'Risk is the new four-letter word. If they flew on a jet to get there, they got more radiation than they would have in a year at Three Mile

- Dr. Margaret Maxey

Atomic power expert blasts nuclear bans

By CAROL MAHONEY

First there was "The China syndrome." a film about an accident and subsequent cover-up at a nucleur and subsequent cover-up at a nucleur and the control of the control

media.

As a result of her study Dr. Maxey has become a staunch supporter of nuclear energy. She believes that the American people "are being seriously mislad" by the anti-nuclear forces

misted" by the anti-nuclear forces
"They are trying to convince the
American people that they can have a
future without nuclear power." she
said.
"Risk is the new four-letter word."
she maintained.

she maintained.

Referring to the anti-nuclear activists who staged a demonstration in Washington recently, she said. "If they flew on a jet to get there, they got more radiation then they would have in a year at Three Mile Island."

IT IS DR. MAXEY'S argument that

wrong things. She believes that the risk levels of nuclear plants are acceptable in light of what could happen if they were all closed down.

"There is no conscionable way in which we, as a society, can go on burn-ing up natural gas and coal. We should be saving these petrochemicals for medicines."

medicines."

Dr. Maxey believes many nuclear focs think that the generation of nuclear power is synonymous with the profess think that the generation of nuclear weapons. "Nothing says that because you have plutonium it is predestined to be used in weaponry," she said. Dr. Maxey said that it is not merely having weapons that causes wars. She cited instead der "serious instability" and "domestic unrest." that could occur if "we don't have adoquate sources of energy. She also disputes those who say we can cut back on our energy consumption by 25 to 50 precent and suffer no loss of the quality of life.

As for alternate sources of energy, she argues that there are limits to what they offer. In terms of what Dr. Maxey called "payback time," nuclear energy offers a three- to five-year wait as opposed to a 20-year payback time for solar energy. Payback is the amount of time necessary to gain back the expenses incurred in production. "And that 20-year payback time is just in the sun belt states, she added. She further warned that the world is going to have a nuclear future whethis country elects to use nuclear ener-this country elects to use nuclear ener-

going to have a nuclear future whether this country elects to use nuclear ener-gy or not. By ignoring this source of energy she thinks this country "we will be losing the only political leverage this nation has." In summing up her position, she quoted Madame Marie Curie, who said, "Nothing in life is to be feared — it is to be understood."

WHETHER OR NOT they agreed with her stand, Dr. Maxey gave AAUW members something to think about at their last general meeting of the year.



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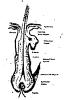


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