

**'CURSE OF DEATH'**

**Protest Titan Missile Base, UA Scientist Urges**

The placing of a Titan missile base in Tucson is "a curse of death" if attack ever comes, a University of Arizona scientist said today.

Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist in the UA Institute of Atmospheric Physics, won national attention last fall when he criticized the Air Force for placing missile bases upwind of cities.

"Tucson should protest this decision immediately and demand that the Air Force show good reason for putting Titans here. A public hearing on this issue is urgently important," McDonald said.

"With many available air bases in sparsely populated parts of the West, it is almost criminally irresponsible for the Air Force to locate its ICBM bases near cities as big as ours.

"There has been understandable jubilation over the news that \$80 million will be spent in the Tucson area if the Titans are located here," McDonald said.

**"BUT NOT ONE** civic leader or military spokesman has given the public any hint of the truly tremendous increase in danger to which the unprotected civilian population of Tucson and vicinity will be exposed by these prime enemy targets.

"This shows how little sound information on population dangers the Air Force has made available to such persons. If the people fully appreciated the situation, they would view this news quite differently."

The argument that Tucson is al-

ready a major target because it is a SAC base ignores two important points, McDonald said. They are:

- 1—The Titans will increase the radioactive danger tenfold. SAC bases can be wiped out with 20 megatons. (A megaton represents the force of 1 million tons of dynamic.) Two squadrons of Titans will draw enemy fire of several hundred megatons.
- 2—Manned bomber bases will be obsolete long before the useful life of an ICBM base is over. Putting Titans here insures high target value to this community

many more years than is necessary.

**THE PRESENT** Air Force policy of putting its missile installations near SAC bases in the vicinity of cities is false, McDonald said.

"ICBM bases need only small facilities because so few airmen man them," he said. "Therefore, the arguments that money and time are saved by the present siting policies are fallacious.

"Why hand over to a potential enemy of ours a bonus of hundreds of thousands of American lives in putting these bases near cities as large as Tucson?"

**Limited Old-Age Health Plan Drawn**

WASHINGTON—(P)—A limited hospital benefit program for persons retired under social security began taking shape today in the House Ways and Means Committee.

The tax-writing committee, which two weeks ago rejected the broad health insurance plan proposed by Rep. Aime J. Forand (D-RI), took up specifications for a much more limited program. The general idea of such an approach was reported to have the backing of the House Democratic leadership.

As tentatively sketched, the plan would allow a person retiring under the social security old age insurance system to elect to take

figures for several alternative plans, including such variables as a 65-year or 72-year starting age.

There was no detailed discussion of financing. If the benefits are held low enough, the reduction in old age benefits could pay for a plan.

Other possibilities are increasing the social security tax or ap-