

Occupation: Emergency Operations employee

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember when you first heard about the Three Mile Island incident?

NARRATOR: Well, I work in the, I was working in the energy office, so the energy coordinator was pretty much aware of what happened on Wednesday. I don't remember the exact dates of anything. Wednesday he was aware of the situation and he spent the whole day out of the office. He told me that I would have to stay in the office and man the phones, because there would probably be a lot of telephone calls. At that time I wasn't aware of what had happened. He was kind of secretive; in fact, everybody sort of kept their own knowledge of what was happening under cover. Nobody said anything about it. Then Thursday....

INT: Just a moment. Did you have those calls that he thought might be coming in?

NAR: None. Thursday, then, it was business as usual, other than the fact that he was in and out of the office. Then Thursday night, I became involved in the whole thing. I went over to the Emergency Operations Center after work and there were, I'd say at that time, not too many people working. The... Tom Blosser, Ted Wise, in fact Bonnie went home that night, I think. There were a couple of people from the Control Center in there and everybody was just kind of very slow. They were just keeping their eye on things.

INT: What was the Control Center?

NAR: Oh OK, that's the Emergency Operations Center. That's where during the Three Mile Island crisis, problem, that's where all the, everything happened. Everything took place right from the Emergency Operations Center.

INT: That was where they were doing planning and that sort of thing?

NAR: Right. Planning, dispatching all information, gathering of facts.

INT: So it was a kind of communications center for during the whole business?

NAR: Right.

INT: And this got set up when?

NAR: It's always been there.

INT: It's there, then and you go to it when you need it?

NAR: Right. People congregate there during an emergency situation. And this was the first time I'd ever seen anything like this happen the way it did. The Emergency Operations Center going into action.

INT: Real operation?

NAR: Right, any operation was usually just looks like an office.

INT: So Thursday night was...

NAR: Thursday night there was just a few people milling around. I decided to stick around and see what was happening, being in energy, I was kind of interested in just seeing what was going on. There wasn't anything dramatic or really very exciting, we stayed...well let's see, the director of communications, Ted Laws, took me home, I'd say around one o'clock. Twelve or one o'clock that night or that morning.

INT: At that point, were you seeking more information about the situation? Were you following news or television or anything?

NAR: No, not at all. There wasn't... actually, I don't think at that time I was even aware of a newspaper or... In fact, I wasn't even aware of the fact that there was something that could become critical. It was just more of an interest thing. It was just like, well this is interesting and it's a chance to just sit awhile and see the Emergency Operations Center work, and maybe get a few hours overtime. It wasn't anything really... it was kind of like if you see a car accident or something, you stop and look at it... what morbid curiosity I guess I just...

INT: So it hadn't worried you at this point?

NAR: No.

INT: Did that change?

NAR: Yeah, a little bit. A little bit. I think as it progressed, as time went on, we put in more hours. I became more involved in it. Still don't know what time I ever read a newspaper. Never became aware of the news. After the whole thing, this if funny though, after the whole thing, I was sent out to buy five sets of the previous newspapers for various you know people, one of which I have at home, a complete set of the "Evening Sentinel", the local paper.

INT: During the period of time?

NAR: Right. But we were so oblivious to the news and that sort of thing in print, that it was afterwards we went and got the papers.

INT: Was that because you were too busy or I mean you were too...?

NAR: I don't know. I really don't know. There were a lot of things during that period of time; I never realized happened or didn't happen. It was kind of a loss of awareness.

Like life is...it became mechanical, I think. It was like going...coming into work, working twenty hours and then going home, catching a nap, taking a shower, changing my clothes and then coming back.

INT: So your job was very much changed? Your ordinary routines there were very much changed?

NAR: Yeah. I was no longer in the Energy office. I was no longer the assistant energy coordinator. I had absolutely nothing to do with energy at the time of this problem. I was in charge of, I guess, mass assembly areas, mapping them...charting, taking the school buildings and assigning numbers and coordinates and finding out from municipalities which areas...where the five mile-ten mile radiuses were. How many people would assemble in this area and be transported to another area. Which school buildings. Someone else was in charge of transportation- busing, coordinating with that person how many buses they had in...

INT: So you were planning for evacuation?

NAR: Oh, yes.

INT: And you would not ordinarily have been at work over this weekend?

NAR: No.

INT: And that's a real change in your routine?

NAR: It was, but I never noticed the change. I was never physically aware that time it was passing, or that physical changes were taking place in my body as far as my ability to stay awake twenty hours a day. I mean, I am the type of person; I need twelve to fourteen hours sleep to function properly the next day. And then I'm tired by two in the afternoon.

INT: But this didn't happen at this time?

NAR: No, this as just kind of ...I don't know. Well, there I was, I was doing it, but I never really thought about it.

INT: Were you worried about the situation during this time?

NAR: The only thing I was worried about was my family. My mother lives in town, and I have some brothers and sisters who live with my mother. She had called me. What got me excited was when my mother called me, I think it was Friday...Friday night and said, "Well, if anything happens, we're all going to meet at my house and we're gonna go to Tennessee." Cause that's where my father lives. And that's when I got upset about it. I hadn't thought about it up until that point. I hadn't really thought. I mean I was working on the evacuation; I was working on the plans. I was fully aware that this was a possibility and it might happen. But as long as I didn't think of my family, or my parents

or anyone else, it never really mattered to me. There was no emotionalism, it was just matter-of-fact. This is what's going to happen. I think you look at something like this as a plan. Well, this is my plan and this is how I'm going to do it and it's going to work this way. You never really think well, maybe we're really going to have to do it, or what if it does happen. I mean, I kind of went into the thing; well this is why I'm doing it. This is what's going to happen and it's gonna work that way.

INT: So that when your family spoke to you, when your mother spoke to you...

NAR: That's when I got upset.

INT: Then you got upset?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: And what were you thinking?

NAR: I was thinking about my family and how they were going to have to leave and I wouldn't be able to leave.

INT: Now why wouldn't you be able to leave?

NAR: Because I had assumed the responsibility of making these charts and making sure that Dauphin County found a safe place in Cumberland and Franklin Counties. It was just my job at that point.

INT: Okay. So you had felt responsibility in terms of other people. And what upset you was what? Your family might leave and you would have to stay?

NAR: No, it wasn't even that. It upset me that my family was in this position, of having to leave. You see, I never thought about it as being a threat to human life. It was just something that was happening and we were taking care of it and it was going to be okay. Had my mother not called me, I think I wouldn't have felt any reason for being emotional. I wouldn't have gotten upset at all, but it was when she called me and then I had to start keeping her posted. She would say, "Well, if anything happens call me right away. Call me before anybody else knows. If you hear anything, call me." And it was consequently every day that I had to call her and say "Nothing's happened. Everything's okay." I finally told her off, "If it'll make you feel better, why don't you just leave. For your own peace of mind." I told her to leave, but she didn't, she stayed.

INT: So your worry was really concerned with your family and their level of worry?

NAR: Right. I was worried about them worrying.

INT: Was there any point at which you felt worried about the actual situation over there, during the course of the whole thing?

NAR: No, but I had sort of a funny mental image of...this is kind of silly.

INT: No, it's not. I was going to ask that question directly. You're anticipating the question.

NAR: You know, you get into these bizarre thought processes, I really did. And I had this daydream of well, thirty years from now, they're going to come back and find the Emergency Operations Center staff living in the basement and all of Cumberland County is totally evacuated and the only way to get messages in and out is through telephone or telegraph or something like that. But then you think, no, there's not going to be anybody in the telephone office plugging in long-distance calls. Then I thought, well, carrier pigeons. They're going to send us messages. I'll be able to correspond with my family through carrier pigeons. And I thought all those poor pigeons, no we can't do that, because the birds will fly in and then fly out radioactive and that wouldn't work. Then I thought, "oh no, carrier pigeons and my thought went to just regular wildlife. Well, how do you keep wild birds or wild rabbits from flying into Pennsylvania or flying into Cumberland County and then flying to Maryland or some other place and contaminating those areas of the United States? I went on and on with this whole thing. It's sort of like a domino effect, you think of one thing and then bang, and then you think of something else and you think of something else and it's a repeating process.

INT: So your thought processes were really projecting what you thought might be the worst that would happen over there?

NAR: Yeah, but it was a joke. It was kind of... it was funny; it was not a serious thing at all. I had a couple of dreams. You know kind of short when you're taking a nap.

INT: Are you willing to talk about those? I was going to ask that too.

NAR: There was, at one point during the thing, we had a discussion about the...the National Guard was there and they were discussing what kind of gear they had to wear over their clothing to protect them in case there was any fallout. And we got into gamma-beta-alpha-rays and well you have to brush them off. If you see little particles you brush them off. And they said, "Well, what are we going to wear?" And they said, "Well, we have no radioactive clothing or anything." And this you know a real...a real experience that carried into my dream. And they said, "Well, we can wear these rain ponchos." The army has these green ponchos. And that would protect their clothing somewhat. Went home that night and I had a dream that they were wearing like these little kids' yellow rain slickers with the little hats. And they all had...you know when there's a fire in a fireplace and it's throwing out pieces of soot and it's like big pieces of burnt ash flying out at all these people. And they were all wearing yellow rain slickers with the little hats and these high boots with little clips in them. You know those big rain things with clips. And they all had this white stuff all over them and they didn't have any gloves, because they didn't have any rubber rain gloves. They were brushing this white stuff off of them. It was before me in piles like snow on the ground. It was just lots of

snow and there I was. There wasn't enough rain slickers to go around and everybody in the Emergency Operations Center didn't have a rain slicker. So we were going around shoveling this stuff from one side of the street to the other side of the street and there was no place to put it. So that was kind of weird. But my famous dream that I've sort of related to everyone in the Emergency Operations Center and this is one that I've had recurring is...

INT: This has come back since?

NAR: Oh yeah. This is another one. It's not really a nightmare, it's kind of...it was at the time. When I had it, it was during Three Mile Island. I was like doing assembly areas of mass care centers, like I said, and I had... everyone from Harrisburg had been evacuated. They had all gone to their assembly areas and been evacuated in the buses. And they were in their mass care centers in Cumberland and Franklin Counties. I was making a tour of all of the mass care centers and I was checking. I had these big sheets with all the names- rosters of all the names and descriptions of people from Dauphin County who were in the Mass care centers. I went to the first center and I was calling off names- John Doe, John Smith- all these people and I was checking their names and their faces and checking them off on the roster and I counted so many people. So that was my first center. Then I went to the center in Mechanicsburg. I was checking off names and faces and children and everything, seeing that there was food and first aid supplies and that's about it. Then I went to the third and fourth one...it must have been around the fourth mass care center. It was sort of like I woke up. I had been in a daydream and everyone of the people- the names and the faces and all the mass care centers were the same- It was like they were all the same people and I didn't realize it. I was counting numbers. I wasn't identifying individuals. I wasn't recognizing them by the names, the descriptions and I had counted, but I didn't recognize them as individuals. They were all the same. And then, I started to laugh. In my dream, I started to laugh. I said "Oh, this is a joke." And then I said, "Oh my God, where's the rest of Dauphin County then?" . You know because it...where are...where are the rest of the people then if all these people are the same? So, that was like, that was my nightmare dream. That was the only other one I thought it was kind of weird. Now, I just think it's kind of interesting. Strange.

INT: But it was frightening to you when you saw it?

NAR: Oh, it was, it was really upsetting.

INT: Did you wake up then?

NAR: Yeah, I woke up upset, you know woke up and... I don't know, it was just one of those things where you don't really think...

INT: Would you say that your sleep was more disrupted than usual?

NAR: No.

INT: Apart from the practical fact that you had to be on the job a lot?

NAR: Right. I slept better than I ever did, in the short time I did. But I'd say except for those two dreams, I wasn't aware of any other unconscious or conscious awakening during the whole thing. It was sort of like I laid down and took a nap. I felt rested.

INT: Do you feel that those in charge over at Three Mile Island were in control of the situation?

NAR: I don't think anybody knew what was going on. I think it's one of those situations where it's totally impractical to try to forecast or predict what would happen, what could happen, what might happen. Or what should or shouldn't have happened. I think it was all a big question. The thing I resented was people saying they knew for a fact that this is the way it was and this is what would happen. I don't think anybody was really aware of what was happening or what to do about it. I really think it was all a big question. But during that time, I mean this is an afterthought, during that time, I didn't really pay much attention to that other thing.

INT: You were too much involved in the other thing?

NAR: Yeah, I was much more involved in what the situation was at hand.

INT: Do you think they are in control of the situation now?

NAR: I don't think. I guess being out of the energy office now, at this point, I can say that I don't like nuclear power. I think it's very dangerous, therefore, I don't think it can be controlled at all. I don't think anyone has control over something as powerful a nuclear power, as atomic energy. It's very frightening.

INT: Are you then...Do you think we should not make use of nuclear power?

NAR: I don't think we should.

INT: Did this incident change your opinion on that?

NAR: I had the same opinion before. I had that same opinion before.

INT: Did you feel that...Do you have a judgment about how the media handled the event?

NAR: I do. I think whatever sells papers you know...is the basic thrust of what they're looking for as far as news is concerned. I think a lot of the more important people involved in this whole thing really played up the fact that they were important, it really did their egos a lot of good. I noticed a lot more of the ego in people as they felt things

were starting to relax. They were looking for newspaper coverage, possible promotions, that sort of thing after this whole thing.

INT: ThNARe are people around you in the job or in the community?

NAR: I think a lot of the people who were interviewed or involved in this whole thing were really milking it for what it's worth. Let's make a buck on it.

INT: How about government officials, generally? Now there are several different levels you might talk about here. The level you were working, at the level of the NRC...

NAR: Oh, every one of them. I think every one of these people is super egotistical people. I think they're all very "me"-oriented. Well let's see what I can do for myself with this situation. Any situation that someone with that political eye on them all the time or with the public eye on them all the time is going to think about it.

INT: There was a point at which you think that changed though. You said that it started to turn into that when...

NAR: Oh yeah, when things started to relax a little bit. I can't say for sure. I'm sure, well no I can't, but I'm sure there was some people that during this whole thing, they were more concerned about themselves than public safety. But then again, for some people that's their job- to say they're concerned about public safety or the public welfare. I mean that's what they're getting paid for. Whether or not that's what they truly believe is another thing. It's all debatable.

INT: What about Metropolitan Edison? Do you have an opinion about the way they handled the whole thing?

NAR: I think they're the same as everyone else. They really had no idea what was going on and it's their company, so the only thing they can do is defend themselves. A company like that, the same thing is in the public eye. They also have an ego. And I don't think they would say, "Well yes, we were wrong, we're sorry. Yeah, don't worry about it; we're going to pay for all the damages. Sue Smith ruined a dress during this whole thing; we're going to pay for that too." I don't think that they could possibly ever admit guilt to something like that.

INT: Do you think that any aspects of your health were affected by anything that happened at Three Mile Island?

NAR: My mental health. I've really changed a lot, my personality has. Well, a preface to this whole thing I think is, that's sort of like a weird childhood. You know, one of those basically insecure people. And for this, being given the position of responsibility really did a lot as far as making me aware of the fact that I have the ability, that I can handle a situation of responsibility, whereas the energy coordinator always made me feel very small. Working in an emergency situation, I was no longer under his control, so I



realized that by myself as an individual, I can handle any situation as long as other people don't make me feel I can't. So I realized that I used to depend a lot on what other people thought of me to get by. I don't have to do that anymore. At the same time, I've changed a lot- of my drinking habits, I quit smoking cigarettes, I don't drink that much. I used to smoke pot- I don't do that anymore. I've joined the National Guard Reserve. I was always very anti-military. I've gotten a little more religious. All profound changes.

INT: All a result of Three Mile Island?

NAR: I think so.

INT: Or at least the experience that you went through?

NAR: I think so. It was all a very definite change immediately afterwards.

INT: You saw a real challenge there and you felt that you met it? Is that what you're saying?

NAR: Yeah. I sort of grew up really fast. I really did.

INT: When you were going through this, did you think of any former experiences in your life?

NAR: Minor emergency experiences. I had the same felling as when my father had a heart attack. The feeling of forgetting myself, forgetting to be upset or nervous or sick to my stomach at the sight of blood and just sort of jumping in and taking care of it. And then afterwards, going to pieces. It was afterwards that I just sort of felt...I don't know, I guess I sort of had a mild nervous breakdown.

INT: Did you?

NAR: I don't know. I'm still a little upset about certain things. I've realized a lot about the political system I'd never noticed before and it sort of upsets me, as far as my job and my position is concerned.

INT: Are you willing to talk about that?

NAR: Yeah, I guess, I guess. Right now I work in the Emergency Operations center. Right after...okay, I was the assistant energy coordinator for almost...well ten months. The energy coordinator is as I said before is very egotistical person. I was made to feel very small. He intended to make me his assistant and couldn't even get me a raise as a clerk-typist. So, I was doing assistant work and clerk-typist work and making \$6,400 a year. So, during this Three Mile Island thing, I accepted a position of responsibility, then became very responsible, handled something and was not under his control. He was off doing something else. I handled it very well. I really for the first time in my life thought I had done something worthwhile. I was pleased with the way I had done, what I did.

The work came out very good. It was neat, organized. It was really good. Then elections came up. We got involved in the primary elections and I was requested to come upstairs here and help out with the phones. I did that. Then, while I was working upstairs here, the Energy Coordinator handed me a memo, saying he would need...it said "To E.J. Seganoff from David S. Noor (?), Energy Coordinator. RE: Office Personnel," something like that. "Item Number 1: Due to the Three Mile Island crisis, the governor's Energy Council has requested that I turn in my monthly report" or some such thing. "I will need typewritten in triplicate a detailed account of your activities during the Three Mile Island," which is something I've never had to do was turn in reports. "Item Number 2: Due to your being," let me see, Item Number 2 was: "The Governor's Energy Council also requires that you hand.. that you turn in two copies of your activities during the month of April," something I never had to do before. And "Item Number 3: Due to your being detailed elsewhere, it has become necessary to utilize other people as office personnel. In doing this, they will need keys to your desk and office equipment. Please hand in your keys, blah, blah, blah. Okay, very nice. This was a week after I had a heart-to-heart talk with him saying, well I'm going to try to find a position of more responsibility with more pay, just bear with me. He said okay, if you have to come back to the Energy office, that's okay. Then bang, he sends me a memo and I'm out of my job. So, I was really upset. And this was right after Three Mile Island, so I think that really contributed a lot to like, okay if you're way up here after doing something and then somebody just takes his hand and smashes you. And I was lower than I was before I started. And it's all this one guy doing it. He's solely responsible for this. So then the County Commissioner's told him... they had a big hassle with him, said well, she'll just turn in her keys, and she's not going to give you any reports, that's bull shit. So I turned in my keys and then they said well they need me to do some other work, so I'll work in the Emergency Operations center where I am now. And that's why I was so upset this morning 'cause I'm to do a hundred maps, plotting mass care centers and assembly areas with little colored marks. Color dots for the schools, a hundred maps, all the same. I've done thirty-five of them and gone crazy. I can't, I don't know, I just thought I was going nuts this morning, I just can't do it. I can't do another map.

INT: Well are you feeling that they will move you to more responsibility as you're doing this?

NAR: I don't know. I don't think so. I don't think so. I think... that I've seen a lot of this political thing, so I think after the election, I'm just done with it. You sort of come to an awareness, well okay it's time to face it.

INT: This has been quite a time in your life.

NAR: Yeah, it really has. Well, July 8, I go to basic training. So that might be a good break. Know what's happening.

INT..... as a member of the National Guard?

NAR: Just out at the reserve one weekend a month.

INT: Well, I'm not sure if I've asked you about this or not. Correct me if I didn't. Did you think that anything that happened at Three Mile Island had affected your health?

NAR: I said just my emotional health.

INT: That's right. That's where we were.

NAR: Yeah.

INT: Your physical being?

NAR: I don't know about physical health. I don't think so. I don't know yet. It's kind of early to tell. I'm afraid it may. I don't know.

INT: Do you have any notions of how radiation, for example, might affect? I know you had your vision of how it would affect life; do you have any ideas about this?

NAR: I don't know. I don't want to think about the possible long-term effects.

INT: What do you think those would be?

NAR: Mutations, genetic changes, any number of things that aren't evident right away. Genetics.

INT: Did you have any mental pictures of that?

NAR: No, not at that time. Not at all.

INT: Do you think this affected any other aspects of your life than what you already told me about?

NAR: Just my roommate. I have a male roommate, and he was really upset during this whole thing because I wasn't paying any attention to him. I wasn't talking to him, I wasn't sleeping with him, I wasn't fixing his meals; he felt left out. He really had a feeling of neglect and I accused him of being selfish and he accused me of being overly involved. So, it was kind of interesting.

INT: So there was some stress between the two of you?

NAR: Oh, there is a lot of stress.

INT: Do you think that has lasted beyond that point? That it's had long-term effects?

NAR: I don't think so. We've had problems before. We're both not sure about ourselves. I mean, we're so insecure, we don't know if we want to get married or just break it off. I don't know, I think we'll be ok.

INT: So this was kind of picked up in a continuing pattern?

NAR: It's just magnified itself a little more. As far as...I've made some great friends during this whole thing, as far as state and federal people, people who came in. We became very good friends. And that's something that...well, we dubbed it our best disaster.

INT: It was good because you did all these things?

NAR: Right, we'll have to do it again sometime. Kind of sick jokes.

INT: Now you're talking about jokes?

NAR: Yeah, we had a lot of those jokes.

INT: Did you? Would you go on with them?

NAR: There was a real funny one. After things started to slow down, a few of us went out one night. The only time we ever really relaxed. We went out and had a couple of drinks and we met the mayor and there was a fellow there who was with the federal government who was involved. I was introducing him to the mayor and he's very straight-laced, very dignified and he drives a Mercedes. You know, would never do anything out of the ordinary type guy. Put one hand up to shake the mayor's hand and goosed me with the other hand. And I couldn't believe it and I screamed and jumped. And the mayor caught me and it was just like one of those things afterwards, we always discussed meeting the mayor.

INT: Meeting the mayor and getting....

NAR: We decided that next year at the same time, we'll have an anniversary party and we'll all get together and wear out t-shirts.

INT: Wear your t-shirts?

NAR: Ordered t-shirts during this whole thing. So far I think we've gone through at least a hundred of them.

INT: T-shirts?

NAR: Staff t-shirts.

INT: What do they say?

NAR: They say, "I survived Three Mile Island," and have three stacks. It's kind of written in smoke and it says "1979 CCEOC (Cumberland County Emergency Operations

Center) Staff.” We had another one. This was my favorite. I made it up. We were sitting in the car one day. We were driving someplace to get something to eat and the guy who does the t-shirts made up the insignia for us. If you’d like to have a copy of it downstairs. There’s like a little guy with a pith helmet standing on a soap box. And he has one finger up like this and there’s a little balloon coming out of his mouth that says “We saved masses of asses.” And we were going to have a t-shirt made up like that, but we kind of thought that, well, there’s some people that really want a shirt like that.

INT: Why do you think there was so much humor?

NAR: Tension. That’s all it is, tension.

INT: Relieving tension?

NAR: Yeah. Because we were working so late and there were so many people and it was kind of hot and stuffy down there. It’s really...

INT: Did you ever think about leaving? The area?

NAR: My father told me to. He called me from Tennessee and he cursed and swore about nuclear plants and telling me I was idiotic for staying. Don’t have this false feeling of responsibility and that sort of thing. No I never thought about leaving.

INT: Would you say that this sort of an incident was more or less frightening than say a flood or a hurricane or war or another kind of disaster?

NAR: I think it was probably more frightening. It was more frightening because there’s no set answer as to what to do. I think there’s just so much uncertainty about it. I don’t think... To me personally, it was less frightening because I was directly involved in it.

INT: You were very busy.

NAR: Yeah, I was busy and I guess, even being that busy, you feel you have some control over it. It’s kind of strange, but you get that feeling that “I know we’re all working on it, so it’s under control.”

INT: Did any movies or TV shows or books you had read come to mind?

NAR: During the whole thing? Not really. I’ll tell you though- afterwards... I haven’t read I don’t want to go see “China Syndrome”; I’m not involved in any of the books. What’s the other book called, “Tower” or something. I’m not interested in reading any of those. I stay away from in fact when they’re on TV. I don’t see them at all. I have no interest in them.

INT: Do you think that this changed others in any lasting way? You said it had changed yourself?

NAR: I don't know. I think if there was some people, say like my family or my roommate who knew that it was another emergency situation or something were to come up like this. I think they would try very hard to keep me from getting involved in it, because I think I know a lot of the other people involved in this whole thing had spouse trouble or trouble with long-standing relationships, because I think that the people who are closest to you feel the most neglected during a situation like this. Because you stop thinking about that one person you ordinarily give all your attention and all your love to and concentrate more on hundreds and thousands of people you don't even know.

INT: Have others of you talked about this having happened?

NAR: No, but I also think that a lot of it would be really good if a lot of the people who were involved in working in Three Mile Island actually sat down and talked about it openly. Like a therapy session. Because I think a lot of people really need it. It's something that has to be discussed, I think. I really do. I personally could use a good therapist. I know I could.

INT: I think that pretty much does it. Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about all this? Is there anything else we should be asking?

NAR: I think no. I'm trying to think. I guess not. It's really very complete. There were certain things; I mean little things you'd think about. How many things am I going to take with me as far as coming in here and working.

INT: Did you think about that? We had a question on that, but since you had said you didn't think about leaving?

NAR: Well, I mean coming in here and working. There were days, I wasn't sure what to wear. This is funny. I just wasn't sure what to wear to work, because usually you come to the courthouse very sophisticated looking. You have to dress proper. I'm not the type of person to follow dress standards. I'm a very individual person. I don't particularly like to wear these kind of shoes, everybody was wearing these kind of shoes, so I have to go out and buy them. There was a time, you know like during a regular work week, I thought it was really funny because there were people who weren't even involved in this whole thing who jumped in, say towards the middle or the end of it, and decided to take over certain aspects of the activity that was already going on. And these people were very...excuse me... higher up political people, so to speak. And they were wearing normal dress clothes for courthouse during the week: stockings, dresses and matching scarves. It was obvious they took an hour or so getting dressed every morning. And I felt that blue jeans and a leotard or a t-shirt was sufficient in doing the type of work I was doing. I didn't really want to take the time to fuss with my hair or put on makeup, because I was working very hard, I thought it was kind of stupid. And yet I was told by one person that "well you know you really should wear a bra and put your up and perhaps wear a dress," by this person in charge. And I didn't understand it and I couldn't believe

it. I just didn't have time to fool with that. So, I wore a dress from 8 to 4:30 and then when I put in my overtime I wore my blue jeans and my t-shirt and my leotard.

INT: Is there anything else you'd like to say about all this?

NAR: I think that's it. I don't know.

INT: Well, if you think of anything else, you can always let me know. Did you think about God during the incident at all?

NAR: No. Well, yeah. I prayed a couple of times, but not in the way that I do now. I have more of a religious feeling now that it's all over. You know, now that it's all over, I've gone to a couple of prayer meetings, but that's interesting. There was a fellow in the National Guard who asked me out on a date during this whole thing. He said, "Well, after it's all over, could we go out?" I said okay. So a couple of weeks later called me up and I went out with him. We had a couple of drinks and then he said, "Why don't you come over to my house, we'll have a pizza for dinner." He was a vegetarian so I said okay. So we were having a pizza and all of a sudden I start talking to him about God and religion. Something I haven't talked about in months and months and years and years, I haven't been very religious. And he stopped and we were talking and then I sort of started crying or something about something. He was talking about something very emotional. He said well, "I'm a really religious person. I was looking at you personally. I wanted to have a personal relationship with you. Now I know that God wants me to... he wants you to find God." And I thought well this is really hokey. This guy's really weird. It's like he's a fanatic about religion. He's training recruits. So we started talking about God and religion and everything and he gave me a couple of books to read, "The Here and Now" which I thought was really interesting. About Indian religion and I read some books on Judaism and some books on Christianity. And just...I don't know. For some reason, I got very, very close to God. And since then, I've been able to quit smoking and really feel more secure and just that religious aspect. And that's the only thing that's happened afterwards. It was not during the whole thing.

INT: When you prayed, do you remember what you prayed for?

NAR: Usually it's just like a mass thing, to help all the people involved and the Three Mile Island thing. And help with the over satisfaction, that all comes out alright.

INT: Do you think that there were any messages from God in all of this?

NAR: I don't really know. That's sort of like a really weird question. I do and I don't. I do think that it's possible. I'm going to be safe. It's possible that the message, being that if you don't get your shit together, this is what's going to happen. That it's very simple. It's very simple for a divine power to just put an end to it very quickly. At the same time, I think that a lot of the message is that humans are not omnipotent. But we just don't have the knowledge to control all the power we think we have, whether it be political power, nuclear power, the power of life and death. And that's one thing that I've become

particularly aware of is that no human being has that right to decide what's good for everyone else.

INT: Did you think of your own death during all this?

NAR: No, I don't ever really think of my own death. I'm more of a looking out for someone else type person. More interested in the masses, but then again, I sort of feel, well, well you know geez I'd like to be a saint. Well, after it's all over, the martyr. I really...my ego is probably being a martyr. If it comes out well and good for everyone else, then I don't mind.

INT: Is that the role you saw yourself playing?

NAR: Oh, I think so. I don't mind at all as long as I was doing something good. Something I know was right. I think that's why I haven't gotten involved in the marches against nuclear power is because, maybe there is just a little bit of an ego problem there now. Is the fact that if...there hadn't been a nuclear reactor, I never would have been involved in this? And I never would have grown or realized some of the things I know about myself. Or some of the new feelings I have about religion. Or the responsibility I felt that I had. And I'm sure a lot of people feel about it differently. They feel well; I never would have gotten the newspaper coverage or whatever they got out of it. I think my ego got just a little bit. I have more of an ego than I did before. Not as much as I think as other people did as wanting the notoriety that sort of thing. Although I guess I do. To be perfectly honest, I do cringe a little when other people get certificates of merit or appreciation and I don't. I think that's kind of... or they did get their picture in the paper and I didn't. Although, I'm not the type of person to get upset about it. I really get more satisfaction out of feeling I did something good or right or something like that rather than a real notoriety thing. I've learned to try not to be like these people. See, I wanted to be like them before. I wanted to be like the people in the court house... I see them as being them and I'm sort of different. And I feel that I don't fit in. And I wanted to fit in, but then I saw how they were reacting to the whole thing with the newspapers and the press. And I didn't want to be that way. I still want to be sensitive, even if it means getting shafted all the time. I still think that being sensitive and being honest and being able to laugh and being able to cry honestly is much more important than anything I could ever do politically. Or anything a political person could do for me, because I'd never trust them and I know I can trust me.

INT: Anything more?

NAR: I guess that's it.



