

Report: workers not exposed to hazardous waste

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Kelly Air Force Base workers who handled dummy nuclear warheads in the 1950s were not exposed to hazardous levels of radiation, Air Force officials say.

The statement was contained in a position paper aimed at refuting reports that five former workers in a special unit at the base have since died of cancer. There also have been reports that other workers have suffered from cancer but are still alive.

The former Kelly employees worked in a special section operated between 1952 and 1963 where dummy nuclear warheads were repaired and cleaned of depleted uranium dust.

"Our records indicate that workers in close proximity to these devices wore the appropriate protection such as smocks, gloves and respirator," the position paper said.

"The process was confined to a single, small room in Bldg. 1556 and only one or two employees were assigned to the process at any one time."

"Medical records at the base do not indicate that any employee was exposed to a hazardous level of radiation."

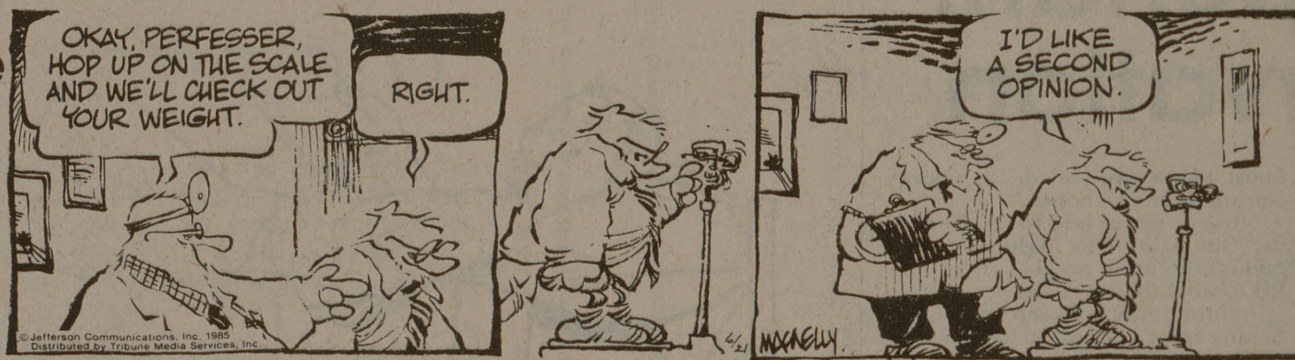
Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez has asked the Air Force for a report on uranium safety precautions taken at the Kelly facility.

The San Antonio congressman requested the report and an immediate investigation in a letter to Maj. Gen. Clifford Rees, legislative liaison director for the secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

News reports of the deaths surfaced after Felix Garcia, who worked at the directorate from 1952 to 1956, began checking on the health of former workers after reading about toxic waste dumps at Air Force bases.

Garcia claims workers wore no protective masks while they were cleaning the dummy warheads, used in training exercises.

SHOE



by Jeff MacNelly

Kissinger calls for hostages' release

Associated Press

DALLAS — Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger called for the unconditional release of the American hostages in Beirut Thursday and said the United States cannot give in to terrorists' demands without jeopardizing the lives of other Americans abroad.

Kissinger, speaking to about 7,000 Lions Club convention members, also supported some type of punishment for terrorists who attack Americans.

But Kissinger would not comment on what type of retaliation should be made. He said he was "not recommending military action at this point."

"The terrorists must fail and eventually, in due course, must be punished," Kissinger said.

"But I'm not saying we should stop dropping bombs all over the place."

Kissinger urged support for President Reagan's position of not giving in to terrorist demands, warning that abandonment of that policy would clear the way for other attacks on U.S. citizens.

If the U.S. gives in once, there will be no end to it," he said.

"There should be no negotiations and no concessions," Kissinger said. "And at the appropriate time, it must be made clear that attack on Americans is not free."

"Time is of the importance," he said.

Kissinger said the federal government also should not ask the hostages to give in to demands that some Shiite prisoners be released from detention in Israel.

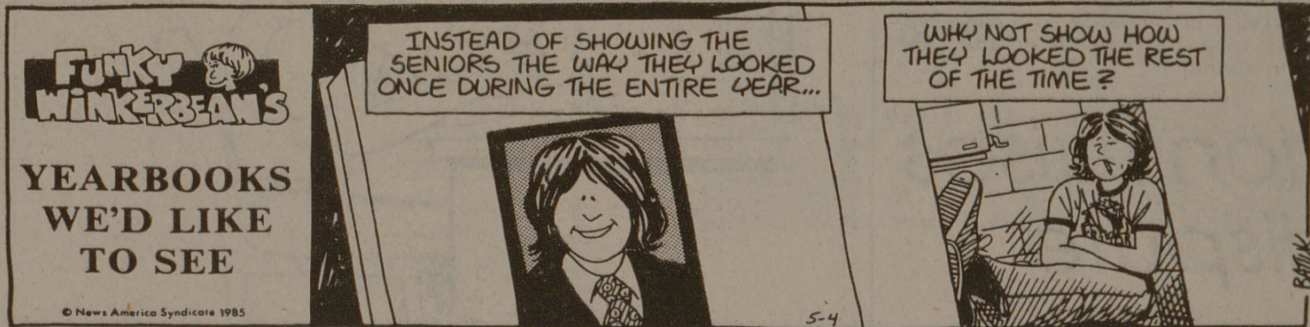
But the longer the American main hostages, the harder it will be to secure their safe release, he said.

Kissinger said the terrorists humiliating the U.S. by having the hostages "trodded out" to meet with the media and demand were all right.

More than 30,000 Lions and their families are in Dallas this week for the service organization's 68th national convention. President Reagan is scheduled to address the group Friday.

Funky Winkerbean

by Tom Batiuk



Texas prisons

Governor predicts great things for TDC

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White said Thursday the new director of the state prison system working with White's appointments to the Texas Department of Corrections' board should result in "by far the best prison of any in the nation."

"I think you will find morale is improving every day," White told a news conference.

White said he thought Lane McCotter, 44, would be "not only a good but a great leader for the department."

McCotter, former commander of the armed services maximum security prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., was named director following the resignation Monday of Raymond Proconier, 61, who had been director 13 months.

White has named five of the nine members of the TDC board.

"The prison problem is diverse and complicated, and I have made every effort to appoint people to the board with business talents and organizational talents," White said.

"I think you will find we have leadership not just at the top but all throughout the system. We have a good list of employees there, dedicated to their jobs. They not only risk their lives, but they have given their lives."

"There will be a combination of events occurring to make certain that everyone in the prison recognizes that our Department of Corrections is running that prison," he said.

White also said he planned to work for statewide acceptance of the mandatory seat belt law when it becomes effective Sept. 1. He said he probably would make special television appeals for compliance.

"I am anxious to let the people know the benefits of wearing your seat belts," he said.

Vice cop: Houston an adult bookstore haven

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston is among the nation's leading outlets for pornography with the average adult bookstore grossing as much as \$3,000 a day, a Houston vice officer says.

Police Vice Sgt. Bill Brown said Wednesday his survey of 10 major

American cities shows Houston has 47 adult bookstore-peep shows, compared with 38 for Chicago and Los Angeles, both of which are larger cities than Houston.

Denver has 24 adult bookstores, Dallas has 20, Miami eight and Boston seven, Brown said his research with police departments in those cities showed.

New York and Philadelphia had no figures on bookstores, he said.

Brown said bookstore-peep show operators are attracted to Houston "because there is a wide-open element here, it's a transient city and a booming city with an 'anything-goes' attitude."

The sergeant said about a half-

dozen people operate Houston's adult bookstores.

"For the most part they consider themselves businessmen, in what is obviously a very profitable business," Brown said, estimating gross revenues between \$2,000 and \$3,000 a day.



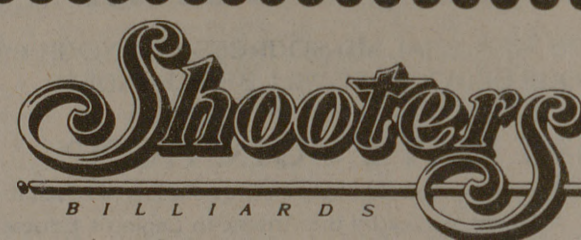
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