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1.5, Sect. 1.1.3). "Early fatalities" are not the result of exposure of the thyroid to radioiodine and hence would not be prevented by ingestion of KI. The report also states that "the radioiodine noble gases are particularly difficult to contain in an accident." In accidents where chemically reactive fission products including iodine-131 are present, "the noble gases will be the principal form of radionuclides released" (5, p. 2.7).

These brief excerpts, the importance of which are not touched upon by von Hippel, offer support for our statement opposing storage and distribution of KI in New York City at the time of a reactor accident. Furthermore, attempts to distribute KI at the time of an accident would bring massive numbers of people into the streets with the resultant risk of increased exposure to various radioactive substances. This and our other arguments against the distribution of KI during an accident are not mentioned by von Hippel. They were compelling points to the Committee on Public Health. We believe that the same arguments hold for other major population centers not immediately in or adjacent to nuclear power reactors. We have not taken a position on the use of KI for workers in the plant, for individuals living near the plant, or for those who in their official or medical capacities may need to stay in or near potentially dangerous areas.

It has come to our attention that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which earlier favored and planned to purchase and distribute KI to the states, will not do so despite a congressional appropriation for this purpose. FEMA has decided that policies on stockpiling and use of the drug ought to be made at the state and local level (6).

As part of its continuing review of this problem, a panel discussed the use of KI at a Symposium on the Health Aspects of Nuclear Power Plant Incidents at the New York Academy of Medicine on 7 and 8 April 1983 (7).

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#### References

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2. A. P. Hull, *A Consideration of the Need for Evacuation to Public Safety at Three Mile Island*, paper presented at a meeting of the American Nuclear Society, Las Vegas, Nev., 10 June 1980.
3. M. Levenson and F. Rahn, *Realistic Estimates of the Consequences of Nuclear Accidents* (Electric Power Research Institute, Palo Alto, Calif., 1980).
4. *Report of the President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island* (Pergamon, New York, 1979), p. 31.
5. *Technical Bases for Estimating Fission Products Behavior During LWR Accidents* (NUREG 0772, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 1981).
6. R. Krimm, "Potassium iodide stockpiling," paper presented at a meeting of the Atomic Industrial Forum on Radiation Issues for the Nuclear Industry, New Orleans, La., 6 October 1982.
7. *Proceedings of the Symposium on the Health Aspects of Nuclear Power Plant Incidents* (New York Academy of Medicine, New York, in press).

#### Meeting Attendance

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* reports (8 June, p. 3) that, because of poor attendance at the 149th annual meeting of the AAAS in Detroit, our association stands to lose close to \$300,000. The article cites snowstorms and vacation plans as reasons for the meager attendance.

The insufficient support given to state university professors for travel to such meetings is another reason for the lack of attendance. This past year many professors were kept from attending scientific meetings because funds were "nonexistent" or "frozen" for such activities. Many beneficial contributions returned to state and country have their genesis at professional meetings of this nature.

It would be a good idea for those professors and AAAS members who were not financially supported to attend scientific meetings to write their legislators explaining the importance of increased support for such activities.

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It is difficult to judge the overall economics of the AAAS annual meeting, as it is construed to be a mandated member activity (similar to the publication of *Science*), and therefore the cost is partially defrayed by member dues. However, the "additional loss" because of the poor attendance in Detroit was significantly less than \$100,000 (exact figures are not known, as all the bills have not yet been paid).

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*Erratum:* In the article "the 0.001557806449023-Second Pulsar" by M. Mitchell Waldrop (*Research News*, 18 Feb., p. 831), the last sentence of the last full paragraph in the second column should have read: "Within a few weeks he was in Aricebo himself, and on 14 November he verified pulses at an astonishing 642 hertz, equivalent to a period of 1.558 milliseconds."