

SPECIAL REPORT : WHAT'S BEHIND ROCKEFELLERS' AEC WATERGATE OPERATION

In an attempt to create a modified controlled environment in which further sabotage of laser fusion research will be possible, Fortune and Science magazines have launched a Watergate operation against the nearly defunct U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, already scheduled for liquidation into a Federal energy superagency.

Beginning in February 1974, New Solidarity asserted that a Manhattan Project-style crash program aiming at large scale production of fusion power within a few short years was a necessity if the human race was to survive. Shortly thereafter we began to expose how vital fusion research had been sabotaged for over two decades by the AEC, under the direction of such Rockefeller towel boys as Dr. Edward Teller, the so-called "father of the H-bomb," and member of Nelson Rockefeller's Commission on Critical Choices.

The widespread dissemination of our exposures and our fusion program among scientists and workers disrupted the original controlled environment of terror and secrecy the Rockefellers were using to abort fusion development. With the aid of the Labor Committees, a Fusion Energy Foundation was organized during 1974 to promote crash fusion development. Founded in November, the FEF is now attracting this country's top scientists in fusion and fusion related fields.

The new Atomic Watergate strategy represents both Rockefeller's calculated admission of the truth of our charges, and a desperate effort to keep scientists tied to his apron strings. In effect he is saying, "Yes, the AEC made mistakes, but all that is changing—we're going to push forward—why look at the new superagency we're building. Play ball, and the funds will come through."

In this scenario, which appears in the December issues of both Fortune and Science, KMS Fusion, a private research company, is cast as the heroic victim of AEC bureaucratic obstructionism.

In Fortune, a magazine for credulous businessmen, KMS is reported to have made more significant progress in harnessing laser fusion than all the "big teams of government researches in both the U.S. and the Soviet Union, as well as smaller groups in Great Britain, France, Japan, and West Germany." Fortune continues "in this fast moving field...KMS Fusion appears to be rewriting the theory" despite the AEC's initial suppression and continued obstruction of KMS research."

Science, the weekly publication of the American Association for the advancement of Science, has taken a more cautious position on the KMS research because their better informed scientific readership could be expected to see through Fortune's wild claims. The Science strategy is to report straightforwardly on the AEC's suppression of KMS' experimental research while pooh-poohing KMS

experimental results. Science then quotes Rockefeller's Dr. Edward Teller: "Research on laser-induced compression and heating of pellets should not be categorized as energy research at the present time."

As an alternative, Science journalist William D. Meitz puts forward a laser isotope separation process for improved nuclear fission. Although fission is vastly less efficient for energy production than fusion, and much more hazardous, Meitz quotes one scientist at Teller's Livermore Labs: "The isotope separation effort got started to some extent on laser fusion money. And I wouldn't be surprised if isotope separation becomes the bigger sister... all the money might go the other way."

In reality the entire KMS controversy is a red herring. The KMS approach will not lead to fusion power production; it is being put forward only to cover up the suppression of far more promising research proposals by, among others Dr. Louis Gold, member of the Science Advisory Board of the FEF.

To explain the magnitude of the crime fully, it is necessary to review the history and science of controlled fusion.

Thermonuclear fusion, which fuels hydrogen bombs and the sun's inferno, is a process in which nuclei of light atoms are "fused" to form nuclei of heavier atoms. For example the heavy isotopes of hydrogen, Deuterium (D) and Tritium (T), can be fused to form helium (HE). Vast quantities of energy are created during fusion because mass is transformed into energy.

In order to ignite fusion the reacting nuclei must be brought very close to each other. This does not occur under ordinary conditions of temperature since the positively charged nuclei electrostatically repulse each other. This phenomenon is called the Coulomb barrier.

To break through the Coulomb barrier and ignite fusion, the nuclei must be accelerated to high velocities, high temperatures. Besides temperature, the rate at which fusion proceeds depends on the density of the reactants since the more nuclei which are present per given volume the more likely it is that fusion will occur. In addition, the reactants must be "contained" for a sufficient period of time to allow for a significant amount of fusion to take place. The product of the confinement time and density to achieve net energy producing fusion reactions is called the Lawson criterion.

Unlike nuclear fission, thermonuclear fusion does not necessarily involve radioactive elements in either its reactants or products. In fact most of the heavier elements are the products of chains of fusion reactions initially begun with hydrogen.