

## Letters To The Editor

### AIR FORCE LACK OF PREPAREDNESS HIT

To the Editor:

Wednesday afternoon's accidental release of deadly nitrogen tetroxide gas from a Titan site north of Tucson raises serious questions about Air Force failure to be ready for emergencies of an obvious nature.

ONE CAN ONLY be reminded of similar Air Force lack of preparedness when a tank-truck loaded with 3500 gallons of tetroxide tipped over on May 8, 1963, out on Miracle Mile. In that emergency, we learned that the Citizen could not find any Air Force officials who were fully aware of the relevant physical, chemical, and toxicological properties of the Titan oxidizer during the crucial first hours of a ticklish emergency that might have led to disaster.

Now, in this recent incident, it appears that a confused half-hour went by before someone thought of checking winds to see whether tetroxide might be drifting towards the Florence Highway. It was. Then, instead of immediately sending airmen to block traffic near the site, the slower step of asking the sheriff's office to set up a roadblock was taken. The result was that a still-uncertain number of cars penetrated the toxic plume of tetroxide during that half-hour. Imagine what might have happened had the same thing occurred at one of the several Titan sites on the far busier Benson Highway or Nogales Highway or Casa Grande Highway.

TRANSFER operations have to be carried out, from time to time, at all Titan missile sites, and most sites are near roads or highways. Thus it should have been an obvious precaution to set up clear-cut emergency plans for coping with accidents involving spillage of either the tetroxide oxidizer or the about equally deadly hydrazine fuel.

Immediately upon detection of an accidental release, the emergency orders which must now be drawn up, belatedly, should call for dispatch of at least two armed airmen, equipped with gas masks to prevent inhalation of lethal dosages while on roadblock duty. These men should work out along any downwind road or highway, turning back traffic and moving out to emergency roadblock points well beyond the suspected width of the gas-plume. And, as soon as possible, highway patrol units should be contacted to establish the more permanent and more remote roadblocks. The important thing is to get those armed airmen out fast.

ONE NOW WONDERS if ranchers and others living within a mile or so of the 18 Titan sites have ever been given any special instructions on coping

with the hazards that might arise after such spillage accidents. And one wonders if they can be evacuated by pre-arranged siren signals. If not, that would constitute one more serious official oversight that must be speedily corrected.

JAMES E. McDONALD  
3461 E. 3rd St.

### 'I WANT TO DO AS I PLEASE!'

To the Editor:

"J'en veux faire a ma tete!"  
(I want to do as I please!)

THIS COMMON French idiom has become for Charles De Gaulle an addiction. To insure a homogeneous command of the policies of France, he modified the French Constitution of 1958 to jolt the government into submission. Under Article 16 of the French Constitution, De Gaulle may intermit the parliament, and, presto, De Gaulle the Dictator! It's a very "cute" Republic.

Let's examine De Gaulle. What has he got? Charlemagne's military conquests would place De Gaulle among the Boy Scouts. Louis IX, King of France, was canonized a saint in 1297; a similar post not likely to embrace De Gaulle. Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated by the British in North Africa; De Gaulle watched the British and Americans defeat the Vichy-French and the Germans in North Africa whereupon he suffered the dastardly heat of Algiers smoking cigars and waiting for his unmannerly hosts to get Operation Normandy over with so he could climb aboard a tank and roll into Paris as the liberator of France.

NOPE, De GAULLE has never distinguished himself.

He wants out of NATO and he's anti-American. But, he's all for France. We don't need France, we never did. It would be wise for U.S. tourists to ignore France, not with the tone of retaliation, but rather in the spirit of American Nationalism!

M. WAGNER  
5305 Chinaberry

from the  
**Arizona**

Fifty-Eight Years A

TUCSON, ARIZONA TER

No Long

Real estate men state that marked activity in lot sales. Many at the local real estate offices report conditions and the buying after the