

DEAR MERRITT, JUST A QUICK NOTE. WE WENT TO SEE "E.T." THE OTHER NIGHT, AND YOU KNOW THE PART WHERE HE IS LOST AND ALL HE WANTS TO DO



WELL, I THOUGHT OF YOU, AND I JUST WANTED TO WRITE AND TELL YOU HOW MUCH I MISS YOU AND LOVE YOU.





Other nations do better in inflation-fight: report

United Press International WASHINGTON — A con-ressional study says other nans are doing a better job than he United States in fighting in-

Joint Economic Committee Chairman Rep. Henry Reuss, D-Vis., said Monday "other industrialized nations have learned that a climate of coopertion and consensus in the fight ainst inflation is far superior economic policy which fates llions of workers to unemwment lines.

He said leaders of some naons "use all the tools available ranging from the art of perasion to outright wage and orice controls — to keep inflan at an acceptable level. The study, prepared by the

examined the wage and price policies of Australia, Austria, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands and West Germany. Reuss said each country

sought to have a wage and price policy that minimized the social and economic costs imposed by anti-inflation policies, which succeed by creating an economic slowdown and unemployment.

Australia monitored prices and wages; it was only the use of compulsory arbitration that held down inflation and forestalled labor strife.

The report said Austria's Joint Commission on Wages and Prices went beyond controls to become "a system of economic and social partnership" that has been a major factor in damping

The productivity.

Perhaps the best lesson to be the 1940s

Canada, the report said, has alternated periods of voluntary policies with periods of mandatory controls and found controls became increasingly unpopular the longer they lasted.

Japan's experience with inflation, the report said, appears to be the most interesting because it has been able to maintain "remarkable price stability" at the consumer level.

The island nation has supplemented traditional monetary tools with price controls and a system of labor relations that keeps wages in line with changes

Congressional Research Service, examined the wage and price tating swings" in the Austrian the report said, is that control of the report said, is that control of inflation is less dependent on the government's power to set prices and wages than "on developing a consensus between employers and unions that their own best interest will be served by accepting the interrelation between wages and prices and by attempting to maintain a balance between them."

> In West Germany, the report said, there is a greater "spirit of cooperation and trust" between management and labor than in many other countries - probably due in part to a "fear of social conflict" and in part to cooperation born in "the need to rebuild the war-torn economy of

Nuke plants unsafe, Nader group says

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A Ralph
Nader group has charged that a
draft of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission study records 141

nuclear plant incidents that could have led to a meltdown between 1969 and 1979 - one of which was at Three Mile Is-

A meltdown, which did not occur at Three Mile Island, would occur if overheated reactor core fuel rods melted. Theoretically, the rods would then melt through the reactor base and into the ground, leading to a large, hazardous release of radioactivity

Richard Udell, a nuclear safety analyst for Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project, said the study showed "nuclear power plants are riddled with design errors and their operation plagued by equipment fai-

lures and human errors."

The Jan. 15, 1981, study was done at the Oak Ridge, Tenn., National Laboratory for the NRC's Division of Systems Reliability Research.

The researchers screened 18,000 "events" — most of minor significance — reported by plant operators and gave 400 incidents a "detailed review."

According to the draft, "141 events were ... potential accident precursors (to severe core damage)." The incidents were distributed among 58 reactors, some of which are no longer oper-

Donald Winston, spokesman for the Atomic Industrial Forum, the main nuclear industry association, said the law re-

"different spokes for

different folks"

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846-BIKE

quires reporting of minor incidents, such as blown fuses, that are "significant only because they apply to a nuclear plant.'

He said between 2,500 and 3,500 such incidents are reported yearly.

According to the Oak Ridge draft report, almost all the incidents involve one of four accident scenarios:

•Loss of main feedwater. In a nuclear reactor, feedwater flows into a reactor vessel, where heat turns it into steam to generate electricity. Feedwater also performs a safety function by removing heat from the reactor core. Loss of feedwater can lead to overheating of the core.

Loss of coolant, caused by a

leak or valve problem, also can lead to overheating of the reactor core. At Three Mile Island, in Middletown, Pa., a coolant loss in 1979 damaged 90 percent of the uranium fuel reactor

•Steam line break. A break in the main steam line of a nuclear

EATING OUT IS FUN

reactor could cause an excessive temperature drop in water that cools the core. If heat is carried away too fast from a reactor. operators may have difficulty stopping the atomic chain reac-

•Loss of offsite power. When a nuclear plant must shut down, it relies on other plants — offsite electricity — to power its safety systems. If offsite power is lost, diesel generators at the nuclear plant are relied upon for backup

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Labor Department bureaucrats sidelined, paid for no work

United Press International WASHINGTON — The

eagan administration, at taxyers' expense, has sidelined highly paid career Labor Deartment policy experts in a love said designed to increase e number of political appoin-

The veteran bureaucrats ave been assigned little or no ork for the past nine months a cost to taxpayers of

One of the employees said he d several colleagues — paid 40,000 to \$50,000 a year ent much of their office time cently reading newspapers, oning their stockbrokers or scussing their futures over

107 Dowling Road

Donovan issued a directive requiring 16 of the officials to be transferred to new jobs June 28 - putting many of them in roles in which they have no expertise

charge the transfers are an illegal attempt by the administration to increase the number of political appointees in key posts.

John Cogan argues the transfers were forced by a reorganization of the policy office and budget-

cutting moves. Several employees, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals, said they got no response when they asked for work. One said he felt the admi-Labor Secretary Raymond career officials to carry out its

693-0352

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in their jobs during the Nixon who are political appointees." years.

At least one lawyer in the Office of Personnel Manageor prior experience.
Several of those involved ment and an aide to a House civil service subcommittee say it is improper and probably illegal to deny work assignments to career specialists.

Cogan denied any political motivation, but said, "I want to say candidly that I do believe But Assistant Labor Secretary that a policy shop in any department should have at least some quarters building.

policies, although many worked fraction of its staff being people

necessary because the policy office's research role was trimmed and its staff reduced from

Among those reassigned are two officers of Local 12 of the American Federation of Government Employees, representing 5,000 to 6,000 employees at the Labor Department's head-

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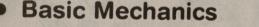
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