

3, Howard Road,
London E17
29-3-81

Comments on: 'A Report on the Awareness of the Transportation of Nuclear Waste Through Newham'

There are two main areas of the Report on which I'd like to comment: firstly the section on 'The Anti Nuclear Groups' (starting page 6) and secondly, the section of Recommendations (commencing page 23).

Re: The Anti Nuclear Groups

- 1) I feel it would have been constructive to point out that, partly due to the LRWTC report and to 'Carrying the Can', the GLC is now seriously considering pressing for a public enquiry into the issue and that four GLC Party Manifestos (Conservative, Ecology, Labour and Liberal) all contain reference to the rerouting of nuclear waste away from London.
- 2) Reference to the Early Day Motion, No. 16, presented to Parliament by John Tilley M.P. (after considerable pressure, as I understand it, from Wandsworth Ecology Party and LRWTC) calling for a public enquiry into nuclear waste transport, would also help to show the effect of the two reports mentioned above. (Source: 'Routing Out', Feb 1981: 44, Josephine Ave., London SW2)

Re: Recommendations

I felt that the referendum is a very sweeping way of tackling the communication problem, particularly as it would be on Nuclear Energy rather than Spent Fuel Transport! Other things that possibly might be worth considering are:

- 1) The commissioning, perhaps by British Rail, of a survey (Gallup Poll?) into the issue. This might go some way to providing them and other bodies, with the 'non-vested group' source of information they would like.
- 2) The limitations of the media in that there is very little that is specifically local: the majority of 'local' papers are owned by large companies and London's radio stations aren't particularly local. This could contribute to people's feelings of remoteness from decision making. Locally oriented media might provide better coverage of issues such as nuclear waste transport, which is primarily of local concern: it might also be less Establishment biased!

However, overall I felt the Report was well-presented and objective and that it set about tackling a difficult problem in a constructive, logical way. It's only a pity the group appear to have been hampered by the time factor as there are so many interesting avenues that could have been explored, but then I'm speaking from a 'vested-group' point of view!

Jean Lambert

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