

Health official claims forgery

United Press International
SALT LAKE CITY — A former public health official says his signature was forged on two reports praising the federal government for protecting the residents of St. George, Utah, from atomic fallout.

Harry Butrico, a retired Public Health Service engineer, monitored fallout levels in St. George during the 1953 "Harry" atomic detonation at the Nevada Test Site. He testified Tuesday before U.S. District Judge Bruce Jenkins in a lawsuit brought by some 1,200 people who lived downwind from the blasts.

Butrico testified none of the upwind radiation measuring stations warned him of the approaching radioactive fallout, and St. George residents were

not advised to take cover until after the dark cloud began raining particles over the town and readings on his equipment "went right off the scale."

A report bearing Butrico's signature, however, detailed the amazing success of a take-cover order by the Atomic Energy Commission. The Bethesda, Md., man said he never signed the report and had not seen it until two years ago — 27 years after the test he monitored.

He said he was surprised and shocked when attorney Stewart Udall Monday showed him a second report bearing his name that detailed his visit with a Mr. Emmert regarding the man's radiation sickness, and Butrico's subsequent report of the meeting to his superiors.

"I wracked my brain trying to

remember," he said, "but no flashback came to me."

Then, he said, his wife provided a "piece of the puzzle" — an old newspaper clipping quoting the AEC as saying he visited Emmert at a local mine.

"I don't know what their motive is" for putting the false information in the report, he said, except to make the AEC look good.

Residents of the southwestern Utah town about 150 miles east of the testing range were told to stay indoors, after gamma radiation levels reached high levels, he said.

They are among downwind residents alleging cancer resulted from the government negligently exposing them to radiation from above-ground atomic blasts in the 1950s and

early 1960s.

Butrico emphasized most of the residents had been exposed to an hour of the high radiation levels before the word finally got out, and St. George resembled a ghost town.

"The only thing that was amazing is we got a city the size of St. George to go through that exercise," he said. "However, it was obvious to me that not everybody took cover."

He said he and the sheriff drove around the deserted streets and saw children playing at a nearby school at recess. He said he knew of no attempts to notify school officials of the danger although a general take-cover announcement was made on a local radio station.

Udall, attorney for the plaintiffs, quoted from the minutes of

a workshop attended by Butrico two years ago, regarding the atomic tests in the "Upshot Knothole" series, of which the May 19, 1953, "Harry" test was one.

"The thing we have to admit is we got the population of St. George indoors too late, just like we stopped the vehicles too late," William S. Johnson, the RAD Safe Operations Officer in charge of atomic test safety, said at the workshop.

Automobiles were stopped at several roadblocks and checked for radiation, Butrico testified at the non-jury trial. But while the vehicles were washed to remove radioactive residue, the people were not told to discard their clothing and bathe to remove the fallout particles from their bodies.

GNP is weak but growing

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Commerce Department Tuesday estimated the nation's gross national product, although weakened by recession, grew at a 1.5 percent rate in the third quarter, following a revised 2.1 percent second quarter growth.

Both the current quarter estimate, known within the government as the "flash" GNP report, and the final revision in the last quarter's figures were stronger than expected by most leading private forecasters.

But the figures may not be strong enough to prove the recession is actually fading away.

The revisions also strengthened the government's measure of corporate profits after taxes to show that they increased 1.1 percent in the second quarter, instead of decreasing 0.8 percent as last reported.

The increase was a dramatic turnaround from the first quarter of the 1982, when corporate profits plunged 20.6 percent.

Although expanding, the current third quarter GNP estimate of 1.5 percent annual growth, and the second quarter final revisions of 2.1 percent annual growth are still far less than the 4 to 5 percent growth economists consider necessary to keep unemployment from getting worse.

Gross national product is the value of the nation's goods and services as distributed throughout the economy, to consumers, suppliers and manufacturers.

To arrive at the percentages the government attempts to measure changes in prices throughout the economy.

The inflation figure used in the second quarter, dubbed the "implicit price deflator," was just 4.6 percent.

The fixed-weighted price index, which the department says is a more accurate measure of prices, showed lower inflation rate of 4.1 percent.

As recently as last year's fourth quarter those rates were nearly twice as high.

Cable car system closes for repairs

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — The last cable car to trundle over the city's steep hills for the next two years rolled into the storage barn early Wednesday and the nostalgic but worn-out transit system was shut down for a \$58.2 million repair job.

Hundreds of fans in a festive mood waited for hours to catch a ride on the final runs of the two lines.

"There's always the danger that three or four years later they cable cars still won't be back," said Bill Gore, who, along with several friends dressed in white tie and tails, and sipped champagne while waiting for the ride.

"You don't want to wake up three years from now and realize the cable cars are gone and you didn't enjoy the last night,"

he said.

The last car on the Powell Market line was crowded beyond usual limits for the run into the barn. There, the machinery that drives a continuous cable that tugs the cars was turned off with the push of a button.

"I'm saddened that it was the last ride, but I'm glad they're going to rebuild the system," said W.J. Batiste, gripman on the final run. "It's long needed."

On Tuesday the city gave the 109-year-old system a festive send-off with a Mardi Gras-style parade of 34 elaborately decorated cable cars. The cars, some with jazz bands and some with jazz bands and some with jazz bands, were in turn-of-the-century costumes rolled past reviewing stands where the lines intersect on Nob Hill.

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