

Date: June 7, 1979

Occupation: College administrator

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

NARRATOR: I was working in the office. It must have been Wednesday of the week that the thing broke. And that's really hard to recall exactly, it's amazing. I guess we had heard that there was some trouble at TMI. And we had the radio in the outer office. But I didn't even know what a Three Mile Island was, and so I didn't pay much attention to it. I guess as time went on it became a little bit more urgent as the news things picked up and then I made some inquiries, and realized which island it was. And recalled that a few months ago I had actually flown over TMI and didn't even know what it was. Except that I noticed the strange and very large size, the strange stacks and the largeness of it. But that's about when I first heard about it.

INT: You didn't realize there was a reactor over there then until this came up?

NAR: Well, when we flew over it, I asked somebody in the plane, "What is that?" and they said, "Well, that's Three Mile Island. It's a big nuclear reactor." And that was the first time, but the name Three Mile Island didn't stick with me and so I didn't relate it to that, to the newscast. And then as I reflected, as the thing built up, I realized at that point that that was the very thing I'd flown over.

INT: So, you have been hearing about it, you first heard about it from the radio? Do you remember, do you by any chance remember what source?

NAR: No.

INT: What did you... Was that....

NAR: I said Wednesday, but I'm trying to think. It seemed to me it built up, I'm taking a guess, it was in the middle of the week, and it really came to a head on that Friday or Saturday.

INT: What did you think about or talk about in the early stages? How did it seem to you? Did it seem a serious situation?

NAR: It didn't seem very serious. I guess I'm really.... At that time I think I was extremely ignorant in terms of nuclear energy and just didn't think that a catastrophe could occur anywhere near where we were living.

INT: So you weren't paying.... You didn't think of it as serious initially?

NAR: No, just kind of it was in the background somewhere and it just wasn't something I was terribly concerned with.

INT: Did that change?

NAR: It changed as we started to get phone calls into the College, which indicated that there was a problem. And then we started, I started listening much more carefully to the news reports.

INT: Do you happen to recall when the phone calls started?

NAR: Must have been on Friday. On Friday, maybe it was Thursday....now wait a minute. Hate to run your tape out.

INT: That's alright.

NAR: It was either Thursday or Friday because we moved into a weekend and that's when we had a number of meetings at the President's house. But I'm kind of vague. It was toward the end of that week, Thursday or Friday.

INT: After that point, you began to pay fairly close...well, let me put it....Did you pay more attention to the media than usual?

NAR: Well, much more so. And we had the radios turned on in all of the offices wherever we went trying to keep up with the news briefs and bulletins and so forth.

INT: Did you see, did you look at other sources? Did you read newspapers or look at the television reports?

NAR: We watched the late evening news and the only newspaper I had at that point was the Evening Sentinel and I didn't...By the time the paper came out, it seemed outdated. So, I relied more on the national news on radio and the national news on television.

INT: Did you talk about it with friends or family or co-workers?

NAR: Very definitely so. All. It just became the over-riding topics of conversation.

INT: Can you remember any of that? Let's try them separately. Can you remember what you and your friends might have discussed?

NAR: Well, in terms of friends again, I think none of us took it terribly serious in terms of immediate threat to us. In terms of colleagues, I think those of us at the College became more and more aware that people were very upset about this and it cause me more and more to look at it and inquire more deeply.

NAR: Was there a third group?

INT: Your family.

NAR: My wife and I both didn't take it too seriously, still at the same time in terms of a personal threat. I think we still felt fairly secure and that if things were to get worse we would have enough advance notice that we could effectively leave very easily.

INT: Did you feel like that consistently through the thing?

NAR: Yes.

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

NAR: Well, everything started to come hot and heavy at one time. It seemed that as soon as the national networks picked up the TMI incident that it became goo...immediate for them. Good information for them to catch the listeners or the TV viewers and....I'm sorry I'm getting lost now, the question?

INT: How you felt about other people's reaction to the incident?

NAR: Okay. It became evident very quickly that people outside the area were immediately reacting much more quickly than those of us in the area. I think probably as I look, as I felt it then, and as I was experiencing at the time and even now with a little more time in between, I think that the fact that it made national news made people farther away become much more concerned where as those of us here who were here, were breathing the air and drinking the water and there was no immediate impact upon us other than what we were catching on the media. I also had another set of dynamics in terms of my own life, and that was the contact I had with people in the faculty, who are very knowledgeable about nuclear energy. And we very quickly started to get into extensive discussions with these people. There were I think, three people in the Physics department or two in the Physics department and one in related sciences. So, I was reassured and had a much more calming effect on me based on what seemed to be very objective and dispassionate kinds of data. The physicists were monitoring the area. There was no radiation level except background, another word that I'd never thought of in this context, wouldn't have known about it. And so even though right at TMI, right on the island and in the nearby area, the radiation was up a bit, John Luetzelschwab, one of our professors who live right there, wasn't overly concerned at that point. And I felt here if a fellow who's really knowledgeable about atomic and nuclear energy, wasn't reacting very much, then it couldn't be that bad. So, it may be unduly, but I placed a lot of credibility in what the three physicists were saying at the time.

INT: Would you say that they were the most important? That they were to you the most credible sources during the...?

NAR: They were....they verified what we were getting over the national media. That is that there were no discernable levels outside of a certain...what was it, I forget now, a five mile area. And that was verification independent of the utilities people.

INT: I might go to those questions. You've said something about this in response to questions about other's reactions to it. How do you feel, in general about the media's handling of the situation?

NAR: I think the media handled it very poorly. I meant to bring in some newspapers that I had gotten from relatives who live in the New York City and Long Island area. And the New York Post is one example where the banner headlines ran fully five days and even when things were coming down, you wouldn't see it in the headlines. And you'd have to read the article and get into it quite a bit to find that there were improvements in the situation or that things were coming a bit more under control. And so between the blaring on the radio and also the television had the same kind of thing, and certainly the newspapers, I think that people were being bombarded with the TMI incident and then really had no way to understand what the implications were. I'm not sure that we know that today. That is for example, if there was a meltdown, what does that mean? Everybody said it's the worse thing that could happen. Well, I'm not sure what that means, whether we lose a portion of Harrisburg or all of Pennsylvania or the entire eastern United States or does it affect everything from coast to coast. There was no way to tell from what anybody was saying.

INT: Well, now you mean no way to tell what people didn't know?

NAR: No way to really understand the significance of it. And I think that ignorance was something that the media played upon and really didn't cover very fully in terms of a clear explanation of what meltdown might mean and what the chances are that that would occur. And how much of a threat it was and to how many people.

INT: What about government officials? How do you feel about their handling of it?

NAR: I think that in retrospect, a lot of people were caught totally unaware. For example, Civil Defense and other agencies in terms of mass evacuation. How do you move one million people from point A to point B? I think any time you have faced that question, you're going to have tremendous problems. I don't know that there is a solution to that. The people who were reacting over the telephone, people I spoke with from the New York City-Long Island area were basically unaware that they were surrounded pretty much by nuclear power plants, every bit as volatile as TMI and more of them in a much more, in an area that had many more people, much more compact.

INT: Every bit as volatile?

NAR: Well, I would think that in terms of the fact that there is an energy plant, and that if they had a similar situation in, on Long Island, for example, how would they, how could they possibly move New York City, and get all of the city out. I don't think it can be done.

INT: So, you felt they were unprepared, the government officials on the most part?

NAR: Basically, I guess I do.

INT: Do you think they could have done something better?

NAR: I think they reacted reasonably well given what was happening at the time. But it's like perhaps so many things that we are unaware of and then when you find out, you say, "Why didn't we think of it, way back." It would seem like somebody should give thought to that one, to evacuation procedures when a nuclear plant is put up, but people hadn't been thinking along those lines. At least, that's the way it appears to me.

INT: How do you feel about industry, Metropolitan Edison handling of the nuclear incident?

NAR: I think that Met Ed handled it very poorly. They were giving blanket assurances initially that there was no problem. There was like a number of hours time delay between the first major problems or problems that later on appeared to be major, and their going public with it. And when it went public, it was all very soothing and very quiet, and just like nothing to be concerned about. Very much like the Jane Fonda movie.

INT: Had you seen the movie?

NAR: I saw it after TMI. Which probably made me, allowed me to be a little bit more calm about the thing than if I had seen the movie. But even without having seen it, right along, you kept getting the feeling that they just had a bunch of public relations men out there, concerned about their image as opposed to getting information out and being really quite factual about what was happening.

INT: Did you feel that those in charge were in control of the situation?

NAR: Which people in charge, I don't know that anybody....

INT: People in charge of the plant.

NAR: That's really hard for me to evaluate. I say that because hearing Neil Wolf and John Luetzelschwab and Priscilla Laws, it seemed that it was much more complex a situation than I could visualize in my own mind. I've never seen the inside of one of those plants. I don't know what is involved. The concept seems easy enough, but in terms of all of the equipment and monitoring and potential shorts in computers and so forth, I don't know if they had the expertise right there to hand all that. It seems mind boggling in terms what is required to get a situation like that under control. Yet eventually they did, so there are some minds in the country who can do that. I guess there's a real question whether those minds were on the scene at the time. And that's something I think that probably would be true, or may hold true for any power plant of this type.

INT: Did you feel the same way during the incident? I mean, partly you've built in a reflectiveness about it there that I'm trying to take you back again just one more. Did you feel they were in control?

NAR: I felt they were in control until people started to describe a bubble developing. And when it was, you see, I guess when I first heard about this bubble, it was when one of our physicists indicated that there's really no problem, no major problem until a bubble starts to form. And here I was sitting back very calmly through the entire process and they talked about a bubble. Well, I think of bubbles as harmless little things that kids use with soap, and you know, blow bubbles and make little circles. And so the word bubble didn't mean anything until one of our physicists explained that the worst thing that could happen at this point would be if a bubble would start to form, but that's highly remote. It doesn't seem like, I mean he couldn't imagine that this would occur. And then sure enough within the hour that was said the bubble started to form and then you heard four letter expletives. And that's when I became much more concerned that maybe this is a volatile situation, which I hadn't really seen up until that moment.

INT: Do you remember what day that was?

NAR: It was over the weekend, it was, yes it was Sunday. Wait a minute. Well, it was either Saturday or Sunday. I know it was on the weekend because all of this transpired about the time that we had one of the first public sessions with the students who were staying on campus.

INT: So, that's what you would describe as worrying you most?

NAR: Right.

INT: Do you think they are in control now?

NAR: I think they're in, people are in control now, because I think that the plan has been shut down and things have cooled off. I guess I wouldn't...I don't feel that they really understand what has happened and that if we heard that somebody turned the switches and everything started to go up again, I'd be very nervous in terms of their not having communicated to us exactly what went wrong and what is, what has been done to assure that that would not happen, could not happen again, as well as other kinds of catastrophes, problems.

INT: Did you change any of your ordinary routines during this time?

NAR: Well, in terms of what I was going through, my whole life changed for the period of probably four to five days, because I was practically living at the College, and....

INT: So, it was your work life that began to change radically?

NAR: Yeah, that just took over everything. I had a personal situation where my wife had made arrangements previously to go to a conference in Washington, and I was to be the person in charge of the family in terms of the children. There was no way that I could handle my job responsibilities and my kids, so I in fact sent them off to my in-laws so I wouldn't have to worry about feeding them and them off to school and so forth. I think, it's hard to say now if I didn't have that situation, but I think I probably would have stayed here with them. Assuming my wife was here to help with taking care of them.

INT: So you think the whole family would have stayed, you wouldn't, you probably would have left the area?

NAR: I don't think I would have.

INT: Did you talk about leaving the area at any point.

NAR: Yes. What we did was simply make sure we had some gasoline in the car.

INT: Kept the car filled up?

NAR: And some clothing. Because at that point it was still uncertain that things were still simmering and you didn't know if it was going to bubble up or whether the stove would be turned down. So, I think it was just.....

INT: Said you were prepared to go, in fact?

NAR: Yes.

INT: Did you talk about where would you go?

NAR: No.

INT: And you didn't.....what else did you want to take?

NAR: I think probably we would have just headed whichever way the wind wasn't blowing.

INT: So you became conscious of how the wind was blowing?

NAR: Wind direction, things I had never, ever been concerned about or thought about.

INT: Did you talk about what you would take along if you went?

NAR: Just a change of clothing is about all. We didn't stock up with canned goods and so forth.

INT: This coming up sort of the same question only in a more direct way. What brought you to stay in effect? I mean you sent, well you didn't send, your wife was going away for other reasons. You sent your children away, because you couldn't take care of them. What kept you here? What would have told you to go?

NAR: What kept me here was what I felt a real obligation to, not to abandon the students of the College. I felt that we had a lot of people here who might not have access to transportation and needed as accurate information as we could gather. And I felt the real responsibility there. I think if it came down to a point of leaving the area, what might have happened would have been for my family to leave and I still, I'm sure I would have stayed here. At least I feel I would have.

INT: Is there some sort of ethical matter there for you? I mean could you, do you express it in terms of an ethics of your position and so forth?

NAR: Well, I guess I feel throughout the year that I have some responsibility for the lives of the people on campus. That's much more dramatic than it needs to be, but we have human beings living here 24 hours entrusted to us in a way by their families. And I think it would be a really poor commentary if the people who had those responsibilities were among the first to leave. And then what happened, then you just have chaos when there's no person in authority and there's nobody to help set priorities and give direction in terms of what is happening, where to go, etc. I mean somebody has got to maintain the structure in the society that we're dealing with.

INT: Did you at any point feel that there might be a conflict between your various responsibilities?

NAR: In terms of my own personal life? I guess I gave some thought to what point would I abandon the ship and get out. And I just felt that I had to see that through. So I don't know....

INT: But you did feel some tension about it? I mean you felt that it was possible to reach a point where there would be tension?

NAR: I think any of us has a breaking point. I think it would be naive to say that under any circumstances I would be solid and hold up. We all have that point.

INT: I see, I don't want to be leading you too much. I just want to know if you considered the sort of thing during the course of the....

NAR: I did, yeah. And I just felt that I had to be here. There was no way of knowing how many of the professional staff, defined as faculty and administrators were in the area and who could we rely on to help out. And I felt that anybody who felt he could stay or she could stay, would be or could be of assistance to us. And I just didn't feel like I could consider leaving with those kinds of responsibilities.

INT: You may have answered this another way, but this is in a different context. Is there anyone in your life you were watching in order to decide what to do?

NAR: No, I don't think so. I think the point that, what I was conscious of in terms of leaving, would have been the point at which we had everything underway to get people out of the area. In other words if we had had all of the campus vehicles, if we could have commandeered buses or whatever to get people out, knowing that this was in process, at that point, I think it would have been judgment how much longer does one stay. But all of that had to be worked through.

INT: Did you have any mental pictures of what was happening at TMI or what might happen there?

NAR: I don't really know what you mean by that.

INT: Visual images? Mental images? Like pictures in your mind?

NAR: No, except, that I knew that, I think that you don't initially feel the negative effects of radiation. So, I didn't really expect to see people in agony and in pain. I think probably the real heroes of the time in terms of what occurred down there were the people like the telephone lineman, the people who developed the communications network. The pressure and tenseness they must have felt. It must have been immense. But as they were right out there on the island putting up the telephone hookups establishing communications and that was vital to everything else that came out of it because there was otherwise no way of knowing what was going on down there. So, I, that's the thing I wondered, if I was a telephone lineman whether I would go in there and put up some telephone things, I don't know if I would have. I see that as mechanical and I see this as more personal and yet on the other hand, I think the former helped us know what was happening in a timely way.

INT: Do you think that anything that happened at TMI might have affected your health?

NAR: I don't think so.

INT: That of your children?

NAR: Not in terms of TMI. I have confidence that the amount of radiation that escaped was minimal and that most of it has dissipated around the area and that nothing came very close to the Carlisle area.

INT: How far away from TMI?

NAR: Well, I guess they were saying three to five miles.

INT: No, how far are we from TMI?

NAR: How far are we? Eighteen, nineteen miles, twenty-three. Twenty-three I guess. It's all relative, you know. I found, somebody expressed this and I found that it described what was happening in my life when we were talking with people we wanted to calm down, we were saying, "Well gee, we're 23 miles away, there's plenty of distance." And yet when relatives or other people called, you're saying "Gee, we're only 23 miles." So, it's a selective use of prepositions or adjectives or adverbs that makes the difference. The other thing, of course, is when you look, when we were watching the television shows, or the newscasts and you could see that we were about an eighth of an inch from Harrisburg, it puts it at a different perspective. I talked with a number of parents on the phone, by the way about the distance and found that the question came up consistently, "How far are you from TMI?" And I said, "We're between twenty and twenty-five miles. And I got two very different reactions. A number of families of people I spoke with said, "My God, are you that close" and an equal number reacted, "Oh, thank goodness, I thought you were much closer than that. I didn't realize you were that far away." So, it just depended on what their perception of twenty to twenty-five miles meant.

INT: Or what their judgment of how far it was for them.

NAR: Right.

INT: Do you think any other aspects of your life have been affected?

NAR: Not. Well, I think awareness levels have been affected. We'll all be watching in terms of TMI. My vocabulary has increased a little bit. I know that my eight and ten year old boys have new vocabulary that I have only recently picked up. In that way, I think there have been some changes, but I don't think that we are going to feel the effects of the radiation levels that got out. That's my own personal opinion, obviously.

INT: If the worst had occurred, what do you think might have happened? You were talking about the difficulty you had when you were.....

NAR: Yeah, I don't know, I don't know what the meltdown, I have a picture of the TMI Island having a great big hole in it and something that's very dangerous has been dropped into the water below the island. And that the water, the streams, or whatever the tributaries and rivers would be contaminated to some degree. I don't know if that means the fish suddenly drop, sink to the bottom or float to the top or what it means. I think that many people would have, I mean I think there might have been some panic, but I think enough people over a period of time had left that made the situation a lot easier. I was just as pleased, in terms of my responsibilities with the college that large numbers had left. Because it meant that if, God forbid, the worst had happened and we had to clear Carlisle, that it would be a lot easier having 20 percent of the students around as opposed to 100 percent. So, I was not discouraging people from leaving, on the other hand, I didn't feel that I should encourage them, because that would be adding to the scare that you must get out of here.

INT: Did you have any concern about the food or milk from the area?

NAR: The way that I was initially asked over the telephone was, where do you get your food from? And we weren't in a harvesting period of time, so any of the food we were getting was coming from outside the area or had been in storage elsewhere. And the same with the milk supply. Most of the milk, there were very few dairy cows out there. Or maybe I got the other way around. There are dairy farms, but they're small in number. And the meat that we eat is not raised over in that area. I think probably if that happened in a harvesting period it might raise more concern about the food supply, because I think we are importing our food from all over the country.

INT: You said you had the picture of a hole in TMI and so forth, did you picture in your mind any of the affects of radiation on life?

NAR: I guess I see the threat of that as being something more long term than immediate. I don't think we would break out in hives or sores, but I have a fear that that's the kind of thing that you don't know for many years, in terms of cancer rates, problems with your blood cells, and so forth. So I didn't expect any immediate thing even for the people working over there. I thought it was humorous at a time, you try to find some humor in all of these situations, and I thought it was riot that the governor said with great assurances, "I have sent my lieutenant-governor into the reactor to check things out." As opposed to saying "I am leaving immediately to check this out."

INT: Phrases do catch people by the tail occasionally, don't they. Meant to be a reassurance of course.

NAR: It was.

INT: Did you think of your own death at any time?

NAR: Yes, I did.

INT: Did you? What did you think about? What crossed your mind?

NAR: I thought how sad it would be if I... Well I guess the thing that concerned me most was the safety of my kids. And that would be the saddest thing in my life if something happened to them. And then I felt for them if something happened to me. In terms of what they need as they grow up. Those were the thoughts that I had. And it just made me rethink how important people are, one to another.

INT: So then did you think that you would survive?

NAR: I was never that fearful. Now that could have been my own defense mechanism, if we find out later on that things were that much more serious. I may have just been maintaining a blissful ignorance. We all had to develop coping mechanisms. Mine was not to think that there was any real threat of death, but I was trying to take it seriously. Particularly in terms of the potential evacuation of the area.

INT: Did you think about God during the incident?

NAR: No.

INT: Did you pray?

NAR: No.

INT: You've talked a good deal about your felt responsibilities during the incident. Is there anything you think you might like to add there? We've been going one way and I'm kind of checking off so.

NAR: Okay, in terms of responsibilities?

INT: Yes.

NAR: The one thing that I think most people really perhaps can't appreciate particularly those who were dealing with us long distance over the telephone, was how hard we all were working at trying to keep up with what was happening. And also to make decisions about whether or not to cancel classes or encourage them, people to leave or evacuate and so on. And much, part of the discussion, a significant part had to do with how much credibility do we give the agencies that have responsibilities in these areas. And I think what came out of at least some of our thinking was that if we lose confidence completely, then we have nothing to fall back on, and the whole fabric of structure that keeps us together has broken and then it's just every person for himself or herself.

INT: Did you have fears of that?

NAR: Well, I didn't have fears, but I thought that we could contribute to that tearing, the fabric tearing, if we closed the College and just said "Everybody leave.", because then we would be acting contrary to the information and assurances and the actual requests that we got. For example, from the governor's office or from the Red Cross or from the Civil Defense and so forth. And if they wanted to use the campus and here we were leaving, it's just one of those kinds of things. We had to make some judgments in terms of whether or not you can count on other people and whether they are being honest and open with us.

INT: During the time did the event bring to mind any past experience of yours?

NAR: The only thing I think that I again very personal about my children, was that I relived in my own mind the feeling I felt when a couple of children very close to us, friends of ours were killed in a fire, and what an overwhelming void it was. Every night before I go to sleep, I just check in to see that they are alright, and I think it's just a carry-over from both of these incidents. But other than that, I don't think I relived anything.

INT: Did you think of any historical events?

NAR: No.

INT: Any fictions? Any books or movies? TV shows?

NAR: Well, initially when the first all started you know can't help but think of Hiroshima, for example. You know, major atomic blasts. But in talking with some of our physics people, it was expressed that what would happen would not be an explosion. That didn't seem to be in the realm of probability, but that what would take place would be the meltdown, which would be a gradual process, kind of like boring a hole in a very thick piece of wood. It gradually gets through. And that was more the threat. So, I at some point initially thought that what might happen would be an immense brightness in the sky and then nothingness, but I discounted that rather quickly. I think probably for the overall fear of what that means, but that also based on what people were saying right along. Very rarely was any mention made in any of the media about a potential explosion. They talked about it within the plant, but not in terms of so that it would destroy a large area.

INT: Do you think the incident was more or less frightening say than a flood or a hurricane or a war or something like that?

NAR: Well, I think it was more frightening for a number of reasons all focusing about our fears of the unknown. All of those things are terrible, but they're things you can see and you can measure the damage, you can measure the destruction, the loss of life. You feel those immediately. You've lost your house or you've lost some possessions or God forbid, some people. And you can get out there on your canoe and see that the water is around you. But this was not that kind of situation, there was just an unknown element and I think we're all much more fearful of the unknown. Much more apprehensive of it.

INT: Did you have any day dreams that you can remember?

NAR: I don't think so, not that I recall.

INT: Any sleeping dreams?

NAR: No.

INT: Was your sleep disturbed?

NAR: No, by the time I got to sleep, I was totally exhausted. I don't often remember dreams in the morning, anyway, but there was nothing that came to me at that time. Maybe your raising these questions will cause that tonight.

INT: Probably. What...Now I'd like you to talk...You've talked about family and work situation changing and so forth and so on. Could you talk a little about, in the

context of the telephoning and so forth, what changes you think had happened to people, in general?

You're in a unique position of observation there in some respects.

NAR: Well, some of the people who called were totally out of control. I mean they were extremely emotional, there was no question of right or wrong. There was only one answer and anything else was totally wrong, and that is we should "Send the children home" and close the College and "My God, what are you waiting for!" That was a small number of people. Most people just wanted some reassurance that there were people here who cared and were concerned and were monitoring the situation more locally. I think that was the by far the direction in which the calls came in. But there were some people who were in tears, who were very upset and as they spoke, it became evident that they had had other trauma in their lives. And I guess, I hadn't thought of this before, but your question about did I recall other trauma, I think they were recalling other trauma. I don't know what those things were, because we generally didn't get into that on the phone. But it was obvious that at all costs they wanted to preserve, to protect their youngsters. The other thing has to do with the unknown, in terms of the immediate versus the long-range, and that was I think more with the women students than with the men. The parents were concerned about possible complications of childbirth. I guess they must have been recalling thalidomide kinds of fears. Or cancer or something.

INT: Did they express those?

NAR: Well, it came out just in terms of concern about child-bearing. That came out a couple of times.

INT: Did you hear any jokes about radiation or TMI?

NAR: Well, there's just one which I meant to bring to your attention and I'm glad you said that. At the time that...Let me just back up a minute and give you the background for it. My wife works at Holy Spirit Hospital.

INT: Can I interview her?

NAR: Sure. There were some interesting things there, in fact it might be a much more exciting interview than this one. Anyway, she was there and there was one fellow who was walking around with a gauge to test the radiation and he was going up to people. It had high numbers on it and it was red. He was saying "My God, look at the radiation level here." And people were panicking and what he was using was a tire pressure gauge from his automobile. And he was blowing minds all over the hospital. That was the only one, other than our T-shirt slogans.

INT: Our T-shirts, yeah, that seems long ago.

NAR: That might be a good interview, by the way, to speak with....

INT: Have you developed an opinion about what we should do about nuclear power?

NAR: I'm fearful of it. I guess I was more a proponent of it before feeling that the United States really is right now in essence, hostage to the oil countries. And that's intolerable. But I can't imagine that the problems of energy can't be solved if we put enough resources to it and hire the best minds, whether we're talking about the ocean or the sun or whatever. If we put as much money into developing alternative sources of energy as we have into either war, the war industry or even nuclear power, I would think that we should be able to come up with something.

INT: So your position on it has shifted somewhat as a result of the whole business?

NAR: Yes. I've become much more skeptical about nuclear and the assurances that we hear. But I'm also, also have very negative feelings toward the oil industry. I think that we are just being taken over....I was going to say being taken over coals, that's not quite the analogy. But people are making big money on us and enjoying and I'm sure they're laughing all the way to the bank. And it's affecting every single person in the United States.

INT: Apart from that, do you think that the whole event changed you in any lasting way?

NAR: I think the one thing that I hope will come out of this, is that I will be much more probing in terms of any public relations kinds of statements made by people. I find that I think I've become that now. A little bit more, I don't know if skeptical is the word, but certainly more probing and more questioning. I hope that happens, cause I think that would be a change for the better.

INT: Do you think it has changed other people in a lasting way?

NAR: I think it probably has made a lot of people very skeptical about anyone dealing with either the gasoline industry or the oil or the nuclear industries. I think we're all very suspicious that people are not dealing with us openly and there's always a question in terms of what the motivation of people is, of people who are at the heads of these organizations, in terms of the profit motive or the betterment of mankind.

INT: Is there anything else you would like to say about it all?

NAR: Well, I just hope we don't ever see it again. That's about it.

INT: Are you willing to give us permission to use your name with this material?

NAR: Sure.

INT: Now that you know what you've said. I guess because you had talked about it as much as you already had, I had not directly asked the question about how it affected your work, and if you'd like to enlarge on that we'd like to hear it.

NAR: Well you did ask it, but I wasn't as thorough as I perhaps should have been. One of the things that occurred to me very early was that if we had to leave the area, where would we send our students. We wouldn't want them going through the Harrisburg area. And assuming that we had some transportation or that there were enough cars and so forth, at least where could we tell them they should go. We lined up a school in Maryland that indicated that they would host us and they would clear out their gymnasium and other facilities and put up our students in large numbers, so we felt we had at least some back up there.

INT: Had you made vehicle plans and so forth? Here at the College?

NAR: We had done a quick inventory in terms of what we had available at the College, in terms of College vehicles and then of course we have the registration to know how many cars we have from the students. And what we had talked about basically, was that we would have had people congregate in certain areas and drivers in certain areas then try to just get them all together on the lawn. We haven't had that as a formal plan of operation, but I've got some stuff I'm going to start working on shortly to try to have that at least as a backup.

INT: Were you not...Oh I suppose not, because they were only planning for a ten mile evacuation at the most weren't they?

NAR: Right.

INT: The county people.

NAR: Right.

INT: What were you thinking?

NAR: I was thinking whether we were included in any larger plan for that apart from designated as a center for evacuation. What we did was check with the Civil Defense to make sure that they didn't forget that we had a large residential population on campus and that if it came down to taking out Carlisle and they had access to school buses and private buses and so forth that we would be allowed our fair share. And that they wouldn't just disregard Dickinson College. They assured us continually that they of course, know that we're here and that we're built into their contingency plans. So all of that kind of dialogue was going on throughout the process.

INT: Now I suspect there'll be a lot of planning now.

NAR: I would hope so.