read the magazine, and then I usually, sometimes I'll read some of the passages. I'm not – I'm not a fanatic. Okay. But I did find myself walking around an awful lot reading passages from the Bible during TMI *[laughing]*. And I was, you know, even when I wasn't in my own home. Actually when I went to Connecticut I was staying with people that I had never met before. But I found myself picking up Bible verses, and they were Catholic and they had things laying around. And I found myself reading more and more of them. But I'm just one of those people, I go to bed every night and I couldn't fall asleep if I didn't pray. So praying wasn't – I'm not one of those people who just prays in a panic situation, you know, like oh my God, what am I gonna do? You know, that's just – I pray, regularly. But I do, you know, I sort of change things around a little bit, and I was much more specific with the Three Mile Island incident, and I think anybody is if you have tragedy in your family, naturally you're gonna be concerned more specifically with that than just your average prayers. But it was interesting and people did seem, anywhere you went, even the non-religious people, did seem to talk about God. The most, I don't know, the most irrational, the thing that bothered me the most is people saying, "Well, if God really loves us, or if He supposedly loves us, why is He doing this?" I read a great story in the paper... I don't know if it was in a religious paper or not, I think it might have been. And it said that – it was on that line, you know, and you hear so many people saying, "If God loves us, why does He let poverty in the streets? Why does He let people commit murder?" It's a great thing. These two men were walking down the street and the one guy is a barber. And they're having this religious conversation and the guy is saying, "well, how can God let this happen, and how can God let that happen?" He's walking down the street and he says, "well, you know how you are in your barber trade and so on and so forth?" And he says, "Oh my God, he says, look at that guy over there," he says, "and that long filthy, scuzzy hair and that horrible beard. That's terrible, how can that guy be standing there?" And he just looked to him, and he said: "Here you are. You are a barber. Your whole lifestyle is to do hair, to keep people clean shaven – and you're not taking him into your shop?" Of course, you know, you're just let to your imagination to think it out from there. But I thought, that's a really interesting association because *so* many people say that. You know, how can God let these things happen? Well, you know, not everything is His job. You know, He gives us the guidance but if you go off on a tangent it's not His fault. Nevertheless, I really think that people became a *lot* more aware. Attendance in the churches in this area – well, afterwards – went up unbelievably. We were, I was talking to several different people who said about, how *much* the attendance at Sunday church had increased.

INT: Did you go to church that Sunday?

NAR: No.

INT: Did this bring back any past experiences of yours? Or did I ask you that before, I'm not sure...

NAR: You didn't ask me. No.

INT: Did it bring back any experiences you had had before in your life?

NAR: No, well, I did say it before but you didn't ask me the question, directly. I would say only when I was *very* young...

INT: That's right, you talked about this... mm-hmm.

NAR: ...and, with the air-raids. Even though I wasn't really involved and I was just such a little child, because I know I lived in Harrisburg, and I only lived in Harrisburg until I was three years old. So it was sometime prior to the time when I turned three.

***[END OF SIDE A]***

*[tape resumes]*

INT: Okay, you were telling about your early childhood experiences, I think before you were three...

NAR: Well, then when I went to first grade I still remember them saying to us, "if the air raid siren ever goes off, number one, you close the windows and you pull the shades down, you get under the desks, against the wall." And I can remember those situations from when I was a child, you know. And my parents have said to me a number of times, "you couldn't possibly remember these things." But I know, when I heard that siren, I was outside and my mother was with me. And I heard that siren and I – like I said I must, I had to have been younger than three, because I remember I was in Harrisburg, and I remember I was in the alley. But that's the *only* thing I can remember and I just – went from there and we ran into the basement. And that was, you know, but I remember a lot of times after that we moved into Camp Hill, and I can remember a number of times laying in bed, we lived on the second floor, but I could visualize in my mind running down the back steps into our basement. Because we lived in an apartment, but yet we had access to the basement down the steps. And I can remember thinking out in my mind so thoroughly, you know – I had an evacuation plan in my mind, and I might have been five years old! And it was still a pressing thing. I didn't go to kindergarten, so I was in first grade, and we still had our drill, our emergency drills. And I, that, just any type of explosion or the air raid or anything like that, and that's exactly what Three Mile Island made me think of.

INT: You've said that you felt responsibilities toward your child and toward your family. Did you ever find a conflict in your various responsibilities? You've said a little about that, too, but I want come at it from another angle...

NAR: *Through* Three Mile Island or at other times?

NAR: Yes, as a result of Three Mile Island.

INT: Most definitely. My mother thought that I should leave work immediately on Friday afternoon when she called me and go *directly* to New Jersey. And I didn't and I expressed that I did not want to and I talked to her several times that day, and told her that I would probably come down that next day. And she was very upset because I wouldn't be going at that particular moment, and my parents live closer to Three Mile Island than I did. So, you know, as they started broadening the radius, and eventually it came very close to Carlisle itself, I was more in the target area, whereas my parents from the beginning were within a very short miles, very few miles of Three Mile Island itself. But they were very upset that I didn't go right away, and they were upset for my daughter. And they were upset because I was the only one of their children that were staying home, and that upset them. Which was understandable, because we were very close in that family. I think they were probably very upset when I left New Jersey and went to Connecticut for fear that if anything happened, I should be in New Jersey with them, regardless of the fact that we both may have been considered safe in New Jersey and Connecticut, they still felt that I should be more with them. Of course they didn't say too much, I guess they figured as long as I wasn't going back to Pennsylvania and I was going elsewhere... Now, and considering the tension that was there, they knew it – I don't think I have ever raised my voice at my mother until that weekend. And, you know, it was just so much tension, and I think they realized it. But – it was a rough weekend. I was – mostly my family was there, I don't have very many relatives and most of them were there. And it was really tough on everybody. It really was, and there were a lot of conflicting points, you should do this, you shouldn't do that, you know – and there was no logical discussion, with family members that weekend! It just wasn't to happen, because they were all so concerned, they were concerned about so-and-so who hadn't gone away, you know, and... It was terrible. It was really a devastating experience when the tragedy hadn't happened, but just – the *thought* of it, the *possibility* existing. People panic. They really do [*laughing*].

INT: Did you feel a conflict about staying here to work?

NAR: Well, when I talked...

INT: You said Joan did.

NAR: Y eah, when I talked to Joan Friday night. Now see, two of the girls that worked in my office were at my house, okay, and the guy that was going with me who was also a county employee.

INT: Yes, I'm supposed to interview him too.

NAR: The biggest – Well first of all the biggest hesitation was the fact that – you know, we had gone out last year, but we really hadn't gone out seriously until then. We had

forty-three people that were to start work on that Monday, and they were CEETA employees, and he and I are responsible for those people.

INT: Oh!

NAR: So, needless to say – and I don't think, if it... I have a lot of faith in him and I have a lot of trust in his decisions. And I think when he started to become a little bit leery, that's when I started to weaken. You know – playing the weaker-sex role, just for a moment. But nevertheless, like I said, I really didn't care whether I went away or not. But when he, after we listened to the news broadcast, and he called his brother, and he talked to his brother for a little, and he said, "I think we'd better go. Even if it's only for the weekend, we'll just go." I said, fine. So I thought, oh no, how do I tell him this, especially when we're supposed to have these people starting, what *if* we don't come back? Well, so I called Joan and I told her, I said, "well," I said, "I'm going." "Why are you going?" I said, "Well Joan, my mother's going" – and she knows that I'm very close to my family. And I talked and I talked, and she said, "well is Stan going with you," and I said "yeah." [Laughs.] You know. Because he didn't have anywhere to go, his family is all in Connecticut, and he moved down here to go to Shippensburg College and that's how he got here. So – I was kind of betwixt and between. I had tried to call back, and I told her that I didn't know when I'd be back, because I wasn't going to expose Beth. Well she just – you know, she got upset, and she was upset, whether or not she openly admits it, and she never admitted it then that she was scared. But I know darn well that she was. And she had somewhere else to go, she'd have gone. [Pause.] But nevertheless, we went away, and they waited through it, but I didn't feel that anything was as important to me as – my daughter, my family, and being with him.

INT: And this made you separate out those things, create a – an order?

NAR: Boy did it ever. It really did. Things that I had only thought about before. And – I really set my priorities, I really did. And like I said, having a very small car, I really had to limit what I took.

INT: Were you worried that you might be in trouble here? Later?

NAR: At work?

INT: Yeah.

NAR: Nope. Never, it never bothered me, I thought that the *most* important thing...

INT: You didn't feel threatened?

NAR: No. I felt that the most important – I knew, I knew what position I was leaving them in. On the other hand, I also knew that if the emergency was occurring, they weren't going to be worried about what was going on in my office, per se. And –

INT: Because you're not directly ordinarily connected to...

NAR: But the ironic thing was, when I left here on Friday, I had no idea that I was going to leave this area. But for some reason, unbeknownst to me, everything that I would have done on Monday morning, I had done on Friday. And everything was so in order, down to – and I had never done it in the past. I typed up a list of who was starting, what office they were going to be working in, what salary they would be making, all set to go to the controller's office, gave the controllers office a copy of it, because we have a procedure here that you have to fill out your papers before you can start work... And it was all typed up. It was all ready for them and that was *the* main thing that would be done that morning. Of course they didn't want to start a bunch of new people when all this TMI thing was going on, so they just sent them all home. But there was no big problem because the information was there and it was just – you know, I thought back and I thought, it's ironic, but – No, my family, and my daughter – well, my family, collectively, is more important to me than any job would ever be.

INT: We talked about having brought back earlier experiences of yours. Did it remind you, you've also spoken of making a connection between Hiroshima and Three Mile Island, what might have happened if had exploded [?]. Did it remind you of any other historical events?

NAR: Not really, not that I really directly associated it with. I think the bomb scare and explosions more than anything else. A lot of things, a lot of tragic events that have happened in the past flashed by. Only because they were significant tragedies. You know – Kent State, well Kent State, that really, Kent State bothered me. Several demonstrations. I could just see a lot of people demonstrating. People wanting to stay away from the power plant because they were now scared of what might happen. But yet they wanted to be there because they wanted them closed down. And the more demonstrations, the more sit ins, the revolts in the capitol. You could just see it.

INT: See it building.

NAR: See it, really. Really.

INT: And you were connecting that with earlier experience of that in a sense that you knew of Kent State and the demonstrations then and so forth?

NAR: Right. Yeah.

INT: Any TV shows or movies come to mind?

NAR: Well, this is only after the fact, of *The China Syndrome*, which I haven't seen, but... As a matter of fact, I really never wanted to see it. A friend of mine saw it before the TMI thing, she had seen it when it was first released in Philadelphia. And she came back and she said, "Oh, what a movie." She said, "You just can't believe it. You'll have to go to see it." She said, "Nuclear power plants, and it never mentioned TMI." And we

went to New Jersey and *China Syndrome* was playing. And I wanted to go to see it, I really did. I wanted to see what it was about, and what exactly happened. I never did go to see it and I still haven't, and I really don't want to see it now. But when I first went away, I really wanted to see it. You know, there was just something about that movie that I thought might give me more insight to what was *really* going on. Something that, um – you know, like... oh shoot, what was the guy's name... Buck Rogers. Okay, and how he used to project things. Supposedly little did they know at the time that these things would materialize. Well, just possibly, maybe *The China Syndrome* was something that has been thought about. Plant that seed in somebody's head so that they can at least be a little bit conscious of it. But really now I have no great desire to go to see it, but that *one* weekend, of Three Mile Island, I wanted to see that movie. Now, I've since heard it, you know, blow-by-blow, the movie might be two and a half hours and I've heard at least forty hours of the movie, you know [*both laughing*], the way people run these things. But in addition to the, I guess it was *Saturday Night Live*, did that take-off. [*INT laughing.*] Now I didn't see it the night that it was originally on, but I did see it the night that they had "the best of *Saturday Night Live*". [*Pause.*] Quite interesting. [*Both laughing.*] I'm not a *Saturday Night Live* fan, but it was – it was interesting.

INT: Did it remind you of any books or fiction that you've read?

NAR: No, not really.

INT: Did you have any daydreams that you remember?

NAR: During the Three Mile Island...?

INT: I think you've told me some of them.

NAR: I would say, mostly I would say would be moving away. I started, you know, I fantasized this house, this area, so on and so forth. That that wouldn't be there, but being established, seeing across the back fence, seeing the marigolds, seeing the plants – my tomatoes, my vegetables, whatever it would be – and not having a concern that they were okay. And I also, at the time, not that it's really newsworthy, but it didn't bother me to think about moving close to another nuclear power plant.

INT: It was this particular one?

NAR: It was just the fact that they were having problems here that bothered me. But the fact of moving into a town – now I wouldn't say I'da moved two miles away from a reactor, but living in the same radius as TMI did not bother me. As a matter of fact, I didn't really even give consideration to the location. I didn't see the reactors, so, you know. But... and I am sure that there are quite a number of people that, people that did leave the area and never came back, that would say that they would never again live around a nuclear reactor, but I don't feel that way. I can remember when they were first working on TMI and they said that the safest place to live would be close to the reactor. But at the time the rationale, because of the area that it's built on, the East Shore, it's not

one of your greater communities.... doesn't have one of the lowest crime rates in the area, and people were talking about living in the Middletown area, and what areas would be safe. But they said for crime, and they also had said that if there was a nuclear explosion, that the safest place to be would be at the plant. Now why I don't know, and I don't remember who said it or why they said it, but I do remember that statement being made, which it never made sense to me, but on the other hand, I don't know anything about nuclear power, so, you know. It just went in one ear and out the other, but now I recall that statement and it just doesn't seem to make any sense at all to me.

INT: Did you have any sleeping dreams that you remember?

NAR: Oh, I would say mostly about not being able to come back, and my trailer melting. I live in a mobile home.

INT: Trailer melting?

NAR: Yes.

INT: Did it happen in a dream?

NAR: Yes, I did remember that. That was very – that was very upsetting. Of course my picture albums were in that dream. But I don't think – you know, of all, all of the valuable possessions that I have, I just didn't even want to come back. You know, I wouldn't say that feeling was there for that long, I would say maybe – maybe at most, a twelve-hour period, that I just didn't want to come home. Ever. And being a native Central Pennsylvanian, that was *really* hard for me to believe, and I think that's what upset me more, was the fact that I didn't want to come home. Yet I knew I would. I knew someone, somewhere along the line would talk me into it, you know, but – I started looking for jobs. And I just... It really did, it really shook me. After a point. Originally, you know, I would say the first four days I was away it didn't... I was upset, and I was concerned because I knew some of my family and my friends were still here, and I was worried about them. But I really wasn't shook. Then all of a sudden, when it hit, boy it really hit. It was all I could do to not walk around and just cry. I was just so upset. I just thought, I just don't even believe this is happening, how could we have ever let this happen?

INT: Was your sleep disturbed?

NAR: Oh yeah. I wake up a lot. I talk too. I understand I had some really loud dreams. My daughter was sleeping with me those nights and she said to me, "Mommy, you talk in your sleep. You talked so much I couldn't sleep!" *[INT laughs.]*

INT: Did you see people around? Well, you've talked a lot about this, and maybe you have something you want to add. Did people change around you?

NAR: People changed around me, and I'll tell you, when I was – Well, this is a little bit different. People that had gone north, okay, we heard a lot of reports from New York and Connecticut, as to what these people were encountering, you know like people running away from Three Mile Island and being mugged and beaten to death in New York. And there were quite a few incidents of people that had left Pennsylvania and were in serious automobile accidents. But you know, I thought the irony of the situation where someone is fleeing, taking their child and going from Pennsylvania, going by train because they have no other means of transportation, get off the train and be mugged. And there were a number of incidents like that, you know... Several women from Pennsylvania were raped in New York City. And the more I heard these things, I thought, these poor people, there they are, from so close to the reactor that they *had* to flee – and what happens to them? And a number of people were interviewed on the radio, on what their feelings were and why they left. I always just kind of laughed, I thought, well, you know, that's stupid. *[Both laugh.]* Then of course I'm already sitting in Connecticut, I have already left the area, you know, and I'm telling these people they are ridiculous *[laughs at herself]*. But people around me, and I would say even now, with the bumper stickers, the T-shirts, you know. At any time you see anything, any T-shirt or anything, just – *phew!* Brings a whole bunch of memories all back to you. I think my favorite of all the slogans, and all the T-shirts that I've seen is "Just because I'm alive doesn't mean I survived." And I think that's absolutely terrific.

INT: Where did you see that?

NAR: Oh, on some little kid running around somewhere along the line. And I just think that slogan is absolutely – that says it all. You know, I *am* alive physically, but did I really survive? What is – you know, what bearing did this incident really have on me?

INT: Do you think it changed you in any lasting way?

NAR: Oh, definitely.

INT: How?

NAR: I wouldn't say permanently. I don't know. I'm still very tense about the situation, and like I said, at this point, if I had the opportunity and go somewhere with a good secure future, I'd go. Because I think enough of the facts, you know, like – My little green pepper plants coming out of the ground and I'm thinking, do I really want to eat those? And for a long time when I went to the grocery store, unless they had a specific sign on there that said imported from California or Florida, I didn't buy it. I wasn't buying any fresh produce. And I still hesitate. A lot of things. The first glass of milk that I had, which was quite a while after Three Mile Island. You know, I just kind of swallowed hard on each sip, because I really don't *know* what happened. Anybody in the world can tell me what happened down there, I'm not gonna believe them anyway. Because all they're gonna tell me is what they want me to know. It may be true what they're telling me, but how much more happened in addition to that that is really true and solid that people should know, that they're never gonna tell us? I don't – I would say

probably sometime in my lifetime, you know, back to the Kennedy assassination. Someday it will be revealed. Not for a while yet. And basically the same thing with this. And they're not about to scare people. They're not going to intimidate them. For God's sake, that's the only power we have, you know, that's the only thing we have in our favor right now is the nuclear power. And there are how many, seventy-some, that are ready to open or just sitting there waiting? You know, if they just cut out nuclear power and all those billions of dollars have already been spent? You know, they're not going to devastate people by telling them that yes, if you are near a nuclear plant, you stand a chance of being blown off the map, or get an excessive amount of radiation so instead of living to be 78 you're only gonna live to be 57. You know, they're not gonna tell people that. That's just not practical. The government doesn't work that way. It upsets me. I wouldn't say it's a physical thing, it's more psychological. Very much so. Anytime, so many things that you see, or foods – you know, and you pick them up and give it a second thought. I mean, I don't like living that way, I don't like to have to think twice before I eat something, saying, oh, if I eat this, am I going to get cancer, or what other disease? And I have not heard of the association anywhere along the line about the amount of the polio – well, the polio victims that they have now located in Lancaster County. Did anything that came out of those reactors, did *anything* – push this polio out? Did it help it along? Did it agitate it? You know, that it now is being revealed. *Were* there any chemicals released that could possibly have been, you know – starting the fire of the polio vaccine all over again? I don't know. What happened with all the cattle that just dropped over dead? Oh, definitely not, didn't have anything to do with Three Mile Island! You know, nothing nuclear was involved. But why all of a sudden did they just drop over? Sure, maybe it wasn't the one major radiation factor. But what about the millions of other things that it could have been. They're not telling you that it wasn't them. They're not telling you that it is, but they're just not saying anything about it. I don't know if they are trying to tell us that ignorance is bliss or what, but – you know, I just don't, I will never feel comfortable. But it's just something that you're gonna have to live with and it's just making up your mind, which is what I had to do. I went through that period where I didn't *ever* want to come back here again. And I just had to go through and sit down and cope with it. Not necessarily saying that I was being irrational and now being rational. But it is something that you're going to have to deal with, regardless of where you are, nuclear power is something that is not going to cease, not now. And you just have to deal with it the way it is. We'll see. *[Laughs.]*

INT: Would that sum up your opinion on what we ought to do about nuclear power? Would you like to...?

NAR: Well, I would say that a great deal more research needs to be done, which I say is number one. Number two I really think that we need a public education program regarding nuclear power. That is so important, because there are just so many people – you know, the percentage of the population that doesn't know anything about nuclear power, or even the percentage of the population that has only a high, highest of a sixth-grade education, and doesn't *really* – I'm not saying, I am not the kind of person that believes that you have to have a college degree to know anything. You know, I like learning as a very important factor. But there are some things, that since they're not in

your field you don't tend to know very much about them. I mean, you can't know it all. But I really think that there are so many people that do not have the understanding, or they don't even really care. But, if somebody's gonna have a sit-in, or if they're gonna have some type of a demonstration against nuclear power and you can say to these people, look what happened in Middletown. You know, and look how many people left that area. Don't you want to stop that from happening again? You don't want that to happen to you, do you? You can take someone that's five years old and they're gonna go demonstrate for you, because if they see the pictures of everything that happened at TMI, they're gonna be scared. And it doesn't take, you know, there are so many people that are not educated enough about this type of, about nuclear power, or about a lot of things that you could persuade them, and it could turn into a very violent situation where a lot of people are gonna lose their lives. So they better quick get on the ball and give some public education to these, you know, to the areas across the country and across, you know – I was, when I was in Connecticut, one of the people that we talked to was from Germany. Her aunt or some relative was living in Germany and it was *their* understanding that Pennsylvania was completely destroyed. That it *had* exploded. Which was like the Sunday – or Monday, it was Monday – of the whole incident. And the rumors, well, you're bound to, with word-of-mouth, when something like this, it's bound to get blown away, but – public education is something that they *really* have to do but I think before they can give the public a better education I think that there's a lot more research that needs to be done. Because of the fact that there are so many different companies that are building the reactors. And they're not all the same. They are not, you know, patented straight down the line. *Somebody* knows something, now let's get it all together. Let's research this, let's *know* – what could happen in the future. They just, to me, it seems like there should be much more research done on probability. You know, what probable cause, and before they can give the public a real education I think they really have to do a lot more research themselves.

INT: Did you hear any joking going on about radiation and nuclear power?

NAR: I did hear a joke, but I can't remember it. I'm sure I didn't think it was very humorous at the time.

INT: You don't think you would have laughed at it?

NAR: Mm-hmm.

INT: Why not?

NAR: There was something about Coca-Cola and something about power plants, I don't remember what it was... or nuclear power. I just think it was a very serious matter. I think it's... It's a very sick situation. With the people that we have in chemistry, biology, any of the fields, even as far as psychiatrists and psychologists, *should* have been able to have the control over the people with the media. I mean, we do it, we sell it, we sell commercials. We sell products. You know, it's all the psychology behind advertising. Certainly they can keep, you know, this country – and it was nationwide

news broadcasts – certainly, they could have enough input into that that they could keep these people without panic, and there were a lot of people who panicked. A lot, you know, there was violence that occurred. I know of situations that happened in Goldsboro and that happened across the river. They were never publicized.

INT: Can you talk about them?

NAR: My girlfriend that lives in Goldsboro was... Unfortunately, I haven't talked to her recently, but she is working on a commission and she has been in contact with many of the physicists and chemists that have been working all along.

INT: Working? Which commission?

NAR: I, I don't know what the name of the commission is. I, I know her phone bill one month was \$127.00. *[INT laughs.]* But nevertheless, she said the most upsetting thing to her was the fact that they found out that they had known about the radiation and that when they bought their home in Valley Green Estates, that they *knew* of the probabilities of something like this happening. And they knew what the probable effect of a radiation escape would be. You know, Valley Green Estates, the homes aren't – *[laughs.]* They're not skid row homes. They're very nice homes. But one of the girls that was there – she's been on television but I don't know what her name is – a resident in that area. And I believe she had paid maybe eighty thousand dollars for her home, and she had it appraised right after Three Mile Island, to see what the effect was, and it was worth less than twenty-five thousand. So I mean that would – can you imagine what that would do? And the girl, my friend, has a baby that's not even a year old. And there she lives, well, she doesn't even a mile away from the reactor, it's just straight into the water, and there's, you know... I know a lot of my friends that go boating in the Susquehanna, there is just no way they're going down there. They're not taking that chance. What's in the sediment that fell to the bottom of the river? You know – sure, a lot of it could've floated down the river, or could have dissipated in the air, or whatever. But what happened to the stuff that fell to the bottom? *Is* it radioactive? Do I stand, am I going to hurt my boat, you know, I have invested half my life savings in this boat, am I going to hurt it? I wouldn't go water skiing down there! And I used to. Two years ago I water-skied down in Goldsboro. I didn't think a thing of it, but there's no way, I wouldn't...

INT: Can you go up river now?

NAR: Yeah, that's right. *[Laughs.]* Wouldn't do it for a million dollars, the only thing is it's easier to get to Goldsboro than it is to go up the river because of the rocks, unless you drive up. You know, of course now with the gas crisis you can't do things like that, *[INT laughs]*, you can't haul boats, I mean, you know... It's going to be a heck of a good summer, I'll tell you! But – I don't, my cousin named several violent situations where people trying to – and it was mostly family violence! People trying to get their younger kids or their older parents out of the area. And they didn't want to go. You know, so forcefully they had to remove them from their premise because they would not go. They said it wasn't going to happen. My grandmother lived in Harrisburg and she, just, *no way* was she going anywhere. She'll be eighty years old in two more days and just, no way

was she leaving this area. She was raised here most of her life and she was gonna, you know, if it blew up she was going with it. But, in addition to a number of the reports, it just got to the point when I first came home and the first time that I had seen my girlfriend after they went back down there, I was at the point then that I just heard so much TMI, I didn't want to hear anything else. You know, and she called me and I helped her get addresses of different individuals around the Washington area, and she's a bright girl and I really should contact her to see what she's doing. But it just – she was so, she was so involved. And I, you know, I know I would be too if I was living down there. Because their property value has decreased an unbelievable amount. And she has two small children, one's seven years old and then she has a new baby. And I, if I had a new baby I wouldn't be there now. I would not have gone back. But I feel I was in a far enough radius that I wasn't in the immediate area but like I said, if I had only lived... if I lived within a five mile radius, I would not be back there now. I would have sold. There's no way.

INT: Is there anything else? Have I, what have I missed?

NAR: Hmmm. I think the reaction at work.

INT: Can you talk a little bit about that?

NAR: It was very interesting. Being here, having the Emergency Preparedness Office, being in the basement, working close to the commissioners, for making statements, the press being here, being on the telephone with the press. And it was very interesting. Now I can't really give any great descriptions because I left. I wasn't here. Um... The apathy of the people, from what I understand. The one thing that really made me feel proud was, I wasn't here, but from what I understand our Emergency Preparedness Office was truly prepared for that emergency. They did not have a disaster plan immediately, well even Thursday, we worked on the disaster plan while I was still here, on Friday. But, they were there, people were willing to work. And – you know, I know that there are people who say I should not have gone. I should have stayed here and helped the community, okay. But – I cared about my community, but first and foremost is *my* family. And I, I don't think there's enough family orientation nowadays as it is. And in a major, you know, a major potential crisis, I'm certainly not gonna alienate my family because of my community. I am very community-oriented, you know, I have a lot of interest in my community and in my local church, but I am not going to sacrifice my daughter's future for that. A lot of people got upset, but the majority of people who got upset were those who had nowhere to go – and, you know, just figured, well I might as well stay here. Well, more power to them. I only left for the weekend. That's the only intent I had. I planned on coming back on Monday morning. But, Sunday night the reports were really bad and they were Monday, too. And then they kept saying about this bubble getting bigger and bigger and it was just like, I was waiting any second for them to say that it had exploded. I just knew it was gonna happen. And I think I probably, I know other people did too, reached a point where the publicity was so great as to how big the bubble was, you know, what was gonna happen, and they just kept pounding and pounding, and I just got to the point where – Just let it break. At *least* then, what happens

happens. But what this is doing to people psychologically – is as devastating if not *more* devastating than what's going to happen if it does go. You know, even though I really couldn't say how much, you know, what the effects of it would be. But they just got you to such a, such a point that, as this bubble's swelling, so's your *head*, and you just felt like you couldn't stand the pressure anymore. And I did get to that point. You know, I would say, for twelve hours I was irrational. I really was. But I just, I couldn't stand it anymore, I just didn't want to *hear* it anymore. And, I don't know, coming home and reading the different papers and seeing what had happened, and who left, and who didn't leave. Most of the people that I know did leave. With the exception of my acquaintances at work. I mean there were a goodly number of people here that didn't come in, but it was exciting on this floor, because this is where all the action was. You know, and in the basement.

INT: Did you get any harassing when you got back?

NAR: Well, I did but I would not say it was necessarily because I left because of Three Mile Island, it was more or less because of this new relationship and "how's come you took off together?" [*Both laughing.*] You know, one of those situations. I don't think, well the majority of people really didn't know at first that he had gone along. I mean – The comments were flying because, "oh, you went to New Jersey and then you went to Connecticut." "Oh yeah, sure, I went down to my grandmother's house and my mother and father were there. Oh yeah, oh, we did, just...." [*Both laugh.*] Connecticut's the same thing, it was his parents' home in Connecticut, so I was totally on the up and up, and it was a matter of fact that he didn't have any place to go, and I was going, so he just went with me. Which made me more comfortable.

INT: So it wasn't so much that you had gone but they were making jokes about the relationship?

NAR: Right, yeah. I don't think anybody was – There aren't too many of the people that work around here right now – with the exception of the ones that are pregnant – there aren't too many that had young children. I'm probably the only one that has a preschooler, right around here. So I guess they saw my point, in addition to the fact that everybody around here knows I have very close family ties, because that's basically all I talk about is my family. And, so I don't think that anybody was really upset that I left. It bothered me a little because I am work-oriented. And, you know, that's why all my excitement is at work, you know. So, it was different leaving. And it was scary because there were a lot of things happening and the tension that was going on, but all in all, the Sunday we came back, people started getting used to the idea of what might have happened and realizing that we probably will not know for a long long time what the final effect was. But there were a lot of articles written and I, but like I said I just got the point where I just didn't want to hear anymore. You know, what's gonna happen is gonna happen. And like I said, since I don't have too much faith in the press or the government on that level, I really didn't feel they were gonna tell us the whole truth and nothing but the truth anyway, so, you know, why read it? I do think it's something that – it definitely has put groundwork in there for a public education program. I really feel that there's –

that they're going to have to do it, they realize it. The government realizes it. And, in addition, they realize that more research needs to be done because in fact when you have the top executives from these corporations standing there saying to you, "I really don't know what happened." And – geez, and the the conflicting reports. Sure, I realize that some of the reports that came across that television strictly as a pacifier, to the public. But the public began to realize what was – you know – the bullshit and what was the buckwheat. I don't know. Right now my major concern is the gas crunch, and which is making a lot of people say, "You know if all this happened at TMI, now we're getting into this gas situation, what good is government?" And there is really a lot of contentions about the federal government. I think, well, lemme see, what I hear on TV, well if all this is happening why is Jimmy Carter in Japan? *[INT laughs.]* So, I don't know. It remains to be seen, what's happening.

INT: Anything else? Sure?

NAR: Yeah, I can't really think of anything.