

TUCSON DAILY CITIZEN

FRIDAY EV

Young GOP Hears, Rejects Titan Protest

By JIM COOPER

Yesterday was a blistering day for Dr. James McDonald, author of the idea to locate Titan missile sites downwind of Tucson to protect citizens from an enemy atomic attack and resulting fallout.

He went to a meeting of the Young Republicans Club to explain his stand. They were waiting for him, loaded for bear.

McDonald is senior physicist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona.

In a study of Titan missile sites, McDonald noticed that the Air Force ringed cities with the underground firing sites. In case of an enemy strike at them, McDonald theorized, prevailing winds in all cases would scatter atomic-con-

aminated dust over the populated areas.

HE OBJECTED when the Air Force announced Titan plans for Tucson—not to the Titans themselves, but to the possibility that Tucson would be ringed if the Air Force followed its pattern.

McDonald maintains that 20 months of the year the prevailing wind in the Tucson area is from the west. Tucson citizens would have good gambling odds for fallout protection if the sites were located east of town, McDonald concluded.

A committee was formed to protest ringed Tucson with the sites. A number of university professors have sided with McDonald. They have spoken to civic groups and the result has been an atomic up-

roar. It resulted in:

1—A divided public, with counter accusations that the committee's stand was unpatriotic.

2—An implied threat from the Air Force that the project could be taken from Tucson.

3—At least some interest on the part of the Air Force—officers will meet with Tucson community leaders next week to explain the Air Force position.

FOLLOWING McDONALD'S presentation yesterday, the Young Republicans leveled their fire.

Taking the floor was Don Clark, an Air Force reserve captain. He said he spoke as a private citizen.

He charged that McDonald has taken a narrow look at the prob-

lem and numbered his objections:

1—That it is "absolutely false" that the Air Force has given little or no consideration to fallout as McDonald has stated.

2—That it is "completely illogical" that Washington officials "are so penny-pinching that they will sacrifice any number of lives to save a buck." (Clark said locating the project in a remote area east of town would cost more money. Present cost, if Tucson is ringed, would be about \$80 million.)

3—That Clark resents "the implication by McDonald and his committee that our political and military leaders of the United States are a bunch of dunder-heads."

4—That Clark is "dumfounded and gravely concerned with (McDonald's) basic assumption that war is inevitable." Clark said war is possible, but one way to deter it indefinitely is to maintain retaliatory forces.

CLARK SAID there would be time for a complete Titan launch-

ing after an attack warning and that if the missiles are on their way before the enemy's arrived here "then why are missile launching sites such prime targets?" If they were not prime targets, he said, the location would not matter.

Clark charged that delaying tactics "serve to aid the enemy's cause." He said the problem is "small peanuts . . . We must build up our retaliatory forces and then Russia will never get the opportunity to test whether an east or west side location is more desirable."

He called for a "rebirth of that priceless old commodity called patriotism" and asked that Tucsonians carry their share of the burden of protecting the nation.

Following Clark's blast, Nicolas Traficanti took the floor and asked, pointedly, for McDonald to explain his military experience or war record.

McDONALD HAD him there. "I don't think it is pertinent," McDonald said, "but I spent four

years with the Navy in World War II."

State Rep. Thomas C. Webster then took the floor. He presented a resolution tagging McDonald's group a "small minority of misguided citizens." The resolution also asked the Young Republicans to endorse any decision on missile location that would be made by the Air Force.

On a voice vote, the resolution passed.

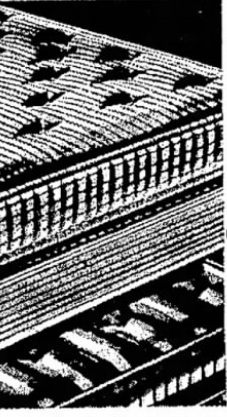
Atty. Lawrence Howard, who voted against the resolution, told the Citizen that he will challenge the vote to keep it out of the records.

He said club rules specify that a quorum of members must be present in order to vote on a resolution.

"There were only 10 paid-up members present," Howard said. The Young Republicans list 64 paid members.

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AF Says Titan A-Blast No Risk

Goldwater Told Missile's Warhead Can't Be Detonated Accidentally

Another facet of Tucson's missile debate was added today in an assurance from the Air Force that the community would be in no danger from accidental explosion of the Titans to be based here.

The assurance came in a telegram from the Washington office of Sen. Barry Goldwater.

Col. Otto Glasser, special assistant to the commander of the Air Force research defense command, told Goldwater today that the only possible way for fallout to occur at Tucson or any other area of the United States would be under enemy attack.

In this event, the danger would be nationwide and the Air Force would have failed in the purpose of its missile program, the colonel said.

Presumably Glasser meant that since the major purpose of the missiles is to present such a formidable threat of retaliation an enemy would not dare attack us and the program would have failed if an enemy did attack

despite our retaliatory strength.

A Titan missile with a warhead attached possibly could explode in the type of underground silos that are to be built here, but the explosion of the missile rocket engines would not detonate the missile's atomic warhead.

The rocket itself could blow up in its underground pit and the citizens of the community would not even be aware that the accident had happened, Glasser told Goldwater.

Air Force officers previously have explained that the arming device of the atomic warhead on a Titan is so foolproof that there is no chance of the warhead being exploded by accident at the launching site.

The missile debate currently being waged here has centered on the danger of atomic fallout from an enemy attack if the Titan bases—which presumably would come under enemy attack—are located upwind from the city.

The group urging that the bases be located downwind from the city has not expressed any fear from accidental explosions of the Titans themselves.



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