

Occupation: College Administrator

INT: When did you first hear about the Three Mile Island incident?

NAR: Wednesday morning, March 28th.

INT: How did you hear about it?

NAR: A phone call from Leonard Doran in the Development Office. Do you know who he is? Do you want me to elaborate on that?

INT: Yes you can.

NAR: It was not very late Wednesday morning when I heard from him and he was notifying me because he had heard not long before that from a member of his staff about the announcement of, of the incident -- of whatever was happening that morning -- and felt that we (1) ought to begin checking on it right away and (2) that the appropriate people at the college ought to be made aware of the fact that something that was going on over there, even though at that point he quite unclear.

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

NAR: Oh, yes.

INT: Did you know how far away it was?

NAR: I think if I had ever thought about it I would have guessed about twenty-five or thirty miles.

INT: O.K. so now you definitely know.

NAR: Of course, we all learned that didn't we. (Laughs) Every foot counts.

INT: Every foot counted, right. Did you know, did you know anything about the reactor or just that it was there?

NAR: I knew it was there; I didn't know much more about it. I was quite ignorant with regard to how a reactor functions. I resented the fact that it was there. But I didn't worry much about it, I just resented the fact that it was there.

INT: Why did you resent it?

NAR: Because I'd had vague concerns about moving ahead too quickly with nuclear energy on a national level before from my viewpoint enough was known about some of the impacts of it on a long-term basis. I remember disliking the fact that the towers loomed up in front of one as one approached the Middletown airport, the Harrisburg airport in Middletown. Somehow, it was very symbolic to me of a negative aspect of

contemporary life, let's say, but that's the extent to which I worried about it. I was not actively engaged in any effort to stop it from functioning.

INT: What did you think about or talk about when you first heard about the problem?

NAR: My initial reaction was concern because it seemed to me to me that something might be occurring that the people in charge would not know how to control and might have an effect on a range of people in the immediate area, including people at the College for whom, I guess, I felt a sense of responsibility. And so I felt concern about getting accurate and frequent information and about developing a program at the college that would respond accordingly and effectively. And a more personal reaction immediately was about my wife who had gone to Harrisburg that day as a member of the League of Women Voters visitation team of some kind, and I thought more specifically: Dumb! There she is without a car and should I do something about that. So I remember those two thoughts very vividly.

INT: So you were thinking that it was a serious situation?

NAR: Well, I was thinking that it could be a serious situation. I wasn't panicking or jumping to doomsday conclusions. But I was ready to accept the fact that it could be serious, and I felt as though we ought not to just sit around and wait, we ought to take the initiative in finding out what we could and quickly and then communicate that information in as effective a way as possible to the community here.

INT: So you did start to seek out further sources of information?

NAR: He, Mr. Doran and I together, agreed that certain people should be contacted, including, incidentally, some people in Physics who, we felt, might be able to give us some good advice. Now, did we, can I take credit for that? I frankly can't remember whether we decided that or whether somebody between say nine or nine thirty or whenever it was and noon came up with that idea. But by noon we got together John Luetzelschwab, Jim Nicholson, who's the treasurer, Doran, me, Ross, who's the public information director and the President, who by that time had gotten back to Dickinson. He was still on his way back from somewhere when Doran called me. But at noon that day we had a meeting to find out what we knew at that point and to find out what we ought to do with regard to the college community.

INT: Ok, so you were talking with co-workers about this?

NAR: You bet.

INT: And what kinds of things did you discuss, basically? The college affairs or personal affairs as well?

NAR: College affairs. I think I'm being repetitive, but we felt that it was important to have, to begin to develop, at least, a (laughs) plan of action if this thing were to develop into a dangerous situation. So on the one hand, find out as much as we can from Civil Defense authorities from contacts in the state government in Harrisburg, and on the other

hand, talk about we ought to do as an institution to respond to this. Even if it's nothing more than a rumor. It was an important enough rumor to be able to communicate to people here what was what.

INT: So did you start talking about it with friends and relatives as well? Family?

NAR: No, I was not in touch with any members of my immediate family. No, well, co-workers are friends, and so those co-workers with whom because by the nature of their position I was seeing during the course of that morning. No, I wasn't calling people up and a

INT: So you said that you didn't really feel that it was serious at first but that it was a potential serious situation. When did you change your mind?

NAR: Well, did I say that? I think I thought it was serious from the start. In terms of being a serious matter to contend with. I was, I guess, open-minded about the fact that it could range from being anything from a really bad rumor to a terribly serious matter. Ah, I felt it was important not to jump to conclusions, but I felt it was important to be ready for almost anything. So to that degree I felt it was very serious. I put aside other work in order to deal with it.

INT: Did you maintain that opinion throughout the thing? Serious?

NAR: Well, I maintained that opinion through the noon hour and into the afternoon at which point we were then being given information which was reassuring which said, on the one hand, a release of, an accident had occurred but that it was under control and that there was no danger at all to people anywhere, certainly as far away and upwind which became a very interesting term during that period subsequently, but we were already talking about being "upwind", thanks to John Leutzelschwab's expertise with regard to nuclear energy and the fact that (as I suddenly became aware) he lived within the shadow, so to speak, of the towers, and so the combination of his knowledge and his particular geographical location plus what we were being told made us believe by early afternoon that the situation was under control and we issued for the following day's newsletter the announcement that we had done what we had done. It's probably part of your data. That group that I described that met over the noon hour in the President's office came to that conclusion and developed that statement – rather Ross and Doran and I developed that statement. We thought it was important to get it to the College community. And again, I think that was another indication that we were taking it seriously. But by mid-afternoon, I would say, I had begun to turn back to other work and other concerns. And I was, I guess, upset deep down that such a thing had happened, but I was taking – I was receiving – positively what we had been told by various authorities that it was no longer a problem.

INT: You felt that those in charge were in control of the situation?

NAR: I did. I will admit to at the point I think, I think I had a late lunch some time between 1:30 to 2:30 with Doran, and the two of us began to admit private misgivings about nuclear energy on the large scale, not specifically Three Mile Island because we

were then assuming what we were being told was, was a fact, that the situation was under control. We then talked about private misgivings with regard to nuclear energy and a kind of disregard for some of the long term impacts. We were very, we admitted to being very, uneducated with regard to the specifics, but we were concerned in particular about waste, what do you do with nuclear waste and how that's what impact that might have twenty or twenty-five years hence. But we didn't concentrate on that during the earlier period. We concentrated on...

INT: The actual plan?

NAR: Right.

INT: Ok, did you, in looking back, do you still think that they were in control?

NAR: No.

INT: What made you decide that?

NAR: Well, subsequent events...

INT: That occurred later?

NAR: Beginning Friday morning.

INT: As time went on did you feel at that point that they were in control or did you begin to have your doubts about their control of the situation?

NAR: Now where are? Wednesday?

INT: As the time continued after Wednesday.

NAR: Ah, I think kind of typical gallows humor fashion we got through this late lunch hour period talking about it with a kind of wry humor and a kind of reasonable concern, more general concern, no longer thinking that Three Mile Island was a problem right now. And then I turned to other work and I went home that night and I shared with my wife what happened. She was learning about it for the first time because she had spent all day in Harrisburg out of touch with this. I, I did not continue to worry about it through Wednesday night or Thursday. I believed that the situation was under control because that was what we were being told. And I thought we were being told on good authority. When Friday morning came about, March 30th, and I got another call from Doran that the situation has changed again, of course, from then on things became very hectic for quite a while, several days, and I realized then that my state of calm and lack of concern during the Wednesday night and Thursday period was based on faulty information. But during the actual period I didn't continue to fret or worry. That's not my nature.

INT: Do you think that they're in control now?

NAR: Well, I'm certainly far less hesitant to decide fully and completely that they are. I think, I don't worry about escaping radiation. I guess I feel certain that that's not occurring. I don't really worry much about the long term effects of whatever did happen over that period. I continue to worry and, indeed, maintain a quiet resentment about things that I think the whole industry is not prepared to answer. But that's the same worry I had before TMI. I went so far as to send some dough to one of the agencies that has made loud noises about stopping nuclear energy several months before TMI because I had developed that quiet concern about what we do with the by-products, the waste that is piling up and so in a way TMI has just exacerbated that but I had that quiet concern, before Three Mile Island. Your question was: Are they in control? And I think in the immediate sense, yes.

INT: Umm, how do you feel about other people's reactions to the incident?

NAR: Compassionate.

INT: Compassionate...

NAR: Very much.

INT: In what way?

NAR: Well, compassionate in that it's a situation that the great majority of us are very unclear about and I think, worry about, deep down. And I had no problem at all understanding the concerns that began to be expressed by students, and by parents of students who were very unclear about what was going on at Three Mile Island and about the members of the College Community who were concerned about their own welfare and the welfare of others. I think the overwhelming feeling I had was compassion. I, I don't know how else to describe it.

INT: Did you follow newspaper or television reports or radio reports about the incident?

NAR: Well, radio was my best source of information, because once Friday morning occurred the nature of my responsibility was such that I had almost no free time through the entire weekend into Monday. And so I rarely was next to a television set and I never had any time or at least took any time to read newspapers. There was a radio in what became a kind of central headquarters for the activity going at the College over in the Student Services building. And spasmodically I would listen to it. But I got into a situation in which I was responsible for a great many logistics and, specific logistics, and so I guess most of my information came through that radio or through what people were telling me. That's an important item. Because some of the people who were telling me – I was lucky to be part of the group at the College that would be kept up to date by very, very intelligent and rational people, including our people in Physics. And we all, those of us who are not experts or even have any – I was one of the great majority who had almost no information about the specifics – and it was very helpful to me, at least, individually and I think a lot of others who were privy to that information to come to at least a rudimentary understanding of what was happening at Three Mile Island from their viewpoint as well as from what official sources were saying. And when I say official

sources I go back again to contacts with both the local civil defense where we had a couple of good and very honest contacts. And with some people in the state government who were either alumni or had close contact with the place. So the combination of those sources, plus our people in physics who, I think, were being as honest as they could be and as rational as they could be, helped keep in touch with what was happening more than any media.

INT: Ok, how do you think the media was handling the situation?

NAR: Huh. Well, I try to balance in my attitude. I know a lot of people became very, very upset with the media. And I can understand why, and I really think probably the media, if individuals within the media are honest, they recognize the weaknesses that led to their inability to communicate effectively. I come out of that experience myself. I had not a lot, but some, experience, quite a while ago as a newspaper reporter and so I try to be sympathetic to the problems the people in that business face. But I think it was pretty badly handled, I guess. It certainly led hundreds and thousands of people into a state of panic.

INT: In this immediate area?

NAR: Sure. Don't you think so? (Laughs) I can't ask you that! I think so. And also beyond the area. We felt that because one of my main tasks during that entire weekend was to try to assure parents calling in and then students who were elsewhere and began calling in. We were to the best of our abilities staying abreast of what was occurring that if a student and his or her parents felt that it was important to leave they should do so even though we had not yet been able to arrive at a decision with regard to what to do. About whether the College should continue to offer classes or not or even stay open. But in the meantime it was my task to try to tell those people what we knew and then also tell them that if they felt they should go, they should go. It wasn't me only personally telling people; I was charged with getting a lot of other people to man telephones and respond to people calling. So it seemed evident to us – to me – that the media was doing a lot to lead people into thinking that there was Three Mile Island and about an inch away was Carlisle and the College campus and some evil cloud was descending rapidly and unless we got ourselves out of here, it was curtains. I didn't believe that. I also maintain that same stance that it's important to be ready to leave and I have a responsibility to help get everybody in the place ready to get away when it becomes necessary to do so.

INT: What did you think about the government officials? You did say, something about that, could you expand more about your feelings toward the government official's handling of the situation?

NAR: (laughs) Well, I have this dreadful problem of trying to understand people and being compassionate with people in difficult situations and so on the one hand I, I guess I tried to recognize that NRC people and others within the federal government were certainly faced with a very difficult problem, but I, the longer it went on the less compassionate I felt. I felt they bungled some of what they announced and I remember the tireder I got with regard to our situation here, the more irritated I got with the evident

inability on the part of the government officials to really say what was happening. And that just said to me that there's some evidence to the fact that we don't really know all the answers about this, do we fellows? Specifically, my reaction to Thornburgh was more positive. I don't know what I base that on in particular, but he seemed to be able to, at least, take command in a very trying situation and somehow emit the feeling at least that he's going to do his damndest to find out what's going on and then advise people. He wasn't promising a thing, and I kind of respected that. I was grateful for that. He wasn't saying on the one hand, look, don't worry, there is no problem. On the other hand, he was saying, here's what we know and what we think at this time and I want you to have that information and we're doing our best to try to keep abreast. And in a couple of places, didn't he seem to stamp his foot a lot and say, I want to know, you'd better tell me. So I kind of reacted positively to him. I was, I guess, impressed by the fact that Carter and his wife made a symbolic gesture to come up, and then went far enough to go in the building which I think helped a lot of people, especially those people who lived over there. But it was Sunday, I think, by the time that happened. And there were a lot of hairy moments prior to that. I think he did that on the advice of counselors. That was o.k., but Thornburgh, as far as government people go, was the one who helped me the most. Nameless people within the regulatory commission and other components of government, I think, were in a quandary, and it bothered me the longer it went on.

INT: How about Metropolitan Edison? How do you think they handled it?

NAR: Badly.

INT: Badly?

NAR: And I did really feel resentments about conflicting reports and what seemed to me to be very, very evident reassurances based on very little actual evidence and what seemed to me to be very evident attempts to say things carefully, ah with, always with concern about image in mind. I try to be understanding, but I think that that attitude I developed quite quickly as a matter of fact. It didn't take me long to have the feeling that they didn't know what the heck they were talking about.

INT: Was there anyone that you found particularly reliable?

NAR: I've already mentioned Thornburgh.

INT: But most reliable?

NAR: Anyone at all?

INT: Yeah, the one that reassured you the most?

NAR: Well, I have mentioned already people within our physics department and I think Priscilla, in particular, Priscilla Laws particularly articulated well and thoroughly, so that in both of these comparatively small group meetings which I was fortunate enough to attend and then in the public meetings which began, incidentally, on her suggestion. I think that Friday night, Friday night the 30th was the first one. I think she did a

particularly good job of articulating what the situation was as they had understood it at that point. Both based on their own investigations and on what they were hearing from others. So she comes to mind as a very, very valuable resource for us at that time. Neil Wolf and John Luetzelschwab certainly were very valuable as well. But I thought Priscilla in particular was able to express herself in a way that most people understand and didn't do it just so people would get calm. Did it because she has this ongoing basic belief in intellectual honesty and wanted to share that. Interestingly, Friday when this all began to erupt again and when we began to gather people together again, she, as you probably know, she and Luetzelschwab went over there to take measurements and in calling back to Ken Laws, her husband, he then suggested to us that we have this open meeting later in the day at which they could present some of what they were learning. And it was her suggestion to him which was in turn passed on to us that led to that. A couple of the rest of us went through the motions of getting it together, but she ought to get the credit for making the suggestion. It was a good one, I think.

INT: Was there anyone you particularly mistrusted?

NAR: Well, those nameless individuals within Metropolitan Edison and within the NRC (which I'd never even thought of much before but I, as a lot of us did, came to know about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) and I guess I had the feeling there were other individuals representing other agencies in a related position and I, I had kind of had a vague suspicion about all of them. I'm trying to think if there were any particular individual either over there or over here that I mistrusted in particular and I can't think of any. I did not mistrust Mr. Denton, but I didn't have the same feeling of "the savior has arrived" that a lot of people began to develop. I think he was trying to do as capable a job as was possible and I gave him credit for that, and I didn't mistrust him, but I didn't look upon him as anybody with all the complete answers.

INT: Were you worried about the situation?

NAR: Well, sure. Um, sure I was worried about the situation. And I suppose the height of my worry came Friday night toward the latter part of Friday night, when things were so crisis ridden. My, my personal response was not to think the worst and feel certain that the worst was to happen. I did not feel it was necessary to leave Carlisle. I didn't, I really feel I am expressing the truth on this: I didn't have any feeling of resentment at all about anybody who did. And there were some around who felt real resentment about that, and there were others who felt "you fools, if you stay". But I, I really truthfully did not develop resentment. I just decided that each person has to respond in the way he or she feels is most appropriate and make those choices. And I was worried, but I had the feeling somehow that if it really became important to leave, (1) we would find that out because I felt we had developed a very, very good network and a very, very good process – my frustration was that we had difficulty in communicating that to others – but I felt secure in that, so my worry was tempered by the fact that I felt that we would have a way to preserve everybody from some horrible agony and long term and ultimate doom. (Laugh) So...

INT: What was your biggest worry?

NAR: Maybe it was communicating that tempered worry of my own to others who, I think, were far more distraught and even hopeless. There were, there were people I ran into that were just hopeless about the whole thing. They were insecure about whether they should leave or not. They felt his sense of hopelessness. And I felt, my biggest worry, was the impact that this thing was having on them.

INT: Did you notice changes in other people during the incident?

NAR: Oh yeah.

INT: What kinds of changes?

NAR: Well some people who are normally quite rational in their approach to situations who seemed to me to be irrational. Outright fear. Lack of understanding which brought on the fear. Lack of understanding of what the problem was based on a lack of education about it.

INT: Do you think they were lasting changes?

NAR: Well, subtly. I don't think it's helped those who are proponents of nuclear energy. I think there are an awful lot of people around at all levels of society who feel much less certain about how they feel themselves about nuclear energy. I think it ranges from outright fright in a very vocal ongoing change in their attitude to, to sort of a vague mistrust. So I suppose, yes, they're lasting factors.

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

NAR: In two ways that I think of. One is that it reinforced my own quiet concerns about nuclear, the development of nuclear energy without firm and certain knowledge that the by-products of that development are unknown. That was simple reinforced. It wasn't TMI that brought it on. TMI just was an uncomfortably close example to me of the kinds of unknowns that exist and my biggest concern, I guess, if TMI were started up again would not be the fact that it is now functioning again and radiation is flying out of into the sky. My biggest concern will still be what are they going to do with waste that develops that they are going to have to buy or burn or somehow get rid of so that people twenty or fifty years from now aren't affected in a negative way. I mean, let's be honest. Aren't having leukemia and stuff. And I do worry about that. That's reinforced. And my second – what was the question: How, how have I changed?

INT: Yeah, has it changed you in a lasting way?

NAR: In a more positive sense, although it's kind of ironic and unfortunate it had to be the TMI thing, I think I learned more than I ever had before that I can respond quickly and, I think, reasonable effectively in a situation of that kind and put to work talents that I have that are helpful. So I feel confident about that. (Unintelligible) But that was sort of reinforcement too, because there have been other situations in which I have learned that, but this was particularly – it was pretty automatic. (Laughs) There wasn't a lot of time to decide.

INT: Yeah, Ok. Did you make any plans that you wouldn't ordinarily have made?

NAR: Yes. For the benefit of my family when I went home Friday night, I (number one) went to the grocery store and – I ordinarily go to the grocery store with a list that has been made up by my wife and dutifully take off the shelves what she has suggested would be appropriate – I had no list. I simply went to the grocery store and took things off the shelves and had a big basketful, got them in bags and stuck them in the trunk of the car (number two) I went to the bank and withdrew more money than I ordinarily would and (number three) I went home to where she and my children, with my agreement, were finishing putting stuff in bags because I wanted them to be ready to be able to leave in the car. I left the groceries in the car. We put some water in bottles in the car. I wanted them to be able to leave via that form of transportation. Certainly that was different from a normal Friday night. I, ok, walked the dog, which is normal Friday night activity. Remember thinking: This is sort of unbelievable, all this happening here. Here I am still walking the dog and I want to continue walking the dog, and I like it here and I don't want the worst to happen and I really don't think the worst is going to happen, but I'm going to be prepared to the extent that I can for them to leave and got to a house that we have access to up in the mountains. That's 125 miles away. I did not plan to leave until whatever responsibilities I had here were completed and it was appropriate to. I don't look upon myself as being noble in saying that. That seemed to me to be...to make sense.

INT: What kind of things did you think of taking?

NAR: Well that's a fun question, because I remember thinking at the time: very basic and unimportant things in terms of sentimental value. And I remember thinking: isn't this dumb jus in case we never could come back because all we will have in a conglomerate of sweaters and cans of beans and stuff that are really pretty ordinary. I, I remember thinking that we ought to plan more carefully, perhaps, and get together a few really important family items, but we didn't.

INT: You actually didn't take any of those things?

NAR: No, well, no well, I did. I got what family papers existed at home. Not much existed at home. The rest is all in the bank vault. So I did throw that in. That's the extent of it.

INT: Did you leave the area at all?

NAR: I stayed the whole time.

INT: Did your family leave?

NAR: My wife left on ah Sunday morning because by that time she had really developed a sense of insecurity, and she has a lot of family over in Lemoyne and Camp Hill and New Cumberland and they were leaving. One sister who felt pretty insecure about the whole situation who lives in Lemoyne left with her son and went up to this house in the mountains and had been on the phone with Jane and so Jane decided to go be with her. I

don't know whether she would have left, had it not been for that sister's phone call. But that turned the tide for her. She went, not without a lot of misgivings because (one) I didn't think I should go and (two) she really felt as though, well she felt guilt, I think, to a degree, not about me, but more generally that in a situation of that kind you ought to help. But there seemed to be no way that she could help and there were some people in her immediate family who seemed to need help and so I think it's fair to say that she went there for that reason. She left for that reason. She was scared. My children were not, and they did not want to go, but she wanted them to go with her. So off they went and the dog and cats stayed with me.

INT: Were you looking at anyone or watching anyone to decide when you should leave or if you should leave?

NAR: I was, I had faith in the fact that if a decision at Dickinson College was that we all should leave that is when I should leave and I felt that I really ought not to leave until all students who remained at Dickinson College had been safely ah gotten away.

INT: So you thought that you had certain responsibilities toward the college?

NAR: Yeah, and again not out of any noble martyr complex, simply because the nature of my job is such that whether there is a crisis or whether it's a normal day the nature of my job is such that you're in a reasonably responsible role and that's what you're expected to do and so from my attitude you do it.

INT: Did you find that it was a conflict between your responsibilities toward your family and those toward the college?

NAR: No, because I felt that I had adequate preparations made for my family. We were lucky. We had that house up in Laporte. My wife's a capable person and so I, I think my sense of responsibility focused right here. And I somehow did not feel as though – I didn't know for certain what might occur, but I did not have a feeling of hopelessness or fright or doom. I had the feeling that we would get together again even if the worst case happened. I have a feeling of resentment about what apparently could happen to the environment which I love, which is part of my existence, here in the Cumberland Valley and central Pennsylvania.

INT: So you were picturing the effects of radiation on the environment?

NAR: That I resented. I didn't want this campus to suddenly become a dead place. The Susquehanna Valley.

INT: Is that what you thought would happen?

NAR: I didn't think it would happen, but people were saying that in the worst case, if some bubble burst or whatever that an area could be affected. And, and I didn't feel completely certain that the long term effects would not include inability to use anything. Of course, it was an immediate thing in the terms of my house and all that's in my house that I like and my college which happens to be my alma mater as well as the place I earn

my bread. I resented all of that. This lovely countryside. I didn't want to see all of that go to waste. But I don't know whether I really believed it was going to. I just, I knew I would be awfully angry if that would be the end result of too much effort to develop nuclear energy to fast.

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

NAR: Mental pictures? (Sighs) Well, yeah, but they weren't of the, I mean I had this vision of lots of people in hard hats running around turning valves and things and also talking in that kind of monotone gobbeldy-gook that people in technical roles seem very comfortable with. You know the kinds of voice that come back from rockets to the moon and such. That seems to me to be a way of life for, for that category of individuals, people who involve themselves or become part of that operation. And my mental vision would be of that type of person sending out very matter of factly reports about the fact that the bubble has just expanded another thousand feet or something. (Laughs)
(Unintelligible)

INT: Do you think that anything there that happened has affected your health?

NAR: No.

INT: Not now or in the future?

NAR: Not now or in the future. Your question is that happened then. I'm still worried about waste. But that's a separate issue from TMI in that sense. I don't know what might be affecting my health in terms of what is buried somewhere even a thousand miles from here.

INT: But what actually happened?

NAR: What actually happened during that time period I really feel no concern about its affect on my health. Now I was twenty-three or five miles or whatever it is upwind and I have a lot of faith in what we were learning from people like Priscilla Laws with regard to effects of what was happening during that period on people in Carlisle. And me, specifically.

INT: What aspects of your life do you think may have been affected?

NAR: Well, it's another notch on the side, on the negative side, in terms of being suspicious of society's ability, maybe the government's ability, but more generally society's ability to handle a highly technical complicated life situation. I don't know whether I can be more specific than that.

INT: Not unless you can think of anything in your actually life-style that has changed in result of that?

NAR: No. I like to be forward looking and positive. I suppose that's kind of dumb and naïve and not being chic, but it's my nature, and I don't like to continue to have to

recognize that. I don't like to be negative. I think I'm rational, but I don't like to be negative. I, I, I want people to be healthful and successful and loving and compassionate and interact well and all the rest. I want that and I like to think that we can do it. And so TMI becomes a...another example of inability to do that as successfully as I would like.

INT: If the worst had occurred, what do you think would have happened? What is your image of the worst?

NAR: My image of the worst centers on my understanding on what meltdown would be, and there's no point going into the technical details, which would force a relatively rapid evacuation of a ten mile radius of the place or perhaps less so a twenty mile, and to me that seems to be an awful big challenge. I guess I, if I'm honest, have the feeling that while we felt pretty good about our preparations with regard to that by Sunday noon and even before. I'd say if that happened Saturday we could have even managed it here in Carlisle. But I had the feeling more generally that there were a lot of areas closer in that were not ready at all for that. So I guess I envisioned a lot of confused people trying to get themselves moved in one way or another and not succeeding. Ah, that would be the immediate worst case problem and then longer term and much worse I guess, in my mind, if the worst case included this inability to come back in and use an area, a geographical area, and all that would mean to people's lives.

INT: How do you think it would have affected your health?

NAR: My particular health, I think, it would have affected mostly in terms of getting awfully tired out and frustration comes with tiredness and less ability to function effectively comes with tiredness. I was not, not worrying about my health in terms of radiation sickness or whatever. Worst case to me did not imply that I was sure to end up fifteen or twenty years from now with cancer.

INT: Mmm Hmm, Ok, did you have any concern about things like food or meats?

NAR: No.

INT: Milk from the area?

NAR: No.

INT: No?

NAR: Again based on information that in particular I was hearing from people I have great respect for at the college.

INT: Did you think of your own death? Or that of others?

NAR: No. Not really.

INT: You thought you would survive this thing?

NAR: I did.

INT: Ok, what kind of things reassured you?

NAR: Well, I was very constantly engaged in efforts related to the whole situation that were combating what was occurring over there. And I think that gave me a great sense of reassurance, that this was a “toughie” and I’m frustrated about my inability to communicate effectively with most people with regard to preparations to fight it – this toughie – but I feel a sense of satisfaction about the way we are functioning to do that. And, ah, so it just didn’t leave me to worry, and I guess more generally I don’t worry very easily. I don’t jump to quick conclusions very often. I, I just don’t. My reaction time is slow, I guess. (Laughs)

INT: Did you think about God during the incident?

NAR: Ah, not really.

INT: Did you pray?

NAR: No. I don’t know what all that means, really. I think in my own way I thought about looking for a sense of strength because I wanted to function effectively, but I don’t pray in the traditional sense. I guess that’s a form of prayer.

INT: Ok, you were saying that your job was definitely affected by TMI and how you pushed everything else aside. In what ways was it affected? Did you have things to do that you otherwise wouldn’t do?

NAR: My job? Oh, god, yes. It pushed everything back about two weeks. And we felt the effects of that right through to the end of the semester and to this day. My job is one in which I’m asked to and expected to implement and facilitate an awful lot that keeps not only this office functioning, but offices and efforts and committees with which we are engaged. And because TMI interrupted whatever we were in the midst of all those various functions simply stopped and uh we didn’t pick up on them until the middle to end of the following week, because that whole week even after the fear subsided – I’m talking about the general fear – was filled, as you probably know, with a different kind of communal functioning, and I was very much involved in all that and so it affected my job tremendously because we had to pick up and try to catch up and we are very much at the center of developing a lot of details that make Commencement Weekend occur. And it requires a lot of advance planning. It’s not just Commencement Ceremony itself, but an awful lot of events related to that whole week, beginning with the Board of Trustee meeting earlier on. And I was really in the stages of beginning to develop a lot of that when TMI occurred. So we had to work hard to catch up.

INT: Did you have any ideas about how it would best be to behave in a situation like this? You said at one point how your biggest worry was that you would transmit fear to other people. Did you have a feeling how one should behave?

NAR: I think that you didn't hear me correctly. I was frustrated about my inability to communicate my feeling of, of security and reassurance about the way we were responding as an organization. I didn't, I don't think I worried about whether I was communicating fear. It was the other. I didn't think I did a very good job articulating to others who were expressing fear.

INT: So you were feeling that you should be reassuring people who were expressing that fear?

NAR: Well, I didn't want to be phony about it. I didn't want to just reassure for the sake of reassuring and lie. I just wanted to be as rational as possible and try to communicate to others what I was hearing and assessing and ah thereby able to feel relatively calm and effective in the face of a very difficult situation. I can't remember what your question was.

INT: Did you have a feeling about how it would best be to behave?

NAR: Oh, ok. Well, there it is. I felt, as I feel in any situation, that to the best of one's ability we ought to, we ought not to jump to conclusions quickly even when fast decisions are necessary. I recognize the need for fast decisions sometimes, but somehow we have to balance that need with a recognition that we need sufficient time to know for sure that decision is going to be the best one. And you sometimes have to, to hold off a feeling of frustration or fear while you're assessing that, and that is the way I wanted to operate in this situation.

INT: Do you think you did that?

NAR: I think so.

INT: Did the event bring to mind any kind of past experiences that you may have had?

NAR: Gee. Not that I can think of?

INT: Did it bring to mind any historical events or anything that you may have seen as similar? This is at the time.

NAR: No, I've never been in a pending flood situation or wartime situation when bombers were reported to be coming. Have I? I don't think so. I guess the closest I can come to it is a few times during the period in our lives when we lived in the Midwest and you get used to a kind of storm warning situation like this and you had this vague knowledge that you have to pay attention and that a real disaster could occur rather suddenly. And ah we would go about preparations for that kind of thing. But I have actually felt more fear in that situation, two or three times when the wind would begin to come up and reports were that there were tornado sightings and that sort of thing than I felt anytime during TMI.

INT: So (unintelligible).

NAR: I did yeah...they were more immediate, of course.

INT: Did you think of any TV shows or movies or books or stories?

NAR: (laughs) Joseph Conrad's – what's the title –I don't know, I can't remember whether I thought of it or somebody thought of it for me – the point of the story was do you jump ship or do you stay with the ship. And I remember talking about that with some person, but I can't remember whether it occurred to me and whether somebody else thought of it and I remembered reading it. We talked about that and related that to what people were doing in this situation.

INT: How did you relate it?

NAR: Well, some, some people were choosing to leave and some people weren't and my response to that was sort of an interested observer without many judgments. It was interesting to see how various people react, but I wasn't making any judgments about them. I remember the person to whom I was talking was very, making very specific judgments. And so we talked about that.

INT: Did you find yourself singing any songs?

NAR: Oh, yeah. I love to sing.

INT: Did it have anything to do with TMI, anything you related?

NAR: But I'm sure that in times of highs I would be chortling away and singing. It's one of the things I do. But I can't remember specifically what I sang.

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

NAR: Daydreams. I probably did. I'm not very good at this. No, I don't remember.

INT: How about sleeping dreams? Do you remember any of those?

NAR: No.

INT: Was your sleep disturbed at all?

NAR: No. But I was awfully exhausted, so when I finally did hit the pillow I fell asleep, through sheer exhaustion, knowing that early on the next morning I was going to have to be up and about.

INT: Did you hear any jokes about Three Mile Island?

NAR: I knew you were going to ask that, and now you're going to ask me what they were! Right. And of course I heard jokes, but I'm very bad at remembering jokes except the thing that I'll never forget was – it's not exactly a joke, but it's people talking things they were beginning to hear. And ah frankly, it was Lonna talking about the beginnings of what they were already beginning to collect. One woman was sure her bird was ill.

And, as only Prof. Malmshheimer could, she sat there and said, “And our snake shed!” And I will never forget that line. It was just beautiful. It was not a joke. It was just her way of being funny. It was just great. I wish I could remember jokes, but I never can.

INT: Well you said about upwind and how that turned into a funny term. In what way? How was it used?

NAR: Well, was it funny or was it reassuring? I’d never thought about being upwind from a nuclear radiation plant. So I thought of it not so much in terms of humor, but I thought that because we are upwind we are in a better position to serve as an evacuation point and we are far enough away so that ah unless there’s are real wacky unusual change in the weather, we’re in less immediate danger than the less fortunate people downwind. That was what I was thinking about.

INT: When you heard these jokes and Professor Malmshheimer talking, did you find the things funny?

NAR: Yeah. I mean, I didn’t die laughing. The problem never left my mind, and I guess I felt a little guilty sometimes, but I also felt it was important for all of us to maintain balance, and humor helped us maintain balance. A sense of the ridiculous, in my viewpoint, helps to, helps people to continue to operate effectively and together.

INT: Is that why you think people were joking?

NAR: That’s why I definitely think people were joking, and I was for it because of that even though I had trouble sometimes laughing as hard as some other people. But I laughed. I felt it was important to have humor.

INT: Do you remember any joking from other crises of any kind? Kennedy assassination or Jonestown or something like that?

NAR: Gosh. No. And I can’t imagine anybody joking in either of those situations. Either one of those.

INT: Ok, because of the seriousness of them?

NAR: Oh. The tragedy. The outright tragedy. I can’t imagine joking about that.

INT: Ok, you said that you had developed an opinion about nuclear energy before the accident happened. Did the accident_ by the time everything was over had your opinion changed or been really strengthened?

NAR: As I said before, it has been reinforced.

INT: Can you elaborate a little bit?

NAR: My concern prior to TMI had focused on what we do, as a society, with the waste that seems to be a by-product of the nuclear energy plants. And it re-informed my

concern about that and the impact of that waste on not only our own lives, but generations hence. I think we have a responsibility to those future generations. I don't think it's a – I think it's important to have a responsibility to those future generations. And I know that those future generations are going to want energy in order to function properly, but I, I think it's more important for them to have life and I want to be sure that we can guarantee them that type of life. So I'm insecure about that, and I've been reinforced about my concern. I think there's another worry and that is – I've begun to question more the right of a combination of industry and government to decide that (one) nuclear power plants will be built and (two) this is where we'll build them without what I guess I feel are sufficient degrees of interaction with the residents of the immediate area where those things are going to be built. I don't think I thought of that before TMI much.

INT: Now you definitely do?

NAR: I think so. And I think those agencies have to recognize why a lot of people feel that they have a right to play a part in that. Because it's their lives that are going to be affected even if not immediately from any radiation, their lives are affected simply by the towers looming up over their rooftops. And farmlands. If they decide they're going to stay there, they have to live there with a sense of knowledge that it's right next to them, and so they have, I think, a right and I think those companies and agencies have to recognize why it is that way.

INT: Is there anything else you'd like to say about this? Anything I may have forgotten?

NAR: You're a very good interviewer.

INT: Have I forgotten anything?

NAR: I don't think so. I guess I'd like to say without trying to sound like a fool, a by-product for this place of that awful incident was the sense of community which developed. Were you here?

INT: Yes I was.

NAR: Didn't you feel that?

INT: Yes.

NAR: I got a very good feeling about that.

INT: Did you eat in the cafeteria?

NAR: Sure. And I interacted with students which I, unfortunately, don't get enough time to do, given the nature of my responsibility. I work at colleges because I not only like students but I believe in this kind of situation for them, and the nature of my responsibilities is such that I don't have a lot of good reasons for interaction. Well, that week, suddenly everything else was thrust aside and the opportunities existed, and I loved it. And I guess it was selfish in that respect. But I think that they were benefiting from

seeing a lot of the rest of us functioning in a different way. So a real sense of the community develops and where we saw students emerging and offering talents and time and energy, and they saw us doing that, and that, that was awfully good. Creativity that emerged that weekend, spontaneously, was fantastically good. So in that sense, we profited tremendously. I think more narrowly, those of us in the administrative role learned that we could function real, I honestly feel we functioned pretty effectively in terms of having not just the institution's welfare in mind, but people at the institution in mind. And we, if we're talking about reinforcement, it said something to us in terms of how we've learned to function as a unit in a crisis ridden situation so that when one did come about without a lot of confusion and difficulty we knew how to get it together. And I think there are some examples elsewhere in the vicinity where that wasn't true at all. I don't know exactly where. But I have the feeling that some studies could be made, you'd find some other groups of people in similar situations who were less used to interacting and, NAR and bringing off something in a communal or team-like fashion than we are, and as a result either closed their doors completely early on or didn't know how to communicate well with their constituencies because they weren't as used to working together, or even anticipating one another. And I felt, I feel good about that.

INT: It gives you a sense of pride. Not only in yourself, but in your community.

NAR: Yes, a sense of satisfaction rather than pride. I don't, I'm afraid of that word. But satisfaction, certainly.

INT: Is there anything else?

NAR: I don't think so. Some poor typist will have to do all of this. Let's leave her alone or him alone.