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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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Page 40 ~ Duplicate - dupe to 159-HQ-4005 serial 1 page 2;  
Page 55 ~ b7D;  
Page 56 ~ b7D;  
Page 57 ~ b7D;  
Page 58 ~ b7D;  
Page 59 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 60 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 61 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
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11/21/74

TO: SAC, Oklahoma City

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);  
LMRDA; OOJ

Enclosed are copies of self-explanatory memorandum from Criminal Division of Department dated 11/20/74, together with copies of its attachments, which requests preliminary investigation.

Prosecutive aspects should be discussed with USA. Bureau should be kept currently advised of pertinent developments by appropriate means.

Surep promptly.

Enclosures (6)

JRA:maw

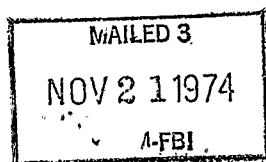
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by Letter Dated 5-10-76  
Per FOIA Request

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Nov 22 9 40 AM '74

F.B.I.  
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE




UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Memorandum

TO : Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: November 20, 1974

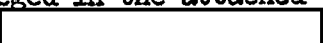
FROM :   
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

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HEP:JML:emc  
123-017-60

SUBJECT: Death of Ms. Karen G. Silkwood

*KAREN Silkwood*

It is hereby requested that the Bureau conduct a preliminary investigation into the matters alleged in the attached New York Times article of November 19, 1974 

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These allegations, if substantiated, may constitute violations of Section 530, Title 29, United States Code (through the impairment of Ms. Silkwood's rights guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, United States Code) and Section 1505, Title 18, United States Code (in that Ms. Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission.)

Attachments

EXP. PROC.  
NOV 21 1974

EX 103

REC-12


MCT-16

159-4

CH 59

NOV 21 1974

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by Letter Dated 3-10-76, 3-10-76  
For FOIPA Request AL K. Silkwood

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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ACCT'G  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

# Death of Plutonium Worker Questioned by Union Official

By DAVID BURNHAM

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18—A high-ranking union official said today that the death last week of a woman who had raised critical safety questions about one of the two commercial plutonium factories in the United States might not have been an accident.

The official sent telegrams calling on the Justice Department and the Atomic Energy Commission to begin an immediate investigation into the death of Karen G. Silkwood, who died last Wednesday when her car crashed into a culvert a few miles south of Crescent, Okla.

The crash was described as an accident by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. State officials are making a routine investigation into whether alcohol or drugs were a factor in the crash. Neither the Justice Department, the A.E.C. nor Oklahoma officials had any immediate comment tonight on the union official's telegram.

In his telegram to Attorney General William F. Saxbe, Anthony Mazzocchi, Washington representative of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, said an investigator hired by the union had found evidence "to suggest that Miss Silkwood's car was hit from behind by another vehicle causing it to leave the road and hit the concrete culvert." He said he was not accusing any specific person of a crime.

## Union Has Car

Mr. Mazzocchi told the Attorney General that the union had the car, its investigative report of the crash and other data in its possession and would make them available to both the Justice Department and the A.E.C.

He said that the union had decided to make the evidence available to the Justice department and the A.E.C. rather than state officials because "the problems were of such great seriousness that the required the Federal presence."

Miss Silkwood, who worked in the Cimarron facility of the Kerr-McGee Corporation near Crescent, was on her way to a meeting with an official of the union and a reporter for The New York Times to discuss safety conditions at the plant. Two weeks ago, she was exposed to a large amount of radiation in an accident at the plant that the A.E.C. is still investigating.

At a meeting with the commission in Washington on Sept. 27, Miss Silkwood and two of her colleagues from the Cimarron plant charged that officials there had endangered the lives of the workers.

At approximately the same time, the three technicians provided the union with additional allegations that the facility was manufacturing some faulty fuel rods and that inspection documents required for these rods had been falsified.

The union tape-recorded these allegations at the time they were made. Recent conversations with other technicians, who asked that inspection records had been falsified.

## Responsible to A.E.C.

Informed of the statement of the union, D. A. McGee, board chairman and chief executive officer of Kerr-McGee, said that because Miss Silkwood's death was still under investigation, it would not be appropriate to comment on it.

"Regarding allegations of falsification of records," he added, "we are fully responsible to the A.E.C. and other regulatory agencies for both quality control and safety and our records are continuously audited."

The Cimarron facility, protected by a tall chain-link fence on a low hill four miles south of Crescent, manufactures plutonium fuel rods that will be used in an experimental liquid metal, fast breeder reac-



Karen G. Silkwood, who died in a car crash last week in Oklahoma.

159-1 S-1  
ENCLOSURE

tor being constructed for the A.E.C. near Richland, Wash. evidence that we believe would. The experimental reactor had credibility to Miss Silkwood which is being built under Wood's allegations." \$420-million contract, is scheduled. Mr. Mazzocchi said that on Sept. 10, 1977, being informed of Miss Silkwood's death, he obtained the permission of A. F. Groszperon, president of the union, to hire a private investigator who had expertise in examining car crashes to determine the cause of electric power.

There are varying estimates about the potential danger Mr. A. O. Pipkin Jr. of Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas, workers about faulty fuel rods, he said. "He conducted a investigation on Saturday, many years a leading atomic power expert, said that, as a hypothetical situation, he did not believe faulty rods were much of a problem."

"Should any problem cause a leak it would be spotted and the rod would be removed," he explained.

Dr. Henry Kendall, a leading nuclear critic and physics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, disagreed.

"These failures could start off an accident which would result in the release of huge amounts of radioactivity," he said.

#### No Explanation

The day after Miss Silkwood's white 1973 Honda smashed into the culvert on the left side of the straight road, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol issued a report describing the accident but not offering any explanation for it. The accident, which occurred about 7:30 P.M., was investigated by State Trooper Rick Fagan. Miss Silkwood was buried yesterday in Kilgore, Tex.

Because of the incident in the factory where she was exposed to a large amount of radiation, the A.E.C. is conducting a special autopsy on her organs.

In his telegram to Sarbe, Mr. Mazzocchi said that Miss Silkwood, at the time of her death,

"was on her way to meet Mr. Steven Woditz, legislative assistant to the O.C.A.W., and

David Burnham, a reporter for The New York Times, who were waiting for her in the Holiday Inn, W. in Oklahoma City, Okla."

"Miss Silkwood," Mr. Mazzocchi continued, "was bringing information concerning the alleged falsification of records concerning quality of nuclear fuel elements being manufactured at the Cameron facility."

He said: "We are in posses-

of her death.

The investigator hired is Mr. A. O. Pipkin Jr. of Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas, he said. "He conducted his investigation on Saturday, Nov. 16, 1974. I spoke with him this morning and he has told me there is evidence to suggest that Miss Silkwood's car was hit from behind by another

vehicle, causing her car to leave the road and hit the concrete culvert."

#### 2,000 Accidents

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Pipkin said he based his conclusion about the probable cause of the accident on a small dent on the left rear bumper of Miss Silkwood's car and the configuration of the skid marks on the grassy left bank of the highway just before she dipped into the small stream bed and struck the culvert.

Mr. Pipkin did highway investigations for the Albuquerque, N. M., Police Department between 1951 and 1955 before establishing his own firm. He has investigated more than 2,000 accidents and testified in more than 300 court trials, frequently for insurance companies.

He said that because of the dents and the skid marks, "it was highly probable that the car was acted upon by an external force, that the crash was the result of Miss Silkwood's car being struck by another vehicle."

"I recognize the full gravity of my suspicions and urge your immediate attention to this matter," he concluded.

In response to a question, he said: "I am not accusing any particular person with murder. Based on an independent investigation, however, it is apparent that someone forced Karen

Silkwood from the road, thereby causing her death. I'll leave it to the Federal authorities to determine who and why."

Miss Silkwood had been a leader in a recent battle to have Local No. 5-283 of the O.C.A.W.

continue representing workers in the plant. The union won the battle by a vote of 80 to 61 on Oct. 16.

In her meeting with the A.E.C. on Sept. 27, according to the commission's summary of the session, Miss Silkwood and her companions charged that the facility had failed to educate and train workers properly in the handling of plutonium, long regarded as an extremely toxic substance. They also charged that the company had failed to keep exposures of plutonium as low as possible, to adequately monitor workers' exposure and take the required hygienic precautions.

One specific allegation they made was that the company had gradually reduced training from five days to two four-hour sessions during the last two years.

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001 WASHINGTON DC NOV 18, 1974

PMS THE HON. WILLIAM B. SAXBE

ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

MANAGEMENT & LABOR SEC.

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I HEREBY REQUEST ON BEHALF OF MY ORGANIZATION AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF KAREN SILKWOOD, AN OFFICIAL OF LOCAL NO. 5-283 OF THE OIL, CHEMICAL AND ATOMIC WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO.

KAREN SILKWOOD WAS KILLED ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1974 AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30 P.M. WHEN HER AUTOMOBILE LEFT THE ROAD AND SUBSEQUENTLY HIT A CONCRETE CULVERT SOUTH OF CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA ON ROUTE 74.

MS. SILKWOOD WAS ON HER WAY TO MEET [REDACTED]

AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO WERE WAITING FOR HER IN THE HOLIDAY INN N.W. IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.

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MS. SILKWOOD WAS BRINGING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGED FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS CONCERNING QUALITY CONTROL OF NUCLEAR FUEL ELEMENTS BEING MANUFACTURED AT THE CIMARROW FACILITY OF KERR-MCGEE NUCLEAR CORP IN CRESENT, OKLAHOMA WHERE SHE WAS EMPLOYED. MY OFFICE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MS. SILKWOOD EVER SINCE HER APPEARANCE IN MY OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1974. SHE WAS PART OF A 3-PERSON UNION COMMITTEE WHO WERE SENT BY THEIR LOCAL UNION TO WASHINGTON TO PRESENT THEIR COMPLAINT TO THE ATOMIC ENERGY COM-

MISSION ABOUT THE PROBLEMS CONCERNING WORKERS HEALTH AND SAFETY AT THE CIMARROW FACILITY OF KERR-MCGEE.

AT THAT TIME MS. SILKWOOD DESCRIBED SOME OF THE ALLEGED QUALITY CONTROL FALSIFICATIONS. I INSTRUCTED HER TO CAREFULLY DOCUMENT THE PROBLEM SO THAT WE COULD PRESENT A CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED CASE TO THE A.E.C.

WE ARE IN POSSESSION AT THIS TIME OF SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE THAT WE BELIEVE WOULD LEND CREDIBILITY TO MS. SILKWOOD'S ALLEGATIONS.

ON BEING TOLD OF MS. SILKWOOD'S DEATH, I CONSULTED WITH [REDACTED]

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TO HIRE A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR WHO HAD EXPERTISE IN EXAMINING CAR CRASHES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF HER DEATH.

THE INVESTIGATOR HIRED IS [REDACTED] OF ACCIDENT RE-CONSTRUCTION LAB OF DALLAS, TEXAS. HE CONDUCTED HIS INVESTIGATION ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1974. I SPOKE TO HIM THIS MORNING AND HE HAS TOLD ME THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT MS. SILKWOOD'S CAR WAS HIT FROM BEHIND BY ANOTHER VEHICLE CAUSING HER CAR TO LEAVE THE ROAD AND HIT THE CONCRETE CULVERT.

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WE ARE IN POSSESSION OF HER CAR AND IT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU. WE ARE ALSO IN POSSESSION OF TAPE RECORDINGS, RECORDS AND OTHER DATA RELEVANT TO THIS CASE. I HAVE ALSO NOTIFIED [REDACTED]

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR FIELD OPERATIONS, DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND HAVE REQUESTED A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO MS. SILKWOOD'S ALLEGATIONS.

I RECOGNIZE THE FULL GRAVITY OF MY SUSPICIONS AND URGE YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

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b7c

[REDACTED]  
OIL, CHEMICAL & ATOMIC WORKERS INT'L UNION  
1125 - 16TH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

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NOV 19 1974  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

NNNN

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Airtel

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11/25/74

TO: SAC, Oklahoma City

REC-111

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS; <sup>(C)</sup>  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);  
LMRDA; OOJ

ReBuairtel to Oklahoma City 11/21/74.

[redacted] b6  
[redacted] b7C  
of the staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, contacted FBIHQ and advised that it was his understanding that the FBI had been requested to investigate the death of Karen G. Silkwood who was killed in an automobile mishap in Oklahoma. He said that news accounts of this matter indicated that a labor union official, one [redacted] has alleged that Silkwood's automobile was forced off the road into a bridge abutment and further stated that she was en route to a meeting with a New York Times reporter and implied her death was to prevent her talking with the reporter. [redacted] b6  
[redacted] b7C stated that in September, 1974, testimony was taken from [redacted] by the Joint Committee which he believes might well be pertinent to any investigation being conducted by the FBI concerning Silkwood's death and [redacted] allegations. He relates he would be pleased to make this testimony available to the FBI and stated he could be contacted at telephone number [redacted] (Washington, D. C.) to make necessary arrangements.

If review of this testimony appears desirable, Oklahoma City should furnish sufficient background information to WFO to enable them to conduct this review.

ELR:mav

(48) (20)

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by Letter Dated 3-16-76, 5-10-76 Sent  
Per FOIPA Request Re K. Silkwood

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NOV 25 1974

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Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO :

[REDACTED]

DATE: 11-22-74

FROM :

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
KAREN SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LMRDA, OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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[REDACTED] Executive Director of the [REDACTED] staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, contacted Inspector [REDACTED] on the morning of 11-21-74 and stated he understood that the FBI has been requested to investigate the death of Karen Silkwood who was killed in an automobile mishap near Cimarron, Oklahoma. He said news accounts of this matter indicated that a labor union official, [REDACTED] has alleged that Silkwood's car was forced off the road into a bridge abutment. He said this union official also alleged that she was en route to a meeting with a New York Times reporter and implied her death was to prevent her talking with this reporter. [REDACTED] said the Joint Committee had taken testimony from [REDACTED] in 1967, which he believes might well be pertinent to any investigation we would be conducting concerning Silkwood's death and [REDACTED]. He said he would be pleased to make this testimony available to our Agents handling this investigation. He asked that he be contacted if the review of this testimony is desired at telephone number [REDACTED] to make the necessary arrangements.

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## RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to General Investigative Division.

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by Letter Dated 5-10-76 kmb  
Per FOIPA Request AC K. Silkwood

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- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. McDermott
- 1 - Mr. Bowers

DWB:dkg (7)

dkg

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U.S. DEPT.

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gebhardt

DATE: 11/21/74

FROM : R. E. Long *WAF*

SUBJECT: UNSUBS  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND  
DISCLOSURE ACT; OBSTRUCTION  
OF JUSTICE

1- Mr. Gebhardt  
1- Mr. Adams  
1- Mr. McDermott  
1- Mr. Wannall

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Captioned individual was an employee at Kerr McGee Corporation, manufacturer of plutonium at Crescent, Oklahoma (20 miles north of Oklahoma City), and a member of Atomic Workers union at the time she was killed when her automobile crashed at 7:30 p.m. 11/13/74. We have been informed that, since this individual was reportedly engaged in union business and was considered a witness at hearings before Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), the Criminal Division of the Department has drafted a request for us to conduct preliminary inquiry in order that Criminal Division can determine whether possible Federal violations are indicated. Memorandum from Criminal Division had not yet been received by a.m. of 11/21/74.

Captioned individual had previously testified before hearing of AEC relative to alleged unsafe conditions and falsification of inspection reports submitted to AEC concerning faulty production procedures. She was one of three on a committee appointed by the union to obtain information regarding these matters and furnishing it to the union.

Although Oklahoma Highway Patrol found no indication of foul play regarding fatal accident of this individual, union obtained professional accident investigator who reportedly concluded her car had been purposely bumped and ran off the road which resulted in her death.

The union directed telegram to the Department requesting investigation because captioned individual was allegedly on her way to meet a legislative assistant of the union, as well as a reporter for the "New York Times" at the time of her fatal accident.

JRA:maw

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CONTINUED - OVER

YREOX

DF 4 1974

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Per FOIPA Request

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REC'D GEBHARDT  
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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION 5710

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ACCTG. & FIN. SEC.  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION 5710

Long to Gebhardt Memo

Oklahoma City Office has been maintaining liaison with security officer at the foregoing corporation and AEC representatives since 11/7/74, when it was reported captioned individual was determined to be contaminated by plutonium produced by the corporation. Several tests have been made by AEC to determine how she became contaminated but no conclusion had been reached at the time of her death 11/13/74, which was the day she had returned from her medical examination by AEC. Oklahoma City is continuing to maintain liaison with view to ascertaining whether there may be some possible violation under the Atomic Energy Act, which pertains to theft or other irregularities concerning nuclear material.

Preliminary inquiry as to possible Labor Law or Obstruction of Justice violation will be instituted as soon as memorandum has been approved by Criminal Division of Department and received by the Bureau.

ACTION: This is for information.

REG

JRA

Jma

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WAF

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Jma

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F B I

Date: 11/27/74

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via A I R T E L

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)

RE: UNSUBS; *0*  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

*per* Re Bureau airtels to Oklahoma City, 11/21/74 and 11/25/74.

For information of recipient offices, the Bureau by re airtel, 11/21/74, forwarded Departmental memorandum dated 11/20/74 which requested the Bureau conduct investigation into matters alleged in a New York Times article, 11/19/74, and in a telegram of [redacted] *per*

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The Department noted the allegations if substantiated may constitute violation Title 29, Section 530, U. S. Code (through impairment of SILKWOOD's (union) rights and Section 1505, Title *EX-110* U. S. Code) in that SILKWOOD was a witness in a pending investigation before the AEC.

*REC 17 157-4005-4*  
For the further information of recipients, SILKWOOD was an employee of the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Nuclear Products Division facility at Crescent, Oklahoma, which facility is in part a plutonium (Pu) fuel plant. SILKWOOD was employed as an analyst in the Pu fuel plant and worked with radioactive material, primarily Pu.

On 11/5/74, it was learned that SILKWOOD was contaminated with Pu. Checks made several days thereafter determined that SILKWOOD was again contaminated and it was

Deleted Copy Sent [redacted]

(2) Bureau by Letter Dated 5-16-76, 5-16-76 *per*  
2-Dallas Per FOIPA Request *re K. Silkwood*  
2-WFO  
2-Oklahoma City  
LJO/sal

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9 DEC 2 1974

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
F.B.I.

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION  
Dec 2 4 33 PM '74

OC 159-45

learned the apartment in which she resided was also contaminated. SILKWOOD's roommate, a KMC employee, was contaminated too.

SILKWOOD and her roommate were sent to AEC, Los Alamos, New Mexico, for medical checks 11/11/74 and 11/12/74. SILKWOOD on 11/13/74 was involved in a one car fatal accident which occurred south of Crescent, Oklahoma. Accident investigated by Oklahoma Highway Patrol who indicated no foul play involved; however, an independent accident investigator, [redacted], of Accident Reconstruction Lab, Dallas, Texas, who was hired by the OCAW speculated there was evidence to suggest that SILKWOOD's car was hit from behind by another vehicle causing her car to leave the road and hit a culvert. The union has alleged that accident possibly was an attempt to keep SILKWOOD from talking to a New York Times reporter and union officials about information that she had concerning allegations of unsafe practices at the Crescent facility.

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SILKWOOD had previously met with AEC representatives and union officials 9/27/74 in Washington, D. C. at which time she and other union representatives presented other allegations concerning safety and allegations concerning classification of fuel rod documents which rods were fabricated at the Crescent facility.

The Bureau by referenced 11/25/74 airtel advised that [redacted] Executive Director, Staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, had contacted FBI Headquarters re FBI investigation of captioned case. [redacted] stated in 9/74 testimony taken from one [redacted] by the Joint Committee might well be pertinent to any investigation conducted by the FBI re SILKWOOD's death and [redacted] allegations. He would make this testimony available if needed to be contacted at Washington, D. C., telephone number [redacted].

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For the information of the Bureau, it was learned through contact with KMC, Oklahoma City, that both AEC had received statements from a former KMC employee, [redacted] who presently [redacted] that he in an eleven-month period falsified fuel rod documents by altering photograph negatives to omit flaws or suspected flaws. [redacted] claimed he did this on own volition and no other persons involved. He claimed this was done to increase his production.

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LEADS

DALLAS

AT DALLAS, TEXAS - Will locate [redacted] Accident Reconstruction Lab, and obtain full results of his investigation re SILKWOOD's accident.

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WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. - Will contact [redacted] Executive Director, Staff, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and obtain any pertinent info in his possession re captioned case.



1 - Mr.  
1 - Mr.

11/27/74

~~REC-67~~

Reurteil 11/20/74.

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b7C Bufiles do not reflect any information identifiable with [REDACTED], and Accident Reconstruction Laboratory based upon available information.

WWH:mjgr  
(5)

**NOTE:**

Above in response to Oklahoma City request for name check.

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Deleted Copy Sent [redacted]  
by Letter Dated 5-10-76 b7c  
Per FOIPA Request 10-11-76

REC-67

159-4005-4X

FEB 5 1979

**VEROX**

1975

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. \_\_\_\_\_
- Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_
- Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Inspection \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

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FBI

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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FBI

Date: 12/11/74

PHY.

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD  
(Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma CityQ1 - Paint from interview  
Q2 - Paint from fingerprint

PC-L 4261

Re Oklahoma City airtel to the Bureau, 11/27/74,  
and Bureau airtel to Oklahoma City, 11/21/74.Enclosed herewith for the Bureau is one film  
cassette container and one purple pill box. Enclosed  
for WFO is "New York Times" article of 11/19/74, and  
telegram of [redacted]b6  
b7CFor the information of the Bureau and WFO,  
Oklahoma City has conducted extensive investigation  
relative to captioned case in the immediate Oklahoma  
City area. Contact with local leaders and members of the  
Oil, Gas, and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW)  
in the Oklahoma City vicinity has failed to develop any  
person who has specific information or personal knowledge  
of allegations of possible violations under captioned  
characters.

SI 103

REC-33

159-4105-5

Contact with the deceased's boy friend has  
failed to develop any knowledge of specifics on his part  
as well.

DEC 14 1974

[redacted] when contacted on 12/3/74,  
would not submit to interview except under his conditions  
including tape recording of interview and/or having an  
attorney present based on instructions received from  
OCAW Legislative Assistant [redacted]

3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)

2 - WFO (Enc. 2)

2 - Oklahoma City

LJO:pwo (7)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

COPY & SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB  
FOR LAB ACTION & REPORTDeleted copy sent  
by letter dated  
PER FOIPA REQUEST

Index Lab Files

58 JAN 6 1975

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LABORATORY

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DEC 14 11 15 AM '74

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LABORATORY DIVISION

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DIVISION

DEC 18 9 17 AM '74

F.B.I.  
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

DEC 23 9 15 AM '74

OC 159-45

On 12/4/74, after further checks with [redacted] submitted to interview without any restrictions whatsoever.

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It is noted that [redacted] was one of the two persons with whom the deceased was to meet on the evening of her death [redacted]

It is noted that the telegram over the name of [redacted] claims that the union is in possession of tape recordings, records, and other data relative to this case.

Accordingly, it is felt that contact with union officials, including [redacted] and [redacted] would be helpful and leads in this regard are being set forth below.

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Oklahoma City has a pending report in this matter in dictation setting forth results of investigation to date.

On the evening of 12/3/74, SA [redacted] at Oklahoma City examined the deceased's vehicle, a 1973 Honda Civic, 2-door sedan, white in color, VIN SBC1014541, bearing 1974 Oklahoma License YF 8261. [redacted] stated that damage to left rear corner of car was damage believed by [redacted] Independent Accident Investigator hired by union, to be pertinent to [redacted] theory of possible foul play in connection with fatal accident. Visual inspection of damage failed to note any particles of paint either on dent or bumper other than white Honda paint. From interviews with wrecker personnel it was learned that car possibly received this damage when wrecker was removing car from culvert. The left rear quarter panel was at one time against wing wall of concrete bridge. It is noted that damage to the car was at a point some 13 to 15" off of ground level at a point below horizontal midline on Honda bumper.

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Film cassette container contains white paint samples from dent area and pill box contains minute quantity of [redacted] obtained from bumper. Samples were collected with hard steel tool.

OG 159-45

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

It is requested that the enclosed material be examined for paint particles and other evidence so that a determination can possibly be made whether or not deceased's car was struck from behind by another vehicle.

LEADS:

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will locate [redacted]  
[redacted] OCAW, and [redacted]  
[redacted] OCAW, 1126 16th Street, Northwest,  
Washington, D.C., and contact them for any pertinent  
information they may have in this case to support their  
allegations concerning violations in areas of captioned  
characters. [redacted] should be asked to specify nature and  
extent of documentary information believed to be in  
possession of deceased for her use in intended meeting  
with [redacted] and [redacted].

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ENCLOSURES TO THE BUREAU: 3 sets each of 5 photos of accident scene and 5 photos SILKWOOD's car.

OC 159-45

UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: OKLAHOMA CITY

Rerep of SA , dated 12/13/74.

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159-4/105-6

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b>	DATE <b>12/13/74</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>11/25-12/12/74</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)</b>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	TYPED BY <b>jr</b>
CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>LMRDA; OOJ</b>			

**REFERENCES:** Bureau airtels to Oklahoma City, dated 11/21, 25, and 27/74.  
Oklahoma City teletype to the Bureau, dated 11/19/74.  
Oklahoma City airtels dated 11/27 and 12/11/74.

-P-

**ES**

**TO THE BUREAU**

Enclosed are three sets each of five photographs of the accident scene and five photographs of SILKWOOD's car.

Deleted Copy Sent   
By Letter Dated 12/13/74  
Per FOIPA Request 159-45

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

- 3- Bureau (Enc. 30)**  
**2- USA, Oklahoma City (Enc. 10)**  
**1- WFO**  
**2- Oklahoma City (159-45)**

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

DEC 19 1974

Agency	Request	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	By
<b>1cc ROM CRIM. DIV</b>		<b>12/20/74</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>EM</b>

Notations

SLI

DATE

**57 JAN 2 1975**



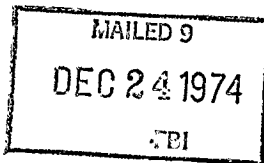
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
D. C. 20535WASH  
DATE 12/23/74TO: SAC, Oklahoma City  
(159-45)Re: UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD  
(Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

Deleted Copy Sent [redacted]

by [redacted] 10-26-74  
Per FOIA request [redacted]b6  
b7C

Invoice of Contents

Q1-Q2



716187

- ☐ Crypt.-Trans.  
☐ Document  
☒ P & C  
☐ Radio Engineering  
☐ LFPS

REGISTERED MAIL

## Special Instructions:

Mail Room: Show shipment date and registry number.  
 Shipping Room: Show shipment date; bill of lading number;  
 initial invoice; return to Section checked in block; after  
 initialing in block, invoice to be placed in administrative file.

FBI File No. 159-4005

12/23/74

PC-L4261 MW

120 JAN 9 1975

OC 159-45

ADMINISTRATIVE

As previously indicated to the Bureau by referenced Oklahoma City communications, SILKWOOD was employed at the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, which facility is considered a critical Atomic Energy licensed facility. Oklahoma City maintains a separate file regarding the facility, Oklahoma City file 117-430 and maintains liaison with the facility and has included the facility within current division contingency plans in accordance with existing Bureau instructions.

Continued liaison with KMC and AEC representatives indicates that the circumstances of SILKWOOD's contamination incident on or about November 5, 1974 are yet not fully understood, nor are the anomalous readings obtained from body samples submitted by SILKWOOD understood. There apparently is the possibility that a small quantity of nuclear material may have been diverted in regard to the contamination incident and it is also possible that the SILKWOOD body samples were "salted" with nuclear material. It is understood that both AEC and KMC investigation relative to these two aspects is ongoing.

It is noted included in the general allegations made against KMC was an allegation that documents relative to fuel rods fabricated at the Cimarron Facility were altered. As previously indicated, KMC and AEC representatives have obtained a statement from a former employee of the facility, [redacted] in which he admits he retouched inspection negatives for fuel rod quality control.

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Leads are presently outstanding for Dallas to obtain copy of report of [redacted] Accident Reconstruction Lab in Dallas, who investigated SILKWOOD's fatal accident. When received, these results will be included in subsequent report prepared by Oklahoma City Division.

OC 159-45

Three copies of report being provided Bureau in view of Obstruction of Justice aspect of case and in the event that dissemination of report to AEC is desired.

LEADS

WFO - INFORMATION

Information copy furnished to WFO in view of outstanding investigation that division.

OKLAHOMA CITY

WFO, AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will recontact USA, [redacted] upon receipt of outstanding investigation at Dallas and WFO.

b6  
b7C

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 2- USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: [REDACTED] b6  
Date: 12/13/74 b7C Office: Oklahoma City

Field Office File #: 159-45 Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT;  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

## Synopsis:

On or about 11/5/74, KAREN G. SILKWOOD, white female, DOB 2/19/46, a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) Local 5283, was involved in a contamination incident at her place of employment, Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Nuclear Products Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma. Her apartment in Edmond, Oklahoma, was contaminated. SILKWOOD, her boyfriend, [REDACTED] and her roommate, [REDACTED] were sent to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Facility, Los Alamos, New Mexico for examination on 11/10-12/74. On 11/13/74, SILKWOOD involved in union-company negotiations, met with AEC representatives and later attended a union meeting at Crescent. Two union members, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] offered to drive her home from the meeting, for they thought she was in no condition to drive. SILKWOOD turned down offers, left meeting shortly after 7:00 pm and was involved in fatal one car accident 7.3 miles south of Crescent. Accident investigated by Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), whose official report revealed no indication of foul play in the accident. Autopsy indicates cause of death multiple injuries and that she was under influence of hypnotic drug, methaqualone at time of death. A trace of ethyl alcohol also found in her system. Allegations received from OCAW indicating that independent accident investigator hired by union suggests that SILKWOOD's car was hit from behind by another vehicle causing fatal accident. Oklahoma Highway Patrol has ruled out any such possibility. [REDACTED] a Sebring Ford (garage) employee, who helped move SILKWOOD car from culvert,

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OC 159-45

said her car at one point had left rear quarter panel against wing wall of bridge (culvert). He cannot state specific condition regarding damage to rear end. [redacted]

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[redacted] KMC employee, advised that SILKWOOD, after October union meeting Crescent, Oklahoma, spent night with her because SILKWOOD was in no condition to drive because of medication. SILKWOOD was involved in a one car accident on 10/31/74, not reported to OHP, at which time right rear of car received damage. Description of accident scene and damage to SILKWOOD car set out.

[redacted] has no tangible information to support theory SILKWOOD met with foul play. [redacted] said KAREN was using methaqualone, not as sleeping pills, but using them as downers, and that he has seen her under influence of the pills, finding her a little drowsy, but still very functional. [redacted] had no specifics regarding SILKWOOD's contamination or allegations concerning quality control. [redacted] has no personal knowledge concerning fatal car accident or related matters, including contamination. USA, Oklahoma City, requests written report prior to making final judgment concerning allegations.

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-P-

ENCLOSURES

TO USA

Five photographs of accident scene and five photographs of SILKWOOD's car.

DETAILS:

OC 159-45

I. PREDICATION

Investigation in this matter was initiated upon receipt of request from the U. S. Department of Justice dated November 20, 1974 as made by [redacted] Assistant Attorney General, as set forth below:

"It is hereby requested that the Bureau conduct a preliminary investigation into the matters alleged in the attached New York Times article of November 19, 1974 and the telegram of [redacted]

[redacted]

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"These allegations, if substantiated, may constitute violations of Section 530, Title 29, United States Code (through the impairment of Ms. Silkwood's rights guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, United States Code) and Section 1505, Title 18, United States Code (in that Ms. Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission)."

OC 159-45

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IV . AUTOPSY - MEDICAL	78a-91
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VI . INTERVIEWS WITH [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]	101-122
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# Death of Plutonium Worker Questioned by Union Official

By DAVID BURNHAM

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18—A high-ranking union official said today that the death last week of a woman who had raised critical safety questions about one of the two commercial plutonium factories in the United States might not have been an accident.

The official sent telegrams, calling on the Justice Department and the Atomic Energy Commission to begin an immediate investigation into the death of Karen G. Silkwood, who died last Wednesday when her car crashed into a culvert a few miles south of Crescent, Okla.

The crash was described as an accident by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. State officials are making a routine investigation into whether alcohol or drugs were a factor in the crash. Neither the Justice Department, the A.E.C. nor Oklahoma officials had any immediate comment tonight on the union official's telegram.

In his telegram to Attorney General William B. Saxbe, Anthony Mazzocchi, Washington representative of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, said an investigator hired by the union had found evidence "to suggest that Miss Silkwood's car was hit from behind by another vehicle causing her to leave the road and hit the concrete culvert." He said he was not accusing any specific person of a crime.

## Union Has Car

Mr. Mazzocchi told the Attorney General that the union had the car, its investigative report of the crash and other data in its possession and would make them available to both the Justice Department and the A.E.C.

He said that the union had decided to make the evidence available to the Justice Department and the A.E.C. rather than state officials because "the problems were of such great seriousness that the required the Federal presence."

Miss Silkwood, who worked in the Cimarron facility of the Kerr-McGee Corporation near Crescent, was on her way to a meeting with an official of the union and a reporter for The New York Times to discuss safety conditions at the plant. Two weeks ago, she was exposed to a large amount of radiation in an accident at the plant that the A.E.C. is still investigating.

At a meeting with the commission in Washington on Sept. 27, Miss Silkwood and two of her colleagues from the Cimarron plant charged that officials there had endangered the lives of the workers.

At approximately the same time, the three technicians provided the union with additional allegations that the facility was manufacturing some faulty fuel rods and that inspection documents required for these rods had been falsified.

The union tape-recorded these allegations at the time they were made. Recent conversations with other technicians, who asked that inspection records had been falsified.

## Responsible to A.E.C.

Informed of the statement of the union, D. A. McGee, board chairman and chief executive officer of Kerr-McGee, said that because Miss Silkwood's death was still under investigation, it would not be appropriate to comment on it.

"Regarding allegations of falsification of records," he added, "we are fully responsible to the A.E.C. and other regulatory agencies for both quality control and safety and our records are continuously audited."

The Cimarron facility, protected by a tall chain-link fence on a low hill four miles south of Crescent, manufactures plutonium fuel rods that will be used in an experimental, liquid-metal, fast breeder reac-



Karen G. Silkwood, who died in a car crash last week in Oklahoma.

Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
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Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
Washington Star-News \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times 11/19/74  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

XXX PAGE 28 C



tor being constructed for the A.E.C. near Richland, Wash.

The experimental reactor, which is being built under a \$420-million contract, is scheduled to be completed in 1977 and to be in operation in 1978. It is intended to test a new generation of reactors that the Atomic Energy Commission hopes will provide the United States with increasing amounts of electric power.

There are varying estimates about the potential danger should the allegations of the workers about faulty fuel rods be true. Dr. Ralph Lapp, for many years a leading atomic power expert, said that, as a hypothetical situation, he did not believe faulty rods were much of a problem.

"Should any problem cause a leak it would be spotted and the rod would be removed," he explained.

Dr. Henry Kendall, a leading nuclear critic and physics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, disagreed.

"These failures could start off an accident which would result in the release of huge amounts of radioactivity," he said.

#### No Explanation

The day after Miss Silkwood's white 1973 Honda smashed into the culvert on the left side of the straight road, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol issued a report describing the accident but not offering any explanation for it. The accident, which occurred about 7:30 P.M., was investigated by State Trooper Rick Fagan. Miss Silkwood was buried yesterday in Kilgore, Tex.

Because of the incident in the factory where she was exposed to a large amount of radiation, the A.E.C. is conducting a special autopsy on her organs.

In his telegram to Saxbe, Mr. Mazzocchi said that Miss Silkwood, at the time of her death, "was on her way to meet Mr. Steven Wodka, legislative assistant to the O.C.A.W., and David Burnham, a reporter for The New York Times, who were waiting for her in the Holiday Inn, W. in Oklahoma City, Okla."

"Miss Silkwood," Mr. Mazzocchi continued, "was bringing information concerning the alleged falsification of records concerning quality of nuclear fuel elements being manufac-

sion at this time of sufficient evidence that we believe would lend credibility to Miss Silkwood's allegations."

Mr. Mazzocchi said that on being informed of Miss Silkwood's death, he obtained the permission of A. F. Groszperon, president of the union, to hire a private investigator who had expertise in examining car crashes to determine the cause of her death.

"The investigator hired is Mr. A. O. Pipkin Jr. of Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas, Tex," he said. "He conducted his investigation on Saturday, Nov. 16, 1974. I spoke with him this morning and he has told me there is evidence to suggest that Miss Silkwood's car was hit from behind by another vehicle, causing her car to leave the road and hit the concrete culvert."

#### 2,000 Accidents

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Pipkin said he based his conclusion about the probable cause of the accident on a small fresh dent on the left rear bumper of Miss Silkwood's car and the configuration of the skid marks on the grassy left bank of the highway just before she dipped into the small stream bed and struck the culvert.

Mr. Pipkin did highway investigations for the Albuquerque, N. M., Police Department between 1951 and 1955 before establishing his own firm. He has investigated more than 2,000 accidents and testified in more than 300 court trials, frequently for insurance companies.

He said that because of the dents and the skid marks, "it was highly probable that the car was acted upon by an external force, that the crash was the result of Miss Silkwood's car being struck by another vehicle."

"I recognize the full gravity of my suspicions and urge your immediate attention to this matter," he concluded.

In response to a question, he said: "I am not accusing any particular person with murder. Based on an independent investigation, however, it is apparent that someone forced Karen Silkwood from the road, thereby causing her death. I'll leave it to the Federal authorities to determine who and why."

Miss Silkwood had been a

continue representing workers in the plant. The union won the battle by a vote of 80 to 61 on Oct. 16.

In her meeting with the A.E.C. on Sept. 27, according to the commission's summary of the session, Miss Silkwood and her companions charged that the facility had failed to educate and train workers properly in the handling of plutonium, long regarded as an extremely toxic substance. They also charged that the company had failed to keep exposures of plutonium as low as possible, to adequately monitor worker exposure and take the required hygienic precautions.

One specific allegation they made was that the company had gradually reduced training from five days to two four-hour sessions during the last two years.

OC 159-45

II. CONTACT KERR MC GEE CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVES

OC 159-45

LJO:pwo

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ]:

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b7C

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

On November 21, 1974, [ ]  
[ ] Kerr McGee Corporation, and [ ]  
[ ] Kerr McGee Corporation, appeared at the Oklahoma  
City Office of the FBI to advise that they had been  
instructed by their company to advise the FBI that they  
were conducting an internal investigation within the  
Kerr McGee Corporation regarding allegations made by the  
Oil, Gas, and Atomic Workers International Union concerning  
safety procedures at the Kerr McGee Nuclear facility at  
Crescent, Oklahoma, and allegations surrounding the  
circumstances of the death of KAREN G. SILKWOOD, who was  
employed at the facility. They advised that they were  
extending the full co-operation and the resources of their  
company to the FBI in connection with the FBI's  
investigation into the SILKWOOD matter and indicated  
that they hoped that their investigation would in no  
way hinder the FBI investigation. They noted their company  
had given considerable co-operation to the Atomic Energy  
Commission who also is interested in several aspects of the  
SILKWOOD matter. They indicated that the company had  
rather belatedly started this internal investigation,  
having instituted it only two days previous.

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On November 25, 1974, [ ]  
[ ] Kerr McGee Corporation, and [ ]  
[ ] Kerr McGee Corporation, both extended the full  
co-operation of their company to the FBI relative to the  
SILKWOOD matter and related matters involving the Kerr  
McGee Corporation. [ ] advised that he hoped that  
the FBI would not limit their investigation only to the  
allegations made against the Kerr McGee Corporation by  
the union but would include thorough inquiry into other  
areas which he understands are within the jurisdiction  
of the FBI such as possible theft or diversion of nuclear

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OC 159-45

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material, possible doctoring of SILKWOOD's biological specimens and determining who really was behind the falsification of the plutonium fuel rod records.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 12/2/74

[redacted] Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC), furnished the following information:

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A review of KMC records reflects that KAREN GAY SILKWOOD was hired by KMC on August 3, 1972. She was hired under the name of KAREN GAY MEADOWS, was divorced and reverted to her maiden name of SILKWOOD. She was a white female, born February 19, 1946.

At the time of her death, SILKWOOD worked as an analyst in the Metalagraphic Plutonium Section of the Plutonium Laboratory, Crescent Nuclear Facility.

[redacted] made available a copy of SILKWOOD's application dated July 31, 1972.

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In regard to SILKWOOD's roommate, [redacted] she was hired by KMC on [redacted] and works as an analyst in the Web Laboratory, Plutonium Laboratory, Crescent Nuclear Facility. She is described as a white female, born [redacted]

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In regard to SILKWOOD's boy friend, [redacted] he formerly worked for KMC also as an analyst at the Crescent Facility from August 11, 1969 to September 20, 1974. He is a white male, born [redacted]

[redacted] made available copies of [redacted] and [redacted] KMC applications dated December 21, 1973 and June 16, 1969 respectively.

KMC is currently conducting investigation relative to the KAREN SILKWOOD contamination incident and other related matters. Much work remains yet to be done.

As a point of information, it might be well to consider certain events, which have occurred previously which may well have some bearing on the SILKWOOD incident and related matters. [redacted] who is active in the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) quit his job

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11/27/74 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Oklahoma City 159-45  
Interviewed on File #  
SA [redacted] 11/29/74  
by [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated

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with KMC in September, 1974. It is his understanding that SILKWOOD was rather unhappy with KMC, but had been doing a good job for the company prior to quitting. Apparently [ ] felt that he was not getting proper recognition for some of the jobs that he had done. He had two contemporaries with the company, both of whom continued on to college while they worked for KMC and both of whom received degrees. [ ] did not continue his education and therefore, fell behind as far as being able to compete for promotions.

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Additionally, [ ] father, [ ] was one of the key persons who helped KMC establish the Crescent Nuclear Facility. It is his understanding that [ ] had personality clash with his Project Head, [ ], and therefore, quit KMC and went to work in the Marketing Division of another oil company. It is quite possible that the difficulty that [ ] father had with company carried on over into the [ ] family home life and may have had an adverse effect on [ ].

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[ ] again stated [ ] was very active in the OCAW and was one of several persons involved in the leadership of the OCAW Local. Two years ago, the local got its "ears pinned back" in contract negotiations with the company and it appeared that since that time, the union had lost popularity with many of its members who worked at the Crescent Facility. Even though [ ] terminated in September, he has continued to remain active in the OCAW. His girl friend, KAREN, also was very active in the OCAW. [ ] KAREN and their associates had control of the local until about three or four months ago, at which time another group from within the union seemed to dominate the leadership.

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It is well to note that at the time of the SILKWOOD contamination incident, that the union and company were in a period of new contract negotiations, which contract incidentally, was overwhelmingly accepted by the union membership on November 26, 1974.

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OC 159-45

KAREN was a committee woman with OCAW and in that capacity, in late September, 1974. KAREN and union members [ ] and the present local president, [ ] went to Washington, D.C. to participate in a meeting of the Safety Arm of the National OCAW Union and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). It is his understanding that the itinerary for this meeting was to include two atomic installations, (other than Crescent) and complaints regarding the Crescent Facility were thrown in by KAREN and the other local members, apparently as an afterthought.

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At the September meeting, KAREN, after getting approval from the Local President [ ] presented to AEC a four page list of allegations concerning safety violations at the KMC Crescent Facility. The first that KMC was aware of these allegations was from newspaper publicity generated by the SILKWOOD contamination problem and her subsequent death. Procedures have been in the past established for such allegations to be referred to the company, however, the company was not notified. It was only within the last week that the company received the allegations concerning safety from AEC.

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It might be also well to consider that at the time of the death of SILKWOOD, KMC was completely unaware that she had apparently scheduled a meeting with [ ] of the "New York Times". Nor was the company aware that SILKWOOD had collected documents, which purportedly related to the alleged safety problems at KMC Crescent Facility and/or allegations concerning falsification of documents for fuel rods.

Whether or not any of the documents or papers in the possession of SILKWOOD at the time of her death are actually missing, KMC does not know. [ ] stated that he is aware of the fact that the OHP and wrecker personnel did see some papers in SILKWOOD's car after the accident and he is also aware that an AEC representative, [ ] who checked SILKWOOD's car for radiation at Crescent, Oklahoma, on November 14, 1974, made a check of some papers. It is his understanding that [ ] had indicated that the papers that he checked were "union notes" and [ ] was unable to be more specific concerning the notes' contents. It is his further understanding that

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the contents of the car, including the papers, was turned over to [ ] and to KAREN's parents.

[ ] took possession of the car after it was released by the wrecker service at Crescent and he has reportedly held the car since that time at some secret location in Oklahoma City. It is his understanding that [ ] took several photographs of the car and on November 24, 1974 left one roll of film in a "drop" in a telephone booth at 23rd and Broadway for "The Daily Oklahoman". He does not know the reason for this type of secrecy in connection with the SILKWOOD incident.

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KAREN SILKWOOD and her roommate, [ ] were sent to the AEC Facility at Los Alamos for medical checks during the period November 11-12, 1974. On November 13, 1974, she participated in negotiating session at the Crescent Facility, met with the AEC and later attended a union meeting in the City of Crescent, which was held in a local cafe, possibly the "Hub". She left the union meeting sometime shortly after 7:00 pm. Reportedly, several people at the meeting were concerned about SILKWOOD's ability to drive at the time she left the meeting. These included an OCAW committee man [ ]

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It was about 7:30 pm at a point seven and one-fourth miles south of Crescent where SILKWOOD's fatal accident occurred. It is his understanding that two union employees, whose identities are presently unknown to him, were among the first to stop and help at the accident scene.

He is aware that SILKWOOD had previously had a wreck on or about October 31, 1974, at which time the car in which she had the fatal accident had received considerable rear-end damage. As a result of this October wreck, SILKWOOD complained of neck pain and consulted [ ] who has offices on May Avenue in Oklahoma City. It is his understanding that [ ] did prescribe the drug which SILKWOOD was under the influence of at the time of her death.

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It is also his understanding that SILKWOOD had another type of medication prescribed to her while she was at Los Alamos during the period of November 11-12, 1974; however, he does not know what type of drug was prescribed.

His company has interviewed [redacted] at length and [redacted] has indicated that to further complicate the situation, that KAREN had told her that [redacted]

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[redacted] also continued that KAREN had said that the information that she was going to pass on to [redacted] and the "New York Times" reporter was lacking somewhat in quality and she was very disappointed in this regard.

[redacted] has also indicated that KAREN was going through periods of deep depression and was supposedly very worried about her contamination and needed to take medication to sleep. She was also reportedly visiting a psychologist, identity as yet unknown, in Oklahoma City.

In regard to the falsification of the fuel rod records, his office and representatives of AEC have interviewed at length [redacted] who resides at [redacted] and who is presently [redacted]

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[redacted] worked for about a 11 month period for the company at the Gascent Facility, terminating on [redacted]. He was a fuel rod inspector and microscopically

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inspected the stainless steel welds which attached the caps to the fuel rods. He would visually inspect the welds with a microscope making impressions with highly magnified photographs of the welds, looking for voids and inclusions. During the 11 month period, he inspected some 1700 fuel rod units and admittedly altered the photographic negatives of less than 50 rods with the use of a felt-tip pen.

[ ] claimed that he did this of his own volition. He claimed that his immediate supervisor had no knowledge of these acts and also claimed that he received no encouragement or instruction from KMC to make these alterations. [ ] claimed he had told no other person of these acts.

[ ] made full admissions both to the company and AEC.

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[ ] indicated that the primary reason that he did this thing was to increase his productivity inasmuch as the person who was inspecting his work, [ ] was rejecting an abnormal number of units which should not have been rejected because there were no flaws.

Even though [ ] had indicated that no one else knew of the alterations that he was making to the negatives, two union members, [ ] and [ ], appeared to be knowledgeable of [ ] acts and it was [ ] who first informed the AEC in specific detail in this regard. [ ] was able to identify a particular fuel rod assembly as to number, thus pinpointing an altered negative.

The first knowledge that KMC had of the alterations was as a result of media publicity concerning a union telegram to AEC and the Department of Justice reporting the allegations.

To date, the company has discovered some 37 altered negatives, however, apparently one negative is presently missing.

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Various items were recovered from SILKWOOD's apartment in a contaminated state. These items are being stored in a safe place at the Crescent Facility inasmuch as they are "hot" with radiation. These items included two roaches (partially smoked marijuana cigarettes) and several inches of marijuana plant. Also recovered at her apartment, but not "hot", is what appears to be a narcotics kit, which included a syringe, two needles, a small vial and a larger vial. Also obtained at the apartment was a list which appears to be a separate budget for [redacted] and KAREN. One of the budget entries is for an item "dope" with the maximum amount indicated for this entry under KAREN's name of \$300.

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There are indications that KAREN had contact with several juveniles in the immediate Crescent area and had reportedly supplied these juveniles with drugs and had reportedly also indicated to these persons that she had diverted a quantity of nuclear material. Further inquiry is being made by AEC and KMC in this regard.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 12/10/74

[redacted] Regulation and Control, Nuclear Division, Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), furnished the following information:

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His company has conducted an extensive inquiry relative to a contamination incident involving KAREN SILKWOOD, who was employed by KMC at the Plutonium Plant located at Crescent, Oklahoma. Miss SILKWOOD was employed as a laboratory analyst in the plant's metallographic department. On November 5, 1974, she was working the 4:00 p.m. to midnight shift and as she prepared to leave work was found to have a low level of radioactive contamination. She went through the normal procedure of decontamination at the plant which consisted of scrubbing with a heavy detergent and a clorox solution. Following the decontamination procedure, Miss SILKWOOD returned to her apartment in Edmond, Oklahoma. She was checked prior to having left the plant and found to be completely free of any contamination.

Miss SILKWOOD returned the morning of Wednesday, November 6, 1974, to work at the KMC Crescent facility on the 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. shift. At approximately 9:30 a.m., she checked herself and again found a slight degree of external contamination. Again she was decontaminated and asked to report at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, November 7, 1974, to the Health Physics Department at the Crescent facility for further checking.

On November 7, 1974, she reported directly to the Health Physics Building and did not go to the Plutonium Plant. The check determined she was contaminated again, and since she had not been in the Plutonium Plant, it was thought that the contamination may have been acquired outside the plant. The Thursday examination indicated SILKWOOD had internal contamination, while the previous tests had only shown external contamination.

On November 7, 1974, a team of specialists from the KMC Health Physics Department went to Miss SILKWOOD's

Interviewed on 11/27/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # OKLAHOMA CITY 159-45  
by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 12/4/74

apartment in nearby Edmond, Oklahoma, and discovered a high degree of surface contamination at various spots in the apartment.

Miss SILKWOOD's roommate, [redacted] who was also a KMC Plutonium Plant employee, was in the apartment at the time the team of investigators arrived. [redacted] had worked an earlier shift at the plant and was completely free of contamination when she left the facility. However, at this time, [redacted] was found to be contaminated, and she was taken from the apartment to the plant for decontamination.

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The company thereafter notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State Department of Health relative to the contamination.

On November 7, 1974, the company had not determined the degree of contamination of SILKWOOD, [redacted] or their apartment, nor had the cause of contamination been determined. Both women submitted samples of fecal material and urine for bioassay analysis to determine what extent of internal contamination there was, if any, within the two women. The apartment in Edmond, Oklahoma, was sealed off pending a determination of the extent of contamination.

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On November 8, 1974, a team of investigators from the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) arrived to conduct their investigation relative to the contamination incident. The company fully cooperated with this group of investigators in order to facilitate the AEC investigation. There was some difficulty in locating SILKWOOD for the AEC. The AEC indicated that they saw no need to restrict SILKWOOD's movements as long as she took 100% bioassay samples. On November 8, 1974, KMC received from the AEC, six urine samples relative to SILKWOOD. Two of these samples predated November 5, 1974, and four were samples obtained after November 5, 1974.

SILKWOOD had previously been involved in the contamination incident at the plant in July, 1974, and at the point previous to November 5, 1974, she was submitting samples relative to the July contamination on a weekly basis. These samples as well as many of the samples submitted after the November 5, 1974, incident were not supervised; that is, SILKWOOD submitted these samples on her own and not in a controlled situation. Previous to October 25, 1974, her

urine sample was reading less than 0.1 dpm. The count in the samples (unsupervised) increased thereafter reaching a high on November 6, 1974, of  $1.67 \times 10^6$  dpm. Her fecal samples were also checking high.

Her fecal sample of November 6, 1974, checked  $2.0 \times 10^7$  dpm. It is estimated that in order for SILKWOOD to have checked this high on this particular fecal count, that it would have been necessary for her to have ingested 10 micrograms of the KMC Plutonium product or 400 micrograms of the Plutonium Uranium mixture.

X-ray diffraction studies of material obtained from SILKWOOD's extremely high urine sample of November 6, 1974, revealed that included in the material left on the filter was Uranium 205 an isotope which is not expected to be found associated with the Plutonium that SILKWOOD worked with at the plant.

This and other things have led KMC and AEC to speculate that in addition to SILKWOOD having ingested some insoluble Plutonium that some of her fecal and urine samples whose collection was not supervised but submitted by SILKWOOD, were in some way "laced" or adulterated with radioactive material.

SILKWOOD's boyfriend, [redacted] was also checked for contamination and submitted body samples for analysis.

On November 10, 1974, both SILKWOOD and [redacted] were sent to the AEC Los Alamos, New Mexico, facility for a full body count. SILKWOOD and [redacted] were tested on November 11 and November 12, 1974, at Los Alamos. They returned to the Oklahoma City area on Tuesday night, November 12, 1974. ELLIS indicated that they caught a late plane and returned to Oklahoma City around 10 or 11:00 p.m. that night.

On November 13, 1974, SILKWOOD went to work at the Crescent facility but never actually went on the job. She participated in a company-union negotiation session which lasted most of the day. She stayed in this meeting until about 3:30 p.m. and thereafter met with AEC representatives at the plant staying with them until 5 or 5:30 p.m.

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SILKWOOD thereafter went to nearby Crescent, Oklahoma, to attend a union meeting at a local cafe. It was after leaving the union meeting that she experienced the fatal automobile accident.

Many things concerning the contamination incident and related matters are as yet unknown to both KMC and AEC. Based on all the information known to date it would appear that the only conclusion that one could reach relative to the SILKWOOD contamination of November 5, 1974, was that she internally ingested Plutonium at the plant and/or in some fashion carried Plutonium out of the plant and took it at home.

[redacted] made available copies of the bioassay analysis relative to SILKWOOD, [redacted] and [redacted] and are as follows:

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OC 159-45

III. INVESTIGATION RELATIVE TO NOVEMBER 13,  
1974 FATAL ACCIDENT



05 120-42

1946 BATTLE ACCIDENT  
III. INVESTIGATION RELATIVE TO NOVEMBER 13.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/6/74

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Lieutenant [redacted] Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

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A fatal one car accident which occurred on November 13, 1974, in Logan County, Oklahoma, in which KAREN GAY SILKWOOD died, was investigated by OHP Trooper [redacted].

He noted that this accident has received widespread publicity and was separately investigated by an independent accident investigator, [redacted] of Accident Reconstruction Laboratory of Dallas, Texas. As reported in the media, [redacted] conclusions concerning the possible cause of the accident were considerably different than the conclusions reached by the OHP.

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The OHP investigation indicated no evidence of foul play; while [redacted] speculated that SILKWOOD's car had been struck from the rear by another vehicle thus precipitating the fatal accident.

Inspection of the accident scene by the OHP failed to develop any evidence on the roadway of the SILKWOOD car having been struck, that is there were no skid marks indicated that would result from impact of another vehicle. Indications were that any damage sustained to the rear of the SILKWOOD vehicle may have resulted from a previous wreck which was not investigated by his department but is being investigated now and/or from damage resulting when the wrecker was attempting to extract SILKWOOD's car from the culvert in which it came to rest.

It is further noted that investigation was able to establish that the SILKWOOD car drifted off the road and traveled some 255 feet down a bar ditch before hitting the culvert wall. During its course of travel

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Interviewed on 11/26/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45  
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 12/3/74

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there were no marks that would have indicated SILKWOOD had ever attempted to brake or steer the car back onto the roadway.

It is also noted that the autopsy of SILKWOOD determined that she had a relatively large concentration of a hypnotic drug, methaqualone, in her bloodstream. Also less than .02 per cent of ethyl alcohol was found in her blood. The methaqualone appeared to be in sufficient quantity to alone have been a factor in causing the accident and the alcohol, while a relatively minor amount, also would have been a contributing factor.

[ ] had indicated that he was going to furnish a copy of the results of his investigation into this accident to the OHP, but such report has not been received to date.

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In regard to SILKWOOD's accident that preceded the fatal accident, this matter was not investigated by the OHP when the accident occurred, however, it has been determined that at 1:15 A.M., on October 31, 1974, (Thursday), at a point 3.8 miles west of Guthrie, Oklahoma, on State Highway 33, SILKWOOD's car, a 1973 Honda, went off the highway going over backwards off a 13 foot embankment and coming to rest against a fence post.

SILKWOOD left the car in the ditch until morning and thereafter contacted Martin's Wrecker Service in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Wrecker service extracted vehicle from ditch and as he previously indicated, this accident was not reported to the OHP. It is his understanding that as result of this accident SILKWOOD filed a claim with the Allstate Insurance Company for damage to the left rear quarter panel of the vehicle. It is also his understanding the wrecker driver who picked up the SILKWOOD car after the fatal accident observed in her car a recent estimate from the Eskridge Pontiac-Honda Company relative to damage to the left rear quarter panel. It is his understanding this estimate was in excess of \$300.

Inquiry by his department determined that SILKWOOD, on November 1, 1974, contacted Dr. CLARENCE

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[redacted], in Oklahoma City, at which time she complained of whiplash. She subsequently contacted the doctor on November 4, 1974, at which time she complained she could not sleep. It is [redacted] understanding that [redacted] prescribed the methaqualone as result of SILKWOOD's visits.

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OKLAHOMA

## OFFICIAL TRAFFIC COLLISION REPORT

Reporting Agency:

OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY PATROL

Do not write in this space

Date: November 13, 1974 Day of Week: Wednesday

Hour: 7:30 AM

County: LOGAN

CRESCENT

Name of Nearest City  
(If outside city limits)

Distance From

7.3

Miles

City Limits:

Miles

Hwy. Class

STATE HIGHWAY CODES

County No.

42

Control No.

Int. I.D.

Location

County Section Line Grids Or City Street Codes

East

009+0

North

016+9

Spec. Feat.

Collision Codes

Inter. Ppd. Cl.

Driver: SILKWOOD, KAREN GAY

848-6181

APP ☐

Address: 836 N.W. 48th Okla. City, Okla. 73118

street or RFD city and state zip code

License: 76 OKLA. 456780131

exp. yr. state number

Age: 28 Race: W Sex: F Date of Birth: 2-19-46

Veh. ID No.: SBC1014541

Vehicle: 73 Honda Civic 2 Dr. C = {

License Plate: 74 OKLA. YF 8261

year state number

Owner's Name: Driver

last first middle phone no.

Address: Same as Driver

55 MPH 50-55 MPH 40-45 MPH Is Veh. Operable? Yes ☐ No ☒  
legal speed before contact at contact Burned? ☒ Yes \$2000.00 estimated damage

Veh. removed to: CRESCENT by: SEBRING WRECKER

Driver ☐Pedestrian ☐Animal ☐Train, etc. ☐

Address: street or RFD city and state zip code

License: exp. yr. state number

Age: Sex: Date of Birth: Mo. Day Year

Veh. ID No. Training ☐ Yes ☐ No

Vehicle: year make model style size

License Plate: year state number

Owner's Name: last first middle phone no.

Address: Is Veh. Operable? Yes ☐ No ☐55 MPH 50-55 MPH 40-45 MPH Is Veh. Operable? Yes ☐ No ☐ \$2000.00  
legal speed before contact at contact Burned? ☐ Yes ☐ No estimated damage

Veh. removed to: by:

INJURED or WITNESS	Injured- Witness-	last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	veh. #	Position in vehicle			
											1	2	3	4
1	Injury Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	veh. #	Position in vehicle			
	Injury: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Head <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trunk-External <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trunk-Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leg <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crash Helmet: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ejected? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Belt: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lap Belt: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>													
	ped. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>													
	ped. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>													
2	Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	veh. #	Position in vehicle			
	Injury: <input type="checkbox"/> Head <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-External <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-Internal <input type="checkbox"/> Arm <input type="checkbox"/> Leg <input type="checkbox"/> Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/>													
	ped. <input type="checkbox"/>													
	ped. <input type="checkbox"/>													
3	Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	veh. #	Position in vehicle			
	Injury: <input type="checkbox"/> Head <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-External <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-Internal <input type="checkbox"/> Arm <input type="checkbox"/> Leg <input type="checkbox"/> Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/>													
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4	Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	veh. #	Position in vehicle			
	Injury: <input type="checkbox"/> Head <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-External <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-Internal <input type="checkbox"/> Arm <input type="checkbox"/> Leg <input type="checkbox"/> Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/>													
	ped. <input type="checkbox"/>													
	ped. <input type="checkbox"/>													

PEDESTRIAN	Injured- Taken	last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	veh. #	Position in vehicle			
											1	2	3	4
1	Injured- Taken	last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	veh. #	Position in vehicle			
											Injury: <input type="checkbox"/> Head <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-External <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-Internal <input type="checkbox"/> Arm <input type="checkbox"/> Leg <input type="checkbox"/> Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/>			
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2	Injured- Taken	last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	veh. #	Position in vehicle			
											Injury: <input type="checkbox"/> Head <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-External <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-Internal <input type="checkbox"/> Arm <input type="checkbox"/> Leg <input type="checkbox"/> Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/>			
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3	Injured- Taken	last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	veh. #	Position in vehicle			
											Injury: <input type="checkbox"/> Head <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-External <input type="checkbox"/> Trunk-Internal <input type="checkbox"/> Arm <input type="checkbox"/> Leg <input type="checkbox"/> Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> In Use <input type="checkbox"/>			
											ped. <input type="checkbox"/>			
											ped. <input type="checkbox"/>			

Damage to property other than vehicles: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigation made at scene?	Investigation completed?	Operator's report given to driver	Veh. 1	Veh. 2	Photos taken?	Driver #1	Driver #2	Pedestrian	HIT & RUN	
									Yes	No
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: last first middle	Citation:	Name: last first middle	Citation:	Name: last first middle	Citation:	Name: last first middle	Citation:	Name: last first middle	Citation:	Name: last first middle

SIGN HERE	Badge No.	District & Division	Reviewed by: (initials & date)
b7C			

Unit 1 2		WHAT VEHICLES WERE GOING TO DO	Unit 1 2		WHAT VEHICLE'S DID	Unit 1 2		TYPE OF ROAD	Unit 1 2		TRAFFIC CONTROL	Unit 1 2		ROAD CHARACTER	Unit 1 2		COND. OF DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Go ahead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Went ahead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. One-way road	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Stop sign	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Straight-ahead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Apparently normal
		2. Turn left			2. Turned left			2. Alley			2. Traffic signal			2. Straight-upgrade			2. Drinking-ability impaired
		3. Turn right			3. Turned right	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Two lanes			3. Flashing signal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Straight-downgrade			3. Odor of alcoholic beverage
		4. Make "U" turn			4. Entered "U" turn			4. Three lanes			4. Yield sign			4. Straight-hillcrest			4. Very tired
		5. Stop			5. Stopped			5. Four or more divided			5. Warning sign			5. Curve-level			5. Sleepy <b>DRUGS</b>
		6. Slow for cause			6. Slowed			6. Four or more not divided			6. RR gates, signals			6. Curve-upgrade			6. Sick
		7. Start from park			7. Started from park			7. Driveway			7. No-passing zone			7. Curve-downgrade			7. Condition not known
		8. Change lanes			8. Entered other lane			8. Turn bay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8. Officer			8. Curve-hillcrest			Body defects (arm, leg, eyes, etc.)
		9. Overtake or pass			9. Overtaking			9. On ramp			9. No control			9. Sharp curve (add to above if applicable)			
		10. Back			10. Backed			10. Off ramp			other						
		11. Start in traffic lane			11. Started forward			other			10. Abnormal control			other			other
		12. Remain stopped parked			12. Remained stopped parked												
		other			other												
<div> <div>POINT OF FIRST CONTACT ON VEHICLES</div> <div> <div>Unit 1 2</div> <div>Unit 1 2</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>LIGHT</div> <div>WEATHER</div> </div> <div> <div>WHAT PEDESTRIAN WAS DOING</div> <div>1. Crossing at intersection</div> </div>																	

OBJECT STRUCK BY VEHICLE OR LOAD ON FIRST CONTACT					
Unit 1 2			Unit 1 2		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Street light pole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Traffic control sign
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Other utility pole	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Ditch
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Guard rail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Embankment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Guard post	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Tree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Culvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Dividing Strip
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Traffic signal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Retaining wall
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Barrier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge (pier, abutment, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Curb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other highway struct.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other

Unit 1 2			Unit 1 2		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Front-center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Rightside-center
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Front-right	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Rightside-forward
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Front-left	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Rightside-aft
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Rear-center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Leftside-center
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Rear-right	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Leftside-forward
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Rear-left	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Leftside-aft

Unit 1 2		ROAD CONDITION	Unit 1 2		ROAD SURFACE	LOCALITY	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Dry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Residential
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Wet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Business
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Ice/Snow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Industrial
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Muddy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Dirt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. School
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Not built-up
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	other

Unit 1 2		VEHICLE CONDITION		TIRE CHECK	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Apparently normal	Anomalous Condition	U-1	U-2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Brakes		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Steering		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Headlights		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Rear lights		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Tires		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other			

Unit 1 2		VEHICLE CONDITION		TIRE CHECK	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Apparently normal	Anomalous Condition	U-1	U-2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Brakes		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Steering		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Headlights		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Rear lights		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Tires		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other			

Unit 1 2		VEHICLE CONDITION		TIRE CHECK	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Apparently normal	Anomalous Condition	U-1	U-2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Brakes		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Steering		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Headlights		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Rear lights		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Tires		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other			

Unit 1 2		VEHICLE CONDITION		TIRE CHECK	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Apparently normal	Anomalous Condition	U-1	U-2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Brakes		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Steering		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Headlights		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Rear lights		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Tires		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other			

Unit 1 2		VEHICLE CONDITION		TIRE CHECK	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Apparently normal	Anomalous Condition	U-1	U-2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Brakes		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Steering		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Headlights		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Rear lights		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Tires		LF	RF
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other			

Unit 1 2		VEHICLE CONDITION		TIRE CHECK	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

**COLLISION DIAGRAM**

**COLLISION DIAGRAM**

visibility obscured by \_\_\_\_\_

SEE PAGE TWO

Did Location of FIRST  
Damage or Injury Producing Event  
Occur on Travel Portion of Trafficway?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Defect in Road \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: (COMMENTS THAT WILL CLARIFY REPORT)  
(Refer to vehicles by number)

(Refer to vehicles by number)  
Veh. #1 south bound on SH 74. Ran off east side of roadway. Veh. travelled approx. 255 ft. in east bar ditch. Veh. struck north retaining wall approx. 3 ft. from face of bridge. Veh. airborne approx. 24 ft. and struck the south retaining wall approx. 3 ft. from face of bridge and approx. 3 ft. above ground level. Veh. landed on left side. No skid marks. Witnesses interviewed stated that they had advised the driver was in no physical condition to operate a vehicle.

## UNSAFE, UNLAWFUL, OR OTHER ACTION (this section - primarily for general statistics and administrative purposes)

Unit		Describe	Unit		Describe
1	2		1	2	
		1. Failed to Yield			10. improper Overtaking
		2. Followed too Closely			11. Improper Parking
		3. Unsafe Speed			12. Inattention
		4. Made Improper Turn			13. Wrong way on —
		5. Changed Lanes Unsafely			14. Improper Start from —
		6. Stopped in Traffic Lane			15. Other Improper Act or Movement
		7. Failed to Stop			16. Not Known — or — No Improper Action
		8. Unsafe Vehicle			17. Other Action — not directly related to collision
		9. Left of Center			18. Pedestrian Action

SUPPLEMENT  
to the  
OKLAHOMA

OFFICIAL POLICE TRAFFIC COLLISION REPORT  
OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY PATROL

Do not write in this space

Date: Nov. 13, 1974 Day of Week: Wednesday Hour: 7:30 AM PM County: LOGAN

CRESCENT

Name of Nearest City  
(if outside city limits)

Distance From  
Nearest  
City Limits: 7.3 Miles  
N ☐ S ☒  
E ☐ W ☐

LOCATION

IN ☐ ON ☐ AT/NOT AT INTERSECTION 500 ft. south of County Road  
city or town STATE HIGHWAY 74  
name or number of street or highway  
name of intersecting road or landmark

Total Number  
Motor 1 No. Injured: 1  
Veh. Involved No. Killed: 1

— TYPE // PRINT —

Injured— Witness—	last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	Veh.#	Position in vehicle			
Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> K <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	Head <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— External <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— Internal <input type="checkbox"/>	Arm Leg <input type="checkbox"/>	Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	ped.
Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> K <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	Head <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— External <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— Internal <input type="checkbox"/>	Arm Leg <input type="checkbox"/>	Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	ped.
Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> K <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	Head <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— External <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— Internal <input type="checkbox"/>	Arm Leg <input type="checkbox"/>	Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	ped.
Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> K <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	Head <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— External <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— Internal <input type="checkbox"/>	Arm Leg <input type="checkbox"/>	Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	ped.
Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> K <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	Head <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— External <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— Internal <input type="checkbox"/>	Arm Leg <input type="checkbox"/>	Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	ped.
Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> K <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	Head <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— External <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— Internal <input type="checkbox"/>	Arm Leg <input type="checkbox"/>	Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	ped.
Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> K <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	Head <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— External <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— Internal <input type="checkbox"/>	Arm Leg <input type="checkbox"/>	Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	ped.
Injury Type: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> K <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	Head <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— External <input type="checkbox"/>	Trunk— Internal <input type="checkbox"/>	Arm Leg <input type="checkbox"/>	Crash Helmet: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Ejected? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Shoulder Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Lap Belt: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Equipped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	In Use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	ped.

Name:	last	first	middle	Citation:	Citation No.
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

Non-Contact Unit  
(Vehicle "A") last first middle street city and state zip code

Driver: Address:

License: exp. year state number Age: Sex: Race: DOB: mo. day. yr.

Vehicle: year make model style License plate: yr. state number

Owner's Name last first middle street city and state zip code

Name Address:

REMARKS:

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SIGN HERE

Badge No. 381 ONE b6 b7C AR

Date of report 11-15-74

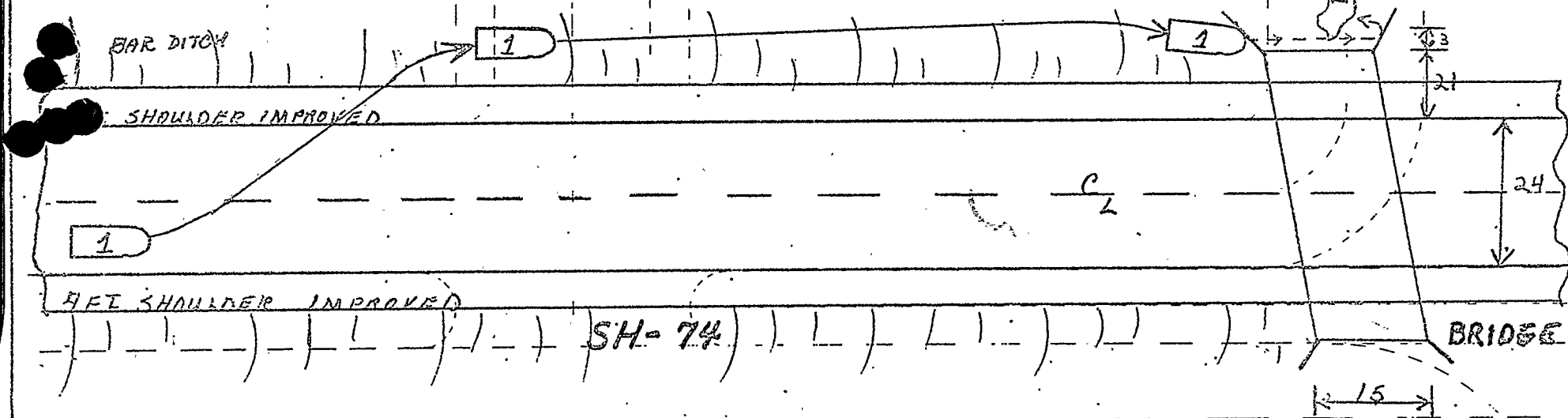
Indicate  
North  
By Arrow



DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

Veh. 1 N ☐ S ☒ E ☐ W ☐  
Veh. 2 N ☐ S ☐ E ☐ W ☐  
Veh. 3 N ☐ S ☐ E ☐ W ☐

visibility obscured by



Did Location of FIRST  
Damage or Injury Producing Event  
Occur on Travel Portion of Trafficway?

Yes ☐ No ☒



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/2/74

[redacted] Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), furnished the following information:

OHP Trooper [redacted] who investigated the fatal accident involving KAREN G SILKWOOD, submitted to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Technical Services Division (Lab) evidence obtained from SILKWOOD at the time of her death on November 13, 1974. The evidence included two cigarettes, one tablet and one-half of a capsule.

b6  
b7C

Laboratory examination of this evidence determined that the evidence was found to contain marijuana and the tablet was found to contain methaqualone.

[redacted] made available a copy of the Technical Examination Report attached hereto.

[redacted] noted that in regard to the autopsy performed on SILKWOOD, that her blood contained methaqualone. There was also a considerable amount of undissolved methaqualone in her stomach.

b6  
b7C

In regard to the report which he has previously furnished relative to the SILKWOOD accident, which accident was investigated by Trooper [redacted] this accident report is the official report of the OHP relative to the accident. The report has been submitted to the normal review processes which all accident reports are submitted to and the report stands on its own as is. There is no reason based on the evidence to suspect foul play connected with the accident. OHP is looking forward with interest in receiving the report of [redacted] of Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas, who he understands investigated the same accident some three days after it occurred and concluded that SILKWOOD had been forced off the road by another vehicle after having been struck from behind. [redacted] opinion in this regard is entirely different than the opinion held by the OHP and it does not seem possible that [redacted] conclusions are truly valid

b6  
b7C

11/27/74

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Oklahoma City 159-45

Interviewed on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

File # \_\_\_\_\_

SA [redacted]

36

11/29/74

by \_\_\_\_\_

b6

b7C

Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

2  
OC 159-45

conclusions in regard to the accident inasmuch as the physical evidence in the case does not support foul play. His department has not as yet, received a copy of [redacted] report as promised by [redacted]. The OHP's knowledge of [redacted] investigation to date has been limited to information obtained from the media.

b6  
b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/5/74

[redacted] Trooper, Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), Badge Number [redacted] District Number One, Oklahoma City, stationed at Guthrie, Oklahoma, (Logan County) furnished the following information:

b6  
b7C

On November 13, 1974, he was working the 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. shift when at about 8:05 p.m. he was in Crescent, Oklahoma when he was notified by the OHP, District Number One Dispatcher, via radio of a signal 82, Accident with Injuries, with a possible signal 30, Fatality. He was informed that the subject was pinned inside and he asked the dispatcher to have the Guthrie Police Department dispatch an ambulance to the scene of the accident. The accident was reported to be about seven miles south of his location in Crescent on State Highway 74, which runs north and south in Crescent.

It is his understanding that the dispatcher at District Number One was notified of the accident by the Guthrie Police Department (PD) who was contacted by a private citizen who informed them of the accident. District One was also informed of the accident by a private citizen who called in about the same time as the Guthrie PD.

He drove directly to the scene of the accident, arriving there at about 8:15 p.m. When he got to the scene he found some four to six people there. The accident involved a 1973 white Honda Civic, two-door sedan bearing 1974 Oklahoma License YF 8261. He determined that the car was occupied only by the driver who was learned to be KAREN GAY SILKWOOD.

The car was off the road laying on its left side between the sides of a culvert on the east side of the road.

He checked SILKWOOD and determined that she appeared

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Interviewed on 11/27/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 11/31/74

to be dead. The ambulance arrived on the scene about 8:30 p.m. and she was transferred to the Logan County Hospital, Guthrie, Oklahoma, arriving there at about 9:00 p.m. Subsequent contact with the emergency room doctor determined that SILKWOOD was dead upon arrival at the hospital and the doctor advised that it was most likely that she died upon impact or very shortly after.

Estimates that the actual time of the accident was approximately 7:30 p.m. Investigation revealed that SILKWOOD had been in the Hub Cafe in Crescent attending a Union Meeting, having left there at 7:10 p.m., according to one of the Union Members, [redacted] and another Union Member, [redacted], had indicated to him after the accident that they were concerned about SILKWOOD's ability to drive in view of her extreme emotional condition caused by her concern about her contamination problem. He understands that [redacted] and [redacted] offered to drive SILKWOOD home, but she declined the offer.

b6  
b7C

His initial examination at 8:15 p.m. of SILKWOOD determined that the blood on her face was already dried. This would indicate to him that the accident had occurred some 45 minutes previous, or at about 7:30 a.m., as he had previously indicated. It was necessary to pop the door open with a porta power tool before SILKWOOD's body could be removed from the wreck. She had suffered facial injuries and her legs were broken as a result of the considerable portion of the front end of the car being driven back to the firewall, which was pushed into the passenger compartment. SILKWOOD's car was equipped with both shoulder and lap belts, which were not in use at the time of the accident.

Investigation failed to reveal any witnesses who actually observed the accident. One or more fellow co-workers of SILKWOOD's, employed at the Kerr McGee Crescent

Facility, who also are Union Members, were at the scene of the accident shortly after it occurred.

His investigation of the accident determined that the SILKWOOD car was southbound on State Highway 74. He estimated that her car was traveling 50 to 55 miles per hour before impact. The legal speed limit in this area is 55 miles per hour. He estimates the car speed at the time of impact to be 40 to 45 miles per hour. The car ran off the east side of the roadway leaving the road at a very shallow angle, entered the east barditch and traveled some 255 feet in the ditch. The car struck the north side of the north retaining wall of the culvert, which crosses the highway in a east-west direction. The point at which the retaining wall was struck was three feet from the face of the bridge or culvert. The car thereafter became airborne for about 24 feet, traveling across the opening of the culvert, striking the north side of the south retaining wall at a point about three feet from the face of the bridge and about three feet above ground level. The car landed on its left side with the front of the car pointed toward the culvert or west.

There were no skid marks at any point along the path of the vehicle, either on the road or in the barditch. The car tracks in the barditch were very well defined and there was no indication that the driver appeared to be fighting for control of the car. At a point just before impact, the tracks appeared to turn slightly west or toward the road.

He was able to accurately determine where the car had left the road and entered the barditch and at no point in that area on the roadway surface did he find any skid marks, such as would be caused had SILKWOOD's car been struck by another vehicle.

At the time of the accident it was partly cloudy

and dark (night). The road conditions were dry and the road surface was a rough asphalt. The accident occurred in the rural area with no residents or businesses nearby.

The car was very heavily damaged, particularly the front end. The sides and the top of the vehicle were wrinkled. The tailpipe was buckled as result of the impact. The Sebring Wrecker from Crescent was called to the accident. Wrecker was operated by the garage owner, [redacted]. It was necessary to roll the car over on its wheels before attempts could be made to remove the car from the ditch.

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He does not recall seeing any damage to the rear of the car. He is quite certain that if there were any major or extensive damage to the rear of the car he would have noticed. If any damage did occur to the rear of the car it likely occurred as a result of the car being extracted from the ditch. It is his recollection that the car was pulled into the south wall of the culvert on the first effort to remove it from the ditch. It is his recollection that the rear of the car may have struck the culvert wall at this time. Before [redacted] was able to actually get the car out of the ditch, one of his employees, [redacted] arrived on the scene and helped [redacted] get the car out of the ditch. The car was thereafter transported to the Sebring Wrecker Service in Crescent.

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In regard to the contents of the car, he recalled seeing at the scene of the accident in the back window well a camouflage campaign hat, a raincoat, spare tire, jack and wrenches.

In the rear seat was a large clear plastic bag containing many used sanitary napkins. Also in the rear seat there were two stacks of paper approximately one-half inch thick each, which contained papers relative

to Kerr McGee - Union Bargaining Session. Included in this stack of paper he recalled seeing a letter from an individual from Montreal, Canada. There were also some photographs of SILKWOOD and her friends which were apparently taken at a zoo. There was a thin spiral notebook, red in color, approximately nine inches by eleven inches in size.

In the front seat was a plastic flask with a jigger size top which appeared to contain spoiled tomato juice. In the glovebox there were car papers including title and a damage estimate for the Honda relative to a previous wreck. There was no briefcase in the car. SILKWOOD's purse was in the front seat and from the purse her identity was determined. Also from the purse were obtained two marijuana cigarettes, a pill and one-half of a capsule, all of which were furnished to the Oklahoma Criminal Laboratory for identification.

The following day on the 14th, at the Sebring Wrecker Service, he saw a Union Representative, [redacted] and [redacted] SILKWOOD's boyfriend. This was at about 10:30 a.m. They asked him what his opinion was in regard to the accident. He told his investigation revealed that the car had run off the road. It is his feeling that SILKWOOD fell asleep and went off the road causing the fatal accident. It is almost a classic example, in his opinion, of the one car sleeping driver type accident.

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[redacted] and [redacted] told him that it was their opinion that she had been run off the road. They, at this point, had not looked at SILKWOOD's car as yet. He told them that he had found no such evidence.

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It is his understanding that among the other persons at the Union Meeting who offered to drive SILKWOOD home prior to the accident was [redacted]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/11/74

[redacted] Crescent, Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

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He is employed by the Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC) at the Crescent Nuclear Facility where he is a nonunion salaried employee working the Uranium Plant X-Ray Section.

On the evening of November 13, 1974, he went home from work and was thereafter contacted by his wife, who informed him she had a flat tire between Oklahoma City and Crescent on Highway 74, at a location some 12 or 15 miles south of Crescent. He called on a co-worker, [redacted] a KMC office salaried employee (nonunion). [redacted] picked him up and they drove down Highway 74 past the Crescent facility, past the intersection of State Highway 33, and continued on south to where his car was with its flat tire. They stayed only long enough to change its flat tire, and he and [redacted] thereafter proceeded up State Highway 74, towards Crescent.

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About one and a half miles south of the intersection of State Highway 33 and State Highway 74, they happened upon a wreck. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), had not yet arrived at the scene. There were five or six people there and perhaps two or three cars. He does not know the identity of any of the persons at the wreck scene. There was a Negro man and his wife who stayed only momentarily. It is his impression that the wreck was discovered by a white male driving a pickup truck. He cannot describe the pickup truck. It is his understanding that the pickup truck driver was able to see partially into the culvert where the wrecked car came to rest. Apparently persons in passenger cars would not be able to see the car from the road since their point of view would be closer to the ground.

He got out of his car and looked at the wrecked car which was a white foreign sub-compact which had been extensively damaged. The pickup truck driver advised him that he believed there was possibly a person pinned in the car.

The car was off on the east side of the road in a culvert opening. The car was laying on the left side with the front of the car pointing toward the culvert opening and very

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Interviewed on 12/9/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # 159-45 Oklahoma City

by SA [redacted] b6 Date dictated 12/10/74  
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close to the mouth opening. It was as if someone had tried to drive the car on its side through the culvert. He had difficulty visualizing in his own mind as to how the car had ended up positioned as it was. He first assumed that the car had come directly off the top of the road over the culvert into the ditch. He later found out that the car had been traveling south and gone off the east side of the road, traveled down the bar ditch for a considerable distance and entered the culvert area from the north side.

He took a flashlight and went to the car and could see a white female in the driver's seat. She appeared to be dead. She was motionless and he could detect no sign of breathing. It appeared as if the steering wheel had pushed against and almost pinned her to the ceiling. There was blood on the girl's face which had partially dried.

After he did determine that there was indeed a person trapped in the car, he informed his friend, [ ] who went to make sure the police and OHP had been contacted. He remained at the accident scene. One of the persons at the scene wanted to turn the car over from its side to its wheels. He suggested that inasmuch as the occupant appeared dead and that first aid could not be administered, that the wreck scene be maintained as it was until the arrival of the OHP. He noted that a woman's purse was laying on the ground next to the wreck and he would not let anyone pick this purse up until the OHP got there.

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He did not recognize the wrecked car, but he, after first seeing the girl in the car, thought she possibly was a person he knew, KAREN SILKWOOD, who was also employed at the Crescent facility. Because of the position of her face and the blood upon it, he would not be sure in his identification.

He had been at the wreck site for only a few minutes when the OPH arrived on the scene. The OHP trooper assisted by one or two other bystanders, turned the car over. It was at this point he recognized the occupant of the car as being KAREN SILKWOOD. The ambulance from the Guthrie Fire Department arrived shortly after the OHP and it was necessary to force the door open with an air jack on the driver's side in order to extract the body. The ambulance immediately departed the scene.

[ ] of the Ford garage in Crescent arrived on the scene about the time the ambulance left. [ ]

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was driving his garage wrecker.

He and [ ] left the scene before [ ] made any effort to remove the car. When he first arrived on the scene, he looked into the wrecked car rather thoroughly to insure that there was not a person such as a small child also trapped in the car. He cannot recall seeing any papers or documents in the car, and he does not know of any personal effects that KAREN may have had in the purse which he saw on the ground. The purse was recovered by the OHP trooper who investigated the accident.

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The car was very heavily damaged, particularly to the front end. The windshield was knocked clear out of the car and the top and sides of the car appeared damaged as well. He cannot see what the extent of the damage was to the rear end of the car, but he did not see anything in regard to the rear end of the car which would be outstanding in his mind.

He cannot say exactly when he arrived at the accident, but it must have been sometime between 7:30 and 8 p.m. He and [ ] may have possibly driven by the wreck headed south after it had occurred, but without noticing the car off the road and in the culvert. He is not sure when he left his house to go fix the tire, but it may have been sometime a little after 7 p.m.

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He did not see anything unusual in his trip from Crescent to where his car was located, nor did he see anything unusual between where his car had been located and where the wreck had occurred. He did not recall seeing any speeding or erratic driving vehicles, and did not recall seeing the SILKWOOD car on the road prior to its accident.

Neither he nor [ ] were dispatched to the scene of the accident by the company. They came there only by chance.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/5/74

[redacted] age 30, residing [redacted]  
[redacted] Oklahoma, telephone number [redacted]  
advised he is the owner and operator of Ted Sebring Ford,  
303 North Grand, Crescent, Oklahoma, telephone number  
969-2524, was interviewed at his place of business and  
advised as follows:

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In connection with his automobile company he  
also operates a wrecker service under Oklahoma Corporation  
Commission Number 31433W. He said he operates this wrecker  
service primarily as a convenience to his customers.

[redacted] advised that on November 13, 1974, he  
had sold a new automobile to a local resident, [redacted]  
[redacted] who resides on [redacted]  
Oklahoma, telephone number [redacted]. Following this sale  
and in the evening of November 13, 1974, he was at home  
with his family and in the company of [redacted] and  
[redacted] telephone number  
[redacted] and each was having a drink.

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He said the local police dispatcher at Crescent  
called his home via public service, advising that the  
District Number One Dispatcher of the Oklahoma Highway  
Patrol (OHP) had relayed information that they wanted  
[redacted] to respond regarding a serious accident at a  
location one and one-half miles south of State Highway  
33 on State Highway 74. He said this was approximately  
8:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. when this call was received. He  
immediately proceeded to his garage, put on a pair of  
coveralls over his suit and immediately proceeded,  
full speed, to the reported scene of the automobile accident.  
When [redacted] arrived at the scene he said he was informed  
by one of two OHP Troopers, who were already at the scene,  
that the single vehicle involved in the accident had been  
rolled over upright onto its wheels. He observed that a  
single occupant had been removed apparently from the vehicle

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Interviewed on 11/27/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45  
by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 11/31/74

and had been placed on a stretcher and was being placed in an ambulance parked on the shoulder of the roadway. He said there were two ambulance attendants, one Negro male and one white male. He said at that time there were about six or seven bystanders standing around and there were three automobiles on or along the roadway near the accident site and he noted what appeared to be a red-cabbed, flatbed welding truck. [ ] said that to his recollection, the bystanders disappeared when the ambulance left. He said at that point the only individuals at the scene were himself, two OHP Troopers, [ ] and [ ] who had traveled out to the scene after [ ]. He said the troopers were [ ] and Trooper [ ].

[ ] said he did not know the names of the ambulance drivers but they were operating ambulance maintained by the Fire Department at Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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[ ] said that upon his arrival, he had parked his wrecker on the west side of Highway 74, which he said runs north and south, and that he walked across the roadway to the east side and stood on the shoulder looking down upon the accident scene until the troopers gave him oral authority to begin removing the wrecked vehicle from its location at the base of a concrete bridge.

[ ] said that upon viewing the accident scene he requested one of the troopers to contact by radio [ ] employee [ ] and request [ ] to come to the scene to assist [ ].

[ ] advised, however, that after he was given authority to proceed to remove the wrecked car from the scene that he had been assisted in hooking a chain on the rear of the vehicle by [ ] [ ] said that [ ] informed that he had hooked the log and chain on to the rear of the car in an area underneath the rear bumper. [ ] said that he then made

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tow taut which caused the rear end of the car to swing around and the driver's side and door came up against the concrete wing of the bridge at the south side of the bridge and the rear end of the car came against the soft ground embankment as well. [ ] said by this time [ ] together with his son, [ ] had arrived at the accident scene and [ ] changed the location of his wrecker, moving it farther south, closer to a barbed wire fence. [ ] then rehooked the tow onto the rear of the wrecked vehicle and [ ] then towed it up out of the ditch towing the car backward, at which time the wheels and part of the undercarriage made definite marks in the ground showing the direction the vehicle was towed out from the ditch. [ ] said that he was then unable to move his wrecker around the wrecked vehicle and hooked onto the damaged end of the vehicle, raising it up and towing it from the location with the rear wheels being on the ground on the way into Crescent, towing the car at approximately 20 miles per hour. The rear tires were still inflated following the accident and he noted that the principal damage to the vehicle appeared to be to the front and left side with the principal impact appearing to be taken by the left front of the car.

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[ ] maintained that in turning the vehicle around in the ditch and rehooking his tow on the vehicle and bringing it up to the bank that no damage had been done to the vehicle by doing it in this manner.

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[ ] said the wrecked vehicle was a 1972 Honda, white in color with black interior, two-door. [ ] reiterated that the vehicle had suffered extensive damage to the left front, damage to the whole front of the car and the right or passenger door was jammed shut and not openable and the left door, driver's side, was standing open when he first observed it in the accident scene. He said at that time it was standing upright on its wheels, facing southwest in the ditch at the bridge culvert on the

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east side of the roadway and the front wheels were jammed up under the vehicle to the point where they would not roll.

[ ] said that before he was engaged in removing the car from the ditch that he observed that the troopers were examining a purse which they had picked up from the ground and were examining its contents and he observed that they looked at what appeared to be a check-book, using a flashlight to examine the purse and check-book. He said that he noted that the troopers had taken the purse to their cruiser.

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[ ] advised that [ ] had asked one of the troopers the name of the occupant of the wrecked vehicle, but the trooper would not give a name to him.

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[ ] said that he believes that it was Trooper [ ] who had informed that they had turned the car upright, this being before [ ] arrived at the accident scene.

[ ] also had informed [ ] approximately 15 minutes after [ ] had arrived at the scene that he [ ] had to go to the hospital to conduct further investigation in the matter of the accident.

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[ ] said that he had arrived back at his garage towing the wrecked vehicle about 9:30 p.m. and drove the wrecker and towed the vehicle inside the front door and closed the door, leaving the vehicle attached to the wrecker and [ ] then went home to bed.

About 12:15 a.m., November 14, 1974, he received a telephone call from the Crescent PD Dispatcher, [ ] who informed him that some Kerr McGee people wanted to look at the wrecked car. [ ] asked if [ ] would let them in. [ ] reported that he would not without authority from the OHP and [ ] informed that

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a trooper was on his way in to look at the vehicle, this being in a call from [ ] at 12:30 p.m. [ ] then went to the garage where four Kerr McKee people were waiting, who introduced themselves to [ ]. [ ] said he could recall the name of only one, [ ]. [ ] said he believes [ ] is some kind of a laboratory technician. [ ] obtained a sample of a red looking substance from a plastic container which looked similar to a pint whiskey bottle which was in the wrecked vehicle. [ ] and another man checked the entire car and contents with a Geiger counter and nothing other than the red liquid sample was taken from the car. [ ] said this operation was witnessed by Trooper [ ] and [ ]. [ ] a uniformed Crescent Police Officer. After the four men had finished their examination, Trooper [ ] mentioned that he had the purse of the occupant of the wrecked vehicle in his cruiser and that he brought the purse into the garage and set the purse on the wrecker bed and opened the coin side of the purse and [ ] said he noted two rolled cigarettes and two white pills which the trooper said was a sleeping pill prescription type from a Guthrie doctor, [ ], or a similar name. One of the Kerr McGee men questioned whether this doctor was the County Coroner. The trooper answered no but that doctor was an assistant. The Kerr McGee people then checked makeup and other items in the purse with a Geiger counter. [ ] advised further that the two rolled cigarettes, a white pill and two other brownish-reddish pills had dropped on the floor when the purse was being examined. He said that a checkbook and other "women's stuff" was still in the purse. [ ] said that a Kerr McGee Official said that the car was clean of "hot material".

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[ ] said that the next morning, about 9:30 a.m. he had gone to pick up his mail and have a cup of coffee at a local coffee shop and then returned to his

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office at the Ted Sebring Garage and opened his mail. At that time [ ] employee. informed him that the Crescent Police Chief, [ ] and Trooper [ ] had been there and had gone through the car again. [ ] informed that they had not taken anything from the car and [ ] informed that he had observed the officers in their examination come across a cigarette roller, which was contained in a letter in an envelope. [ ] had said that the signature on the letter was TK and was from "Ontario". [ ] said that [ ] told him that the trooper had read the letter and had read the letter or parts of the letter to [ ].

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[ ] stated that he [ ] had not seen any documents in the wrecked vehicle or among the woman occupant's effects.

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Following this, [ ] said that he obtained an oil case box and that he and [ ] went about the matter of gathering up all personal effects from the interior of the wrecked car and placing them in the box to be sealed. [ ] said he recalls that the following items were placed in the box:

1. windbreaker coat;
2. a hat shaped like a troopers hat but being of soft material, army type or style issue;
3. material from the glovebox consisting of a comb, pencil, first aid kit in a round bottle and one or two pieces of paper. Also [ ] said that he recovered the owner's manual and as he handled it the Oklahoma Title, the registration, a repair ticket and a paper in the nature of a warranty guaranty fell from the manual. He said he noted that the vehicle was titled and registered to KAREN SILKWOOD and that the repair ticket was marked paid and [ ] said it was dated November 5, 1974, and he believes

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the repair ticket had been issued by Eskridge Oldsmobile - Honda.

[ ] said that the repair ticket had specified body work and repair to the left rear quarter panel and that as a force of habit, [ ] said he ran his hand down the quarter panel of the vehicle. He said that while so doing he does not recall that he observed any damage to the rear of the vehicle and stated that from this he does not believe that he had caused any damage to be done to the rear of the vehicle when he towed it from the ditch.

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At about 13:30 p.m. on November 14, 1974, another Kerr McGee individual appeared at his garage and asked for another sample of the red substance which [ ] had placed in the box of personal effects. [ ] said that he broke the seal on the box and allowed the individual to take an additional sample of the red substance. [ ] said that he then resealed the box.

About 1:30 p.m., November 14, 1974, [ ] came to Ted Sebring's Ford Agency requesting that KAREN SILKWOOD's personal effects be released to him. [ ] told [ ] that the only way that the personal effects would be released to him would be for [ ] to show proof that he is family. While in [ ] office, [ ] dialed a Texas telephone number under [ ] scrutiny and was informed by the operator that he had dialed an inaccurate number. Following that, [ ] went outside to a car occupied by two men, came back and dialed another Texas number and was connected with and spoke to a Mrs. SILKWOOD first and then to Mr. SILKWOOD, at which time [ ] said that he [ ] spoke on the phone to the man on the other end of the line calling him BILL, to which name the man responded. [ ] at this point explained that he had previously heard an OHP trooper mention the victim's father's name as WILLIAM SILKWOOD. In this manner [ ] said that he felt satisfied that [ ] was in fact speaking

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to the parents of KAREN SILKWOOD and that whatever authority he would receive would be legitimate. In speaking with BILL SILKWOOD, SEBRING said that he was informed that he should let [ ] have SILKWOOD's personal effects and her car and SILKWOOD also mentioned that [ ] was a body man and had previously done some work on KAREN SILKWOOD's car. Mr. SILKWOOD further mentioned that he should get power of attorney for [ ] since [ ] was in Oklahoma and the SILKWOODs were in Texas and it would be easier to handle matters on their behalf. [ ] then spoke to SILKWOOD about the AEC and [ ] asked Mr. SILKWOOD's permission to have an AEC doctor accompany the autopsy of KAREN SILKWOOD. [ ] said he heard Mr. SILKWOOD say yes, that would be a good idea. [ ] then remarked to SILKWOOD on the phone that he and KAREN had discussed during the last two months that she would like to be cremated. Mr. SILKWOOD, in response, indicated that he and KAREN's mother would decide that matter.

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After [ ] obtained KAREN SILKWOOD's personal effects and was leaving he said that he would be back later in the afternoon with his own wrecker to obtain and remove her car.

[ ] said that the two men with [ ] occupied a blue Plymouth or Dodge, four-door sedan, white over white about 1972 or 1974 model. The two men remained in the car seated in the front and [ ] noted that one of the men has a dark beard.

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About 5:00 p.m., November 14, 1974, [ ] called on the telephone stating that he was on his way to get KAREN's car and asked [ ] if he would wait until [ ] arrived. [ ] arrived about 5:45 p.m. and said that he wanted to pay for the towing charges. The service manager, [ ] took care of this matter and [ ] paid \$25.00 by check concerning the wrecker towing service.

OC 159-45

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In this connection [ ] made available a copy of Invoice Number 3555 on the invoice form of Ted Sebring Ford, 303 North Grand, Crescent, Oklahoma, dated November 14, 1974, bearing the name of KAREN SILKWOOD, showing the \$25.00 charge for "wrecker service" which was marked paid and initialed by [ ] according to [ ]. [ ] said he did not observe [ ] wrecker nor did he observe [ ] depart with the wrecked vehicle, at that time was setting outside in back of Ted Sebring Ford building.

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[ ] noted that [ ] check in the amount of \$25.00 was deposited in the Bank of Crescent, November 20, 1974, according to a deposit slip of that date which was a grand total of \$3,702.09, which deposit slip was prepared by [ ] employee.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/6/74

1

[redacted]  
[redacted] Ted Sebring Ford, 303 N. Grand, who resides 202 W. Jackson, Crescent, Oklahoma, telephone 969-2916, was interviewed in a Bureau automobile in the vicinity of his place of employment.

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[redacted] advised that on November 13, 1974, he received a telephone call at home from the Police Department Dispatcher in Crescent, requesting that he proceed and help [redacted] at an accident scene six or seven miles south of Crescent, Oklahoma on State Highway 74. He said he proceeded immediately in a company pickup with his son, [redacted] age [redacted] and arrived at the accident scene sometime between 8:30 and 9 p.m. He said it was dark. He said a wrecked car was upright in the ditch at the location of a bridge, being on the east side of the highway. The SEBRING wrecker was already hooked onto the rear of the wrecked car. [redacted] said he assisted in unhooking a line cable from the car and rehooking the line through the winch line on the back end of the wrecker. He said by so doing, the line attached to the car would be in a higher position, tending to raise the rear of the car up more. He said at that point the back end of the wrecked car was facing due south or perhaps a little southeast. He said he was sure that [redacted] had pulled the car around somewhat and the car was partially up on the bank and the left quarter panel of the car was up against the wing wall of the concrete bridge.

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[redacted] said that at that point he was not sure what the tow line was hooked onto underneath the car, but he said it was not the bumper, for the reason that the bumper was not stout enough to hold the tow line. He said there was a good incline to the bank at the point where the rear end of the car was resting at that time when he had rehooked the tow line.

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Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45  
by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 12/5/74

[ ] said he did not pay any particular attention at that time to the specific condition of the rear end of the car as to whether or not any damage was apparent. He said the left driver's side door was open, the windshield had been knocked all of the way out, and he was not sure, but the trunk lid may have been up.

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[ ] said that this one hookup that [ ] had made with the tow line onto the rear end of the car enabled [ ] in the wrecker, to tow the car up out of the ditch. He said at that time the wrecker was located about center distance from the berm to a wire pasture fence line. He said that [ ] then pulled the car far enough back from the ditch in order to maneuver the wrecker around in front of the wrecked vehicle, and that then the wrecker was hooked onto the front and the car was towed up out of the ditch onto the highway. He said the rear tires were still inflated, enabling the car to be towed on the highway.

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[ ] said that the only other persons that he knew at the scene of this towing operation, aside from his son and [ ] were [ ] and [ ]. He said when he first got to the accident scene there was an Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper at the scene, whose name he thought was [ ] however, [ ] said that he did not pay much attention to the Trooper and [ ] said he really did not pay much attention to what the Trooper was doing while [ ] was at the accident scene.

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[ ] said when he initially approached the scene that he parked his vehicle on the east side of the roadway facing the wreck, being parked on the wrong side of the highway, in order for his headlights to shine on the wreck scene. He said he noted that there may have been a half dozen or so other cars parked along the highway south of the bridge where the accident took place; however, he said he did not know who the occupants of those cars were.

He said when he arrived at the scene of the wreck, he was told that a woman had been traveling south, and he said he could not believe it because of the location

of the wrecked car on the wrong side of the highway for that direction of travel, south. He said he did not know how many persons had been in the wrecked vehicle and did not know if anyone had been killed in it.

[ ] mentioned that the [ ] wrecker is a Ford product, one ton short wheel base. [ ] said when he arrived at the accident, scene, there were no other wreckers or truck type vehicles there, other than the [ ] wrecker. [ ] said that he had picked up the windshield of the wrecked car and stuck it back through the front. He said he did not see any other property that might have belonged to any of the occupants on the ground, but that he did note there were chrome and parts from the outside of the car in the creek bed where the car had come to rest. He said he could identify a mirror, which was a racing type with a dome shape to it, which was lying on the ground, as coming from the wrecked car.

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[ ] said the car was towed to the TED SEBRING garage in Crescent and that he followed [ ] to the garage. The car was put just inside the Service Department door and left attached to the wrecker in the garage. He said that [ ] and [ ] were at the garage and that a man in a big car got out and looked at the wrecked car briefly, got back into his own car, an Oldsmobile or a Cadillac, and left. He said he was a small man, gray haired and bare headed. [ ] said he thought this man was just a curious onlooker and not an official of any type.

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[ ] said that he and his son, [ ] went home about 10 p.m.

The next morning, [ ] said he opened the garage a few minutes before 8 a.m. and since the wrecker and wrecked car blocked access to the Service Department, he had one of the employees move the wrecker and car outside. He said when he opened up the garage that [ ] an Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper, [ ] a Crescent Police Officer, and another Police Officer from Guthrie, Oklahoma, were at the garage.

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These Officers examined the contents of the interior of the wrecked car as [ ] watched. [ ] said he was concerned about watching the car for the reason that [ ] had previously instructed him not to move the car outside. He said he observed the Officers to examine or handle the following items:

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1. A purse which was open on the floor of the car, which contained personal letters.
2. A roller. One of the Police Officers said this was a roller for rolling cigarettes. [ ] said he had never seen one of these before. It had been found on the floor in the front part of the car.
3. [ ] said the Officers picked up other "stuff" from the floor of the car, both in front and behind the seat.
4. An Australian type hat.

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In addition, [ ] said that he observed two binders, which were approximately 3/8" to 1/2" thick, which had soft covers, which had black lettering on the outside, some of which said Kerr McGee, and in part, "Nuclear". He said these binders were not of the loose leaf type and [ ] said he had occasion to flip the edges of these with his thumb and he noted that they contained typed document material. He said one of these was on the floor in the front part of the car at the passenger side and the other was on the floor in front of the driver's side. He said that later he and [ ] while putting personal effects into a box, had placed these binders in a box for safekeeping. He said he did not know [ ] was aware that these binders had been placed into the box.

[ ] said that later when he and [ ] were gathering up personal effects from the interior of the car that he, [ ] put the following items into a box to be sealed:

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1. The Australian type soldier hat.
2. A deflated air mattress.
3. A plastic like rain jacket or coat.

4. A white plastic flask with a silver cap containing reddish appearing liquid.

[ ] said that a kitchen type butcher knife about 12-14" long was in the trunk of the vehicle, which he said he left where he observed it. [ ] said he did not examine any letters which were in a purse in the vehicle, but these letters had been examined by Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper [ ]. He said he believes that one of these letters was from someplace, probably Ontario or Vancouver or New York; and he was told by Trooper [ ] that this letter instructed that the recipient of the letter was to learn how to use the cigarette roller before a certain time when the writer of the letter was due to arrive.

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[ ] said that sometime after the Officers had left after examining the car and after [ ] and [ ] had placed the personal effects in a box and sealed the box, that a gray haired man came to [ ] office and wanted a sample of the reddish liquid from the plastic flask. The box had hardly been closed and sealed when this man arrived and he talked to [ ] about it. [ ] opened the box and let him take a small sample of the contents of the flask.

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On Monday, November 18, 1974, [ ] left to go to Dallas, Texas, on business, and was gone for approximately a week. On that Monday, [ ] said he got a call from Channel 5 News and later that day he met with [ ] and a cameraman. [ ] showed them the accident scene where they took pictures and he answered the questions for [ ].

[ ] said he had also been called by station KOTK and that he furnished them some brief information as he could recall. He said also the Guthrie Daily Leader newspaper had called him, however, he said he did not know what particulars he had given them.

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Concerning recovery of the wrecked vehicle, [ ] said he observed [ ] when he appeared with his wrecker to tow the wrecked car away. He observed [ ]



OC 159-45

6

did not see the wrecker, nor did he see him actually  
tow the car away. He said he did not have any  
conversation with [REDACTED]

b6

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/9/74

[redacted]  
Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

b6  
b7C

She is an employee of the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Nuclear Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma. She is not a union member.

On the evening of October 16, or October 17, 1974, she was at the Hub Cafe in downtown Crescent. There was a meeting of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW), who were KMC employees also at the cafe. This meeting took place in a back room of the cafe. She was not in attendance at the union meeting, but merely a customer. At about 6:30 pm, she saw KAREN SILKWOOD come out of the meeting. She was with [redacted] and [redacted]. She noted that KAREN looked very bad, that is, she looked just like "death". She was very pale, moving very slowly and her speech was very slurred. She asked KAREN what was wrong.

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KAREN told her that a doctor had given her some medication, not specified, that she felt sick because of the medication and was afraid that she could not make it home.

She was aware of the fact that KAREN lived in Edmond or Oklahoma City and faced a rather long drive. She told KAREN that KAREN could come spend the night with her at her Crescent residence. KAREN indicated that she would do that and would be over shortly.

However, KAREN did not show up until 11:30 pm. She does not know where KAREN was in the meantime.

[redacted] stated she was truly concerned about KAREN and made this offer out of her concern. KAREN had not been looking well for some time. She appeared to be losing weight. When KAREN came to her residence, her son, who had not previously seen KAREN, made an aside comment to her that there must be something wrong with KAREN because she sure looked sick.

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
62  
Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 15945  
SA [redacted] b6  
by [redacted] b7C Date dictated 12/9/74

2  
OC 159-45



b6  
b7C

In regard to the medication that KAREN indicated she was taking during the October 16, or October 17, 1974 conversation, KAREN said she was taking this medication for depression.

KAREN spent the night with her without incident and she awoke KAREN at 5:30 am the following morning and KAREN thereafter went to work.

She was not at the Hub Cafe on the evening of November 13, 1974. It has previously come to her attention that apparently someone thought she was at the cafe on November 13, 1974, but she was not there at that time.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/9/74

[redacted] Crescent, Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

b6  
b7C

He is employed at the nuclear plant owned by Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC), which is located just south of Crescent, Oklahoma. He is the chairman of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) Local Bargaining Committee and is considered to be the highest union member employed at the KMC plant.

The company and union have been in a prolonged period of contract negotiations. The company and union in late November, reached agreement and the union membership ratified the agreement.

Prior to reaching an agreement, he and two or three other union members were imminently involved in these negotiations. On November 13, 1974, a meeting was scheduled for the then on-going negotiations. An international representative from Tulsa, Oklahoma, [redacted] KAREN SILKWOOD, [redacted] and he were to meet about 8:30 am at the Hub Cafe in Crescent for a pre-negotiation conference. KAREN did not arrive for this conference. However, she joined the group when they were enroute to the plant.

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The group entered into negotiations with the company, which continued throughout the better part of the day, breaking up around 3:30 pm. After the negotiating session, KAREN and [redacted] stayed at the plant while KAREN talked to AEC representatives about her recent contamination incident.

She and [redacted] thereafter joined some 12 to 15 union members at the Hub Cafe for a rank and file union meeting. During the course of the evening, KAREN appeared to be a little upset about her contamination problem. She started crying during the course of the meeting, apparently as a result of her concern. He is aware of the fact that [redacted] because of his concern over KAREN's condition, asked KAREN if he could drive her home after the meeting. KAREN refused his offer. He is not sure the exact time KAREN left, in that he did not see her go, but believes she must have left after the meeting broke up and likely, departed sometime around 7:00. He never

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Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

SA [redacted] 64 Date dictated 12/9/74

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OC 159-45

saw KAREN after the meeting.

At about 9:00 pm or 9:30 pm, he received a call at home from a [ ] an operator at the plant, who said he had just seen a wrecker pulling a car, which appeared to him to be very similar to KAREN's car to the Ford garage in Crescent.

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He thereafter went to the garage, which was closed at the time he got there, but he could see through the windows a white Honda behind a wrecker. The right rear tail light was broken out. He was aware of the fact that KAREN's car had a broken right rear tail light. The car was also heavily damaged to the front end. In his mind, he was positive that this was KAREN's car, however, he conducted inquiry to positively determine this. He contacted the dispatcher at the Crescent Police Department, who would not reveal to him the identity of the driver, inasmuch as the driver was dead. Apparently, there were not releasing any detailed information concerning the wreck pending notification of the next of kin.

He thereafter contacted a member of the KMC Health-Physics Unit, [ ] to advise [ ] that he believed KAREN was either seriously injured or may be even dead. He did so because he was aware of the fact KAREN was contaminated however, he did not know the degree of her contamination. He was apprehensive that should medical personnel be working on KAREN, there might be some danger to these persons from being exposed to any possible internal contamination within the body of KAREN.

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He was successful in subsequent contact with the Crescent Police Department in confidentially determining that there had indeed had been an accident in which KAREN was fatally injured.

He does not have any personal information or even any suspicions concerning the circumstances of KAREN's fatal accident. To his knowledge, no union member at KMC or any other KMC employee has any personal knowledge concerning KAREN's accident. He feels that it would be highly unlikely that the company was involved in any foul play connected with her death. He heard a rumor that KMC [ ] was at the scene of the accident sometime after it had occurred, but he has no information that would lead him to believe that the company had caused [ ] to go to that scene.

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OC 159-45

In regard to further activities on November 13, 1974, he was in close contact with KAREN for most of the day, however, he did not observe her taking any type of medication. He is aware that she has from time to time taken medication; in fact, KAREN sometime earlier in November, had received a letter of reprimand from the company for taking some type of medication during a break. It is against company rules to take any medication that might possibly interfere with your alertness or work performance.

He cannot positively state what KAREN drank during November 13, 1974, but he recalls that she preferred to drink Dr. Peppers and he seems to recall her drinking a glass of ice tea at the union meeting. He certainly did not see her drink any beer or any other form of alcoholic beverage during the course of the day, which was also including the union meeting. In the last five years, that he has been an active member of the union, he cannot recall having seen anyone bring "booze" to a union meeting and he would have been very much surprised if anyone had a bottle at the meeting and in some way offered KAREN a drink.

He has heard some speculation that an incident involving a plutonium plant employee, [redacted] which occurred sometime on or about November 16, 1974, may possibly have been related to KAREN's accident, but he finds this theory rather hard to believe. It is his understanding that someone had been "running up behind and following close [redacted] car".

He did not know anything about KAREN's supposed meeting with the "New York Times" and [redacted] in Oklahoma City, which had been reportedly set for sometime later on the evening of November 13, 1974. He feels if that if anyone in the local union would have had knowledge of this meeting, it would have been him, but he was completely unaware of this meeting. He is somewhat offended that he was not included in this meeting if it was as important as the media had indicated. In fact, he did not know [redacted] was anywhere in the vicinity until about 10:00 pm when [redacted] called him at his residence at [redacted] [redacted] told him that he was to have met KAREN in Oklahoma City between 7:00 and 8:00 pm and she had not arrived at this meeting. He told [redacted] that from his information, he understood that KAREN had been killed in a wreck.

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OC 159-45

[redacted] and a "New York Times" reporter thereafter came to his residence, arriving sometime between 11:00 and midnight. They had further conversation about the wreck and telephone calls were made from his residence, including a call to the hospital in Guthrie, Oklahoma, where they learned that KAREN was in fact dead and had been taken to a local funeral home.

From his conversations with [redacted] and the others at his residence, he learned for the first time that the purpose for KAREN's meeting with the group was to discuss allegations against the company concerning falsification of documents, which assure quality control of plutonium fuel rods, which are fabricated at the Crescent Facility. He does not know what if any type of document KAREN had to support these allegations. He does not recall seeing any papers that might relate to these allegations in KAREN's possession. He seems to recall that KAREN at one time indicated that she had made some tape recordings relative to some problem perhaps concerning quality control and had sent the tapes to [redacted].

[redacted] KAREN SILKWOOD, [redacted] some national union representatives and he and AEC in late September, 1974 had a health-safety meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting was limited to discussions regarding health-safety. He does recall hearing [redacted] and KAREN in conversations outside of the September meetings discussing with [redacted] in very broad generalities problems concerning quality control at the Crescent Facility.

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On November 14, 1974, he went to Las Vegas, Nevada, for a nuclear council meeting and so he does not have much personal information concerning events immediately subsequent to November 13, that related to the overall SILKWOOD situation. [redacted] was in attendance at this Las Vegas meeting and told him that the union thought that she might have been run off the road by someone unknown and they were, therefore, going to hire an independent accident investigator, [redacted]. [redacted] made the comment that it did not look that there had been a collision prior to the wreck, but she had gone off the road into a ditch. He said something about KAREN was supposed to have had something at the time of the wreck, apparently meaning some papers, but [redacted] did not elaborate.

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KAREN, even though she had been employed at the nuclear facility for quite sometime prior to the September meeting in Washington, D.C., she did not appear to be overly concerned regarding the possible danger of contamination from plutonium, however, this health-safety meeting, she appeared to be much more cognizant of the potential hazards from plutonium. In fact, it was his impression that she was unaware that plutonium could possibly cause cancer in contaminated persons until she attended this meeting. This may have accounted for some of her distress connected with her contamination incident.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/9/74

[redacted] Oklahoma, furnished  
the following information:

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b7C

He has been employed at the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation, (KMC) Crescent Nuclear Facility since August 12, 1968. He is a member of the Oil, Chemical, Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) Local 5283. The President is [redacted] at Cushing, Oklahoma. The employees of the Crescent Facility are a separate branch of the local and [redacted] even though he is local President, has very little to do with union-KMC relations. The union at the Crescent facility has a three-person bargaining committee led by [redacted] Chairman; [redacted] Committeeman and the late KAREN SILKWOOD, Committeewoman.

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He was not a close friend of KAREN and knew little of her outside of company-union activities, however, he was very concerned about her physical, and emotional health after KAREN became involved in a contamination incident sometime around November 5, 1974. It was most apparent to him that KAREN was under a severe emotional strain as a result of this incident and apparently the exact nature of any medical problem she may have had from the incident, was not yet known. She had been sent to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) site at Los Alamos where extensive physical examination was conducted and returned to Oklahoma, he believes, sometime on November 12, 1974.

The union and company had a bargaining session set for November 13, 1974 at the Crescent plant and KAREN was to participate in this bargaining session. The bargaining committee was to have a meeting before they entered into negotiations with the company shortly prior to 9:00 am, November 13, 1974 at the Hub. KAREN did not appear for this meeting on time, but joined the group as they were en route to the plant from the Hub.

He, [redacted] and KAREN went into negotiations about 9:15 am. They stayed at the session until 11:30 when they broke for lunch. The three of them joined by [redacted] international representative from Tulsa, Oklahoma, all went to Crescent and ate lunch. They returned to the negotiating session about 1:00 or 1:15 am and stayed in session until 2:45 pm.

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Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

SA [redacted] 69 b6 12/9/74

by [redacted] b7C Date dictated

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After the negotiating session, KAREN briefly met with company representatives relative to the fact that she did not call to report into work that she was not coming in the previous day Friday. She became rather upset as a result of this particular meeting. KAREN thereafter met with two AEC representatives, one of whom was named [redacted], in regard to her contamination. He was present with KAREN during both of these meetings. He was with her the entire day with the exception of one or two occasions when she went to the restroom, but during those times, she was escorted by another female employee so that supervised body specimens could be obtained. She apparently experienced some difficulty in locating some specimen kits, which seemed also to be upsetting to KAREN.

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The rank and file union meeting was scheduled for that evening at the Hub Cafe. He and KAREN left the plant and arrived at the Hub about 5:15 or 5:20 pm. She drove and he rode as a passenger in KAREN's car. No one else went with them. The meeting lasted to sometime between 6:30 and 7:00 pm.

He was very concerned about her and felt that she was in no condition to drive from Crescent to her residence and he offered to drive her home, which offer she refused. [redacted] also offered to drive her home because he too was concerned. She refused his offer.

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During the course of her meetings with the company officials after the negotiation session and during her meeting with the AEC representatives, KAREN on several occasions broke down and cried and he recalls that she even broke down on one occasion at a union meeting. The entire situation appeared to be upsetting to her; not only was she contaminated, her apartment was too, and she lost most of her personal effects and furniture and did not seem to know for sure the full extent of her physical contamination.

He did not see her leave the union meeting. She did say sometime during the day that after the union meeting, she and [redacted], were going to the airport.

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OC 159-45

to pick up someone. He did not know the identity of the person or persons they were going to pick up until he read about it in the newspaper, nor did he know the purpose of KAREN meeting with these persons until he read about it in the newspaper. To his knowledge, no local union member, including [redacted] the Committee Chairman, was aware that KAREN was meeting with a national union officer and "New York Times" reporter on the evening of November 13, 1974. He did not know that she was making allegations about quality control about plutonium fuel rods. He said the first he knew of this allegation against the company was when he read about it in the newspaper. The fact that he and other union members were unaware of what KAREN was doing in this regard was upsetting to him and several other people.

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During the time he was with KAREN on November 13, 1974, he saw her eat fried chicken at noon. She did not drink any alcoholic beverage, including beer, anytime he was with her during the day. The only thing he saw her drink at the union meeting was perhaps a glass of tea or a cup of coffee. There is absolutely no drinking that goes on during the union meetings. The Hub does not serve beer. He is certain that no other union member would have "slipped" KAREN a drink at the time of the meeting. In regard to any documents KAREN might have had in her possession, both he and KAREN had in their possession their roughdrafts of union demands against the company. He did not see in KAREN's car any briefcase or large file of papers or documents. He does not recall seeing in her car any items that may have related to her allegations concerning quality control. There may have been such documents in the car, but he did not see them.

Neither he, nor any other local union member to his knowledge, was aware of the fact that the national union had hired an independent accident investigator to investigate KAREN's accident.

<sup>4</sup>  
OC 159-45

He has no information that would indicate KAREN's accident involved foul play. In fact, he knows nothing about the accident, other than what he read in the newspaper. He, in his own mind, would rule out the fact of KAREN committing suicide inasmuch as if she had been contemplating suicide, he doubts she would have taken as much time as she did in locating specimen bottles earlier on November 13, 1974.

He knows nothing in regard to the circumstances surrounding KAREN's contamination.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/9/74

[redacted]  
Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

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b7C

He is currently employed as [redacted] in the Uranium Lab at the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Crescent Nuclear Facility. He formerly was employed in the Plutonium Lab. He has worked for the company some three years. He is an active member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) and until very recently, was a committeeman.

On November 13, 1974, he first saw KAREN SILKWOOD that day at the Hub Cafe in Crescent at a union meeting which was attended by some 15 to 20 members. He was aware of the fact that she had been involved most of the day in company-union negotiations at the plant.

At the end of the union meeting, he heard [redacted] offer to drive KAREN home. He made a similar offer and she refused both of them.

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He made the offer because it was very obvious to him that she was under a severe strain as a result of the contamination incident and related problems.

KAREN's trip to Los Alamos was supposed to have been better organized by the company and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) than it was, but KAREN had several aggravating problems arise during the course of the trip, had problems in renting a car using her own credit card and also incurred some lodging and food expenses on her own. Apparently, she would be reimbursed for these expenses, but the overall hassle added to her numerous problems. She indicated that she was very upset about the trip in general. During the course of the union meeting she was sitting with [redacted]. He did not recall seeing her eat or drink anything other than a glass of tea. There was no beer or other alcoholic beverage at the meeting and he is certain that KAREN at that time, did not drink anything other than tea. There is no place that he knows of in the immediate vicinity of the Hub that serves intoxicants.

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12/3/74 Crescent, Oklahoma Oklahoma City 159-45  
Interviewed on at File #  
SA [redacted] b6 12/9/74  
by [redacted] b7C Date dictated

2  
OC 159-45

KAREN seemed "normal" when she left the meeting at about 7:00 pm. He cannot describe her condition, other than normal. All he can say, is that she, just before she left, did not appear to be behaving in any fashion other than her usual fashion, but he was still concerned enough to offer to drive her home.

He did not know that KAREN was going to meet anyone after the union meeting and was completely unaware of the fact that she was going to make further allegations concerning quality control on fuel rods. He was aware of the initial allegations made in this regard, but was unaware of these additional allegations.

In regard to her accident, he does not know what happened. He has no information whatsoever and does not know whether foul play occurred or not. He would find it hard to believe that the company would have had KAREN killed because he thinks that the company is aware of the fact that the company can manipulate KAREN should they desire to place enough pressure on her. KAREN will bend under pressure, he knows it and the company knows it. So it would not be necessary for the company to take such extreme action against her.

In late September, 1974, he, [ ] and KAREN<sup>b6</sup> went to Washington, D.C. to take part in an AEC Safety meeting.<sup>b7c</sup> This meeting was specifically in regard to the Crescent Facility. A similar safety meeting had been held about one month before concerning the Atomic Facility at Erwin, Tennessee. The fuel rod allegations were not brought up during the course of this meeting. Only allegations concerning health and safety at the KMC Crescent Facility were discussed. The union's allegations in this regard consisted of some three or four charges.

The allegations concerning the fuel rods were brought up by the National Union after KAREN's death and to his knowledge there had not been a prior complaint.

He does not know what kind of documentation KAREN may have had concerning the fuel rod allegations, but she may have had some specifics in a small notebook, approximately 3 X 5 inches in size, which he has in the past seen her carry.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/12/74

On December 3, 1974, [redacted] observed the scene to which the fatal accident of KAREN G. SILKWOOD occurred on November 13, 1974. SA [redacted] made photographs of the area.

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The scene is located on Oklahoma State Highway 74 seven and three-tenths miles south of Crescent, Oklahoma. It is noted that the scene is approximately one and three-tenths miles south of the intersection of State Highways 74 and 33 and the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Cimarron Facility is located between Crescent and the accident site at a point approximately two and one-tenth miles north of the accident site. State Highway 74 is the most direct route between the Cimarron Facility and Oklahoma City with access to the Oklahoma City suburb, Edmond, Oklahoma.

The road at the point where the accident occurred is straight and flat with a slight down grade (south) toward a creek bottom.

The road is a two-lane, rough asphalt highway with a painted center divided line. The shoulders (four feet wide) are smooth and well maintained and at the same level as the road surface. On either side of the road is a broad, grass-covered bar ditch, which surface varies from smooth to undulating.

Visibility north from the accident scene along the highway is unrestricted for approximately one and one-half miles. Visibility south along the road is unrestricted for approximately one-half mile.

There are farm fields east and west of the road at the accident site. There are no nearby residences or businesses. The highway is not lighted in this area.

The concrete culvert in which the vehicle of KAREN SILKWOOD came to rest on the east side of the road is not clearly noticeable from the road. The culvert is not readily apparent to a south-bound driver of a passenger car.

Considerable debris, including broken glass, ornamental

12/3/74	Logan County, Oklahoma	Oklahoma City 159-45
Interviewed on	at	File #
SA [redacted]	75	b6 12/6/74
by		b7C Date dictated

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metal, broken plastic and a white racing mirror still littered the impact area. Careful inspection of the north-bound and south-bound highway lanes between the culvert and the section line road some 500 feet north failed to reveal any skid marks, which would appear to relate to the November 13, 1974 accident.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/9/74

On the evening of December 3, 1974, SA [redacted] in the garage located at 5818 N. W. 33rd, Oklahoma City, examined a white 1973 Honda Civic bearing current Oklahoma license YF 8261.

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The odometer read 35596.4. The car was heavily damaged on the front end. The extreme front portion of the left front had been driven back to a point within 14 inches of the fire wall on the driver's side. The fire wall, dash board and steering wheel had all been driven forward into the driver's compartment. The front windshield was knocked out. The car roof was buckled and roof chrome trim displaced. The left side, including the left door, was heavily damaged with numerous dents and wrinkles in the sheet metal.

The right door was wrinkled at the top just below the window glass.

The right rear of the car was damaged, which included broken tail light and damaged right tail light assembly; wrinkled fender, right side immediately in front of of tail light, near bumper creased and wrinkled right of center to terminal portion of right side. The right side tag license plate was cracked and broken.

At the extreme left rear corner (the rounded surface between the outside of the left rear fender and the flat surface from the rear of the car) at a point below the rear bumper was an eliptically-shaped dent. The long axis of this dent was nearly parallel to the ground. The center of the dent was approximately 13 inches above ground level. The dent had numerous horizontal parallel striations. No paint other than the white Honda paint and underlying primer coats were obvious to the naked eye.

SA [redacted] scraped the dent surface with a hard steel tool and obtained paint samples. The dent was approximately five inches long and three inches high.

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Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

SA [redacted]

b6

12/9/74

b7C

by

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Located on the under surface of the extreme left corner of the rear bumper was an undefined scratched area about one inch in diameter. The bumper did not appear to be dented at this point. There were no pieces of paint discernible to the naked eye in this scratched area. There were several small particles of what appeared to be soil in this scratched area. The scratched area was at a point some 15 inches above ground level. SA [ ] scraped the surface of the scratched area with a hard steel tool obtaining a very minute quantity of debris.

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SA [ ] took photographs of the automobile which he examined.

OC 159-45

IV. AUTOPSY - MEDICAL

78a

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/6/74

1

[redacted] Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Board of Medicolegal Investigations, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, made available a copy of the autopsy report relative to KAREN G. SILKWOOD. The report is dated November 21, 1974, and appeared over the signature of A. J. CHAPMAN, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner.

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b7C

[redacted] advised that the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at Los Alamos, New Mexico, still has an ongoing examination of the deceased's internal organs and tissues and the results of this AEC examination has not yet been received by her office. When the AEC examination is completed and furnished to her office, it will be incorporated into the present autopsy report relative to SILKWOOD. She believes that it may be several weeks until her office hears results of AEC examination.

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Interviewed on 11/26/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

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b7CDate dictated 12/3/74This document  
is and its contents

OC 159-45

2

BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

824 NORTHEAST 15th STREET  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104  
(405)-239-7141

AMENDMENT TO REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Full Name of Decedent Karen G. Silkwood

Date of Death: 11/13/74

City/County of Death: Guthrie/Logan

File Number:

Medical Examiner: Robert Ringrose, M.D.

ITEMS AMENDED:

( ) Cause of Death

( X ) Manner of Death Accident

( ) Other

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND

CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

A. JAY CHAPMAN, M.D. DATED

CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

By Storia Guthrie

NOV 26 1974

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November 21, 1974

Date

A. Jay Chapman M.D.  
Signature A. Jay Chapman, M.D.

143874

00-159-45  
3I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND  
CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.A. JAY CHAPMAN, M. D. DATED  
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINERBy Flora Guthrie NOV 26, 1974BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER824 NORTHEAST 15th STREET  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104  
(405)-239-7141Office of  
Chief Medical Examiner

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Re. AD

Cd. \_\_\_\_\_

Att. \_\_\_\_\_

Co. \_\_\_\_\_

## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION BY MEDICAL EXAMINER

DECEDENT Karen G. Sikkink AGE: 28 RACE: Can SEX: F M W C DADDRESS 836 NW 48th Oklahoma City BIRTHDATE 2/19/74 OCCUPATION Lab tech / VeterinarianTYPE OF DEATH: Suspicious ☐ Unattended by a licensed physician: ☐  
While in penal incarceration ☐ Suspected Unattended during fatal illness ☐  
After unexplained coma ☐ Instantaneous without obvious cause ☐  
During therapeutic procedure ☐ Found dead without obvious cause ☐  
Death possible threat to public health ☐ Stillbirth attended by midwife ☐  
Unusual ☒ Violent or Unnatural  
Means:

DATE	Last Known Alive	Injury or Illness	Death	Medical Examiner Notified	View of Body	Police notified	If motor vehicle accident check one of the following
2/11/74	11/13/74	11/13/74	11/13/74	11/13/74	11/13/74	11/13/74	DRIVER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PASSENGER <input type="checkbox"/> PEDESTRIAN <input type="checkbox"/>
TIME	1800		1900	135	2145	2000	

NOTIFICATION BY: Hosp personnel ADDRESS Logan Memorial Hosp

LOCATION (ADDRESS) CITY OR COUNTY TYPE OF PREMISES (E. G., HOSPITAL, HOTEL, HIGHWAY, ETC.)

INJURY OR ONSET OF ILLNESS

DEATH SH 74 LOGAN Highway 14 mi S of SH 33VIEWING OF BODY BY MEDICAL EXAMINER Logan Memorial Hosp Guthrie ER Hosp

DESCRIPTION OF BODY	NOSE	MOUTH	EARS	NON FATAL WOUNDS	RIGOR	LIVOR
Clothed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclothed <input type="checkbox"/> Partly Clothed <input type="checkbox"/> Hair <u>Bun</u> Beard <input type="checkbox"/> Mustache <input type="checkbox"/> Circumcised <input type="checkbox"/> Pupils: R <u>4/4</u> L <u>4/4</u> Eyes: Color <u>Bun</u> Opacities, Etc. <input type="checkbox"/>	BLOOD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FROTH <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Sand, dirt, water, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abrasion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Burn <input type="checkbox"/> Contusion <input type="checkbox"/> Stab <input type="checkbox"/> Gunshot <input type="checkbox"/> Incised <input type="checkbox"/> Laceration <input type="checkbox"/> Fracture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jaw <input type="checkbox"/> Arms <input type="checkbox"/> Neck <input type="checkbox"/> Chest <input type="checkbox"/> Back <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen <input type="checkbox"/> Legs <input type="checkbox"/>	Color <input type="checkbox"/> Anterior <input type="checkbox"/> Posterior <input type="checkbox"/> Lateral <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/>
WEIGHT <u>110</u> LENGTH <u>5'5"</u> BODY HEAT: <u>normal</u>	Distribution: Scalp <input type="checkbox"/> Face <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neck <input type="checkbox"/> Chest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Back <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen <input type="checkbox"/> Arms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

FATAL WOUNDS:

TYPE (Gunshot, Incised, Stab, etc.)	SIZE	SHAPE	ANATOMIC LOCATION	PLANE, LINE OR DIRECTION
<u>Facial chest &amp; bilateral leg fractures</u>				
<u>Compound fracture @ lower</u>				

Probable cause of death: Multiple injuries Manner of death: (Check one only)  
Accident ☐ Suicide ☐ Homicide ☐ Natural ☐ Unknown ☐ Pending ☐  
Disposition of Case: 1. Not a medical examiner case ☐  
2. Autopsy authorized ☒ No ☐  
Pathologist \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby state that, after receiving notice of the death described herein, I conducted an investigation as to the cause and manner of death, as required by law, and that the facts contained herein regarding such death are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

11/13/74

County of Appointment

81

Signature of Medical Examiner

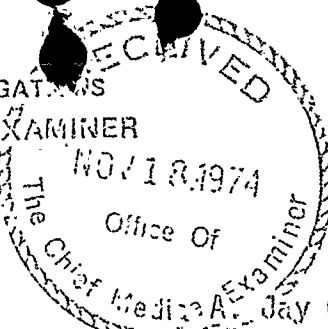
139-46

BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

824 NORTHEAST 15th STREET  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104

(405) 239-7141

## REPORT OF AUTOPSY



DECEDENT Karen Gay Silkwood Authority for autopsy: Jay Chapman, M.D., CME  
First name Middle name Last name Name Official Title

## TYPE OF DEATH

Violent or Unnatural ☒  
Unusual ☐

Means:

Automobile

Unattended by a physician ☐  
While in penal incarceration ☐  
During therapeutic procedure ☐  
Body to be cremated, buried at sea,  
transported out of state ☐  
Death possible threat to public health ☐  
After unexplained coma ☐  
Suspicious ☐

## Rigor

Jaw ☐ Arms ☐  
Neck ☐ Chest ☐  
Back ☐ Abdomen ☐  
Legs ☐

Complete

## Livor

Color Purple

Anterior ☐  
Posterior ☒  
Lateral ☐

Regional

Body Identified by:

Personal effects and tag

Present at Autopsy

Jim Lawrence, S.L.C.  
Dr. C. Sternhagen,  
Dr. G. Voelz  
Dr. M. Stewart,  
S. Sullaway  
J. Shackelford

Age 28 Race W Sex F App 6'2" Est 105 Eyes Bwn Pupils: R. 0.6 Opacities, Etc.  
Hair Bwn Beard n/a Mustache n/a Circumcised n/a Body Heat Cold L. 0.5

NON-FATAL WOUNDS, SCARS, TATTOOING, ABRASION, CONTUSION, BURNS, SEXUAL ASSAULT, LACERATION, DECOMPOSITION,  
POSTMORTEM INJURIES

(see attached sheet)

## PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSES

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND  
CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

A. JAY CHAPMAN, M.D. DATED NOV 20 1974

CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

BY [Signature]

82

Cause of death:

Multiple injuries

Provisional Report ☐Final Report ☐

ML 501-74

The facts stated herein are true and correct to the  
best of my knowledge and belief.

[Signature]  
Signature of Pathologist

11-14-74 3:00 p.m. BSB Morgue

Date and time of autopsy

Place of autopsy

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ML 501-74

Karen Gay Silkwood

#### EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION:

##### 1. The body is clothed as follows:

- a. One brown leather coat in the pockets of which there are the following items:  
4 quarters, 4 pennies, 1 nickel, 6 dimes. A small notebook contains 2 one-dollar bills and 1 \$5.00 bill as well as a blank check, a professional card from Dr. Sternhagen in New Mexico.  
A Bradley brand Mickey Mouse pocket watch, 2 Kleenexes, used.  
One vial containing yellow and aqua pills as well as powdered pills.  
One radiation badge with photographic ID and name.  
One electronic security key.
- b. One silver-chain necklace with multi-colored and silver pendants.
- c. One pair of red, white and black striped plaid slacks.
- d. One pair of white socks.
- e. One pair of leather half-boots.
- f. One pullover black blouse.
- g. A Kotex pad is in place as well as a tampon.
- h. One pair of brown and white patterned extremely brief panties.

A vertical 3/4 inch laceration is present in the left mid forehead in the hairline extending inferiorly.

The orbital contents on the left are displaced posteriorly, and there is along the inferior border of the left eyebrow extending from the base of the nose laterally, a 1-3/4 inch irregular laceration. Marked orbital contusion is present on the left.

There are multiple fractures of the nasal bones.

Blood is present from the nares and mouth.

Irregular abrasions cover the anterior chest on the left in an area up to approximately 8 inches in greatest dimension. These range from 1/2 up to 4 inches in greatest dimension.

Covering the left aspect of the abdomen inferiorly and medially to the midline is an irregular area of superficial abrasion which is 5-1/2 inches in greatest dimension.

Postmortem needle puncture wounds are present in the anterior chest wall on the left.

Irregular superficial abrasions and slight lacerations involve the entire right forearm from the midpoint distally, and these areas of injury range from 1/4 up to 3 inches in greatest dimension.

Similar injuries involve the left distal forearm from the midpoint. In addition there is a fracture of the distal aspect of the 5th metacarpal.

There is marked distortion of the left lower extremity in the mid thigh where there is complete fracturing of the femur overlain anterolaterally by areas of contusion and abrasion as well as laceration covering an area up to 6 inches.

The left patellar area has marked laceration through the entire thickness of the skin with apparent avulsion of skin and this area is 3-1/2 inches in greatest dimension. Irregular abrasions are present on the medial aspect of the left knee and on the proximal and mid thirds of the anteromedial tibial area, and these average 1-1/2 inches.

.....continued:



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Page 2  
Karen Gay Silkwood

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION (cont'd):

The proximal third of the right medial thigh has irregular laceration in an area 2-1/2 inches in greatest dimension. Over the middle third of the posterior right thigh there is a puncture type laceration and irregular abrasion surrounding an area approximately 1 inch in greatest dimension.

An irregular fracture near the point of juncture of the proximal and middle thirds of the right femur is present. The right tibia and fibula are fractured near the juncture of the middle and distal thirds, and the bone is comminuted.

Irregular contusions are present on the medial aspect of the right ankle and cover an area 2-1/2 inches in greatest dimension.

Irregular areas of bluish red discoloration cover an area 5-1/2 inches in greatest dimension over the medial aspect of the right knee and proximal third of the right leg medially.

Over the lateral most aspect of the iliac crest on the right is an irregular superficial abrasion associated with bluish discoloration 1-1/4 inches in greatest dimension.

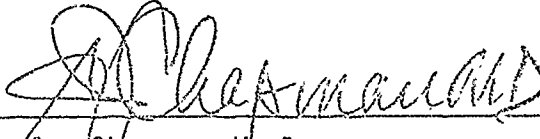
The posterior aspect of the proximal third of the right thigh has a laceration 1-1/2 inches in greatest dimension diagonally placed and associated with irregular abrasion and contusion in an area up to 5 inches in greatest dimension.

A marked hematoma is 2 inches in greatest dimension over the lateral aspect of the right foot near the ankle at the base of the metatarsals.

In the midline of the forehead extending superiorly from the base of the nose is a vertical 1 inch irregular laceration with hemorrhage.

Dr. Mike Stewart is prosector of internal examination.

Multiple fractures, contusions, lacerations, and abrasions..

  
A. Jay Chapman, M. D.

jm

Autopsy #501-74  
Silwood, Karen G.  
November 14, 1974

#### INTERNAL GROSS AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

**ABDOMINAL CAVITY:** Incision of the ventral abdominal wall reveals virtually no subcutaneous adipose tissue stores, although the skin turgor and skeletal muscle consistency do not suggest cachexia or inanition.

Incision of the peritoneum reveals an estimated 3 units of recent hemorrhage throughout the peritoneal cavity without evidence of exudation or fibrinous proliferation. The abdominal viscera generally occupy their usual positions but it is noted there are blunt lacerations of the liver and spleen and contusions of the small bowel without evidence of small bowel perforation. The mesentery is somewhat displaced ventrally and retroperitoneal hemorrhage is noted surrounding both kidneys and dissecting somewhat into the root of the mesentery. The source of this hemorrhage appears to be from the posterior surface of the liver near the inferior vena cava.

**THORACIC CAVITY:** Reflection of the ventral skin of the thoracic cavity reveals contusion of the pectoral musculature and fracture dislocations of both sternoclavicular joints. There are displaced fractures of the left 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th ribs anteriorly just lateral to the sternoclavicular cartilages. Contusion of the right chest anteriorly is prominent but displaced fractures are not seen.

Removal of the sternum reveals no tension pneumothorax but both lungs are somewhat collapsed, particularly the left lung. There are lung contusions and a few cc. of blood-tinged proteanaceous fluid in each pleural cavity without evidence of exudation or fibrosis. The mediastinum and pericardial sac are intact.

#### ORGAN SYSTEMS:

**CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:** The pericardial sac contains a few cc. of proteanaceous fluid without evidence of hemorrhage. The heart has a normal gross external configuration, weighs 180 grams, and shows no evidence of contusion. Examination of the coronary arteries reveals virtually no atheromatous disease. Examination of the chambers of the heart show minor acute dilatation of the right ventricle. There is no evidence of hypertrophy, inflammation, interstitial fibrosis, or necrosis. The heart valves and great vessels are normally developed and well formed.

**RESPIRATORY System:** The trachea is blood stained but there is no evidence of active inflammation. The combined weight of the left and right lungs is 1200 grams. Both lungs have multiple contusions (considerably more severe left anteriorly) but there is no evidence of actual perforation. Gross sectioning reveals hemorrhages related to the contused areas but there is no gross evidence of significant pre-existing pulmonary parenchymal disease. The pulmonary arteries are clear.

Autopsy #501-74  
Silwood, Karen G.  
Continued:

-2-

**GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT**-The esophagus is grossly normal. The stomach contains 500 cc. of partially digested material without gross evidence of medications. No mucosal abnormalities are seen. The small bowel and colon are practically empty and contain no developmental or acquired abnormalities. The appendix is normal.

**LIVER**-The liver weighs 1300 grams and contains multiple irregular blunt laceration involving the ventral surface and dome of the right lobe extending posteriorly. Gross examination of the liver reveals no distortion of the lobular architecture and there is no evidence of fatty parenchymal change or portal fibrosis. The gallbladder is small and shows it to contain less than 10 cc. of green viscid bile and no evidence of stone formation or mucosal cholesterosis. The common bile duct is patent and delicate.

**PANCREAS**-There is some hemorrhage surrounding the pancreas but no evidence of active pancreatitis or pancreatic necrosis.

**GENITOURINARY SYSTEM**-Both kidneys are surrounded by retroperitoneal hemorrhage but there is no gross evidence of actual contusion to the renal parenchyma. The kidneys have a normal weight and development. Gross sectioning reveals no evidence of inflammatory or vascular renal changes. Both ureters are patent and intact. The urinary bladder contains approximately 100 cc. of clear yellow urine. The uterus, ovaries, and oviducts are grossly normal.

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM**- Both adrenal glands have a normal size, shape, color and configuration. The thyroid gland is bilaterally symmetrical without evidence of fibrosis, inflammation, or nodularity. The pituitary gland is grossly normal.

**HEMATOLYMPHATIC SYSTEM**- The spleen contains irregular lacerations of the capsule as mentioned. The organ weighs 110 grams and gross sectioning reveals no parenchymal abnormalities, other than the traumatic lesions as described. There are only a few scattered small mesenteric and periportal lymph nodes which show no evidence of inflammation or hyperplasia. The thoracic lymph nodes have the expected anthracosis without evidence of granulomas, fibrosis, or hypertrophy. Grossly, the bone marrow of the sternum, ribs, vertebral column, and left femur is normally cellular.

**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM**-The skeletal muscles show no evidence of atrophy, dystrophy or wasting. The skeletal system is normally developed and generally intact with the exception of the traumatic injuries as mentioned in the gross external examination.

**CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM**-Reflection of the scalp reveals no subgaleal hematoma. The calvarium is intact.

Removal of the calvarium reveals no subdural or subarachnoid hemorrhage. The brain weighs 1275 grams and is bilaterally symmetrical but shows apparent early and minor cerebral edema with flattening of the gyri, narrowing of the sulci, and slight uncus nicking. Gross sectioning of the brain reveals no contusions, no internal hemorrhages, and no evidence of pre-existing cerebral disease. The proximal spinal cord is grossly unremarkable. Examination of the base of the skull reveals no evidence of fracture.



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Autopsy #501-74  
Silwood, Karen C.

#### MICROSCOPIC

Heart-The myocardium has a uniform consistency without evidence of trauma, inflammation, hypertrophy, fibrosis, infarction, or degeneration.

Respiratory System-The lungs contain large areas of contusion with acute hemorrhage obliterating large areas of alveoli. There is no evidence of pre-existing pulmonary disease.

Liver-The hepatic lobular architecture is intact. The parenchyma cells are regular and uniform without evidence of fatty cytoplasmic change. The portal areas and central lobular architecture are unremarkable. The liver near areas of traumatic laceration show interstitial hemorrhage and early infiltration of acute inflammatory cells.

Pancreas-Microscopically there are no abnormal pancreatic parenchymal changes. Some autolysis is seen and there is peripancreatic hemorrhage without evidence of pancreatic contusion.

Kidneys-Both kidneys show no evidence of significant vascular or inflammatory disease. There are early ischemic tubular epithelial changes.

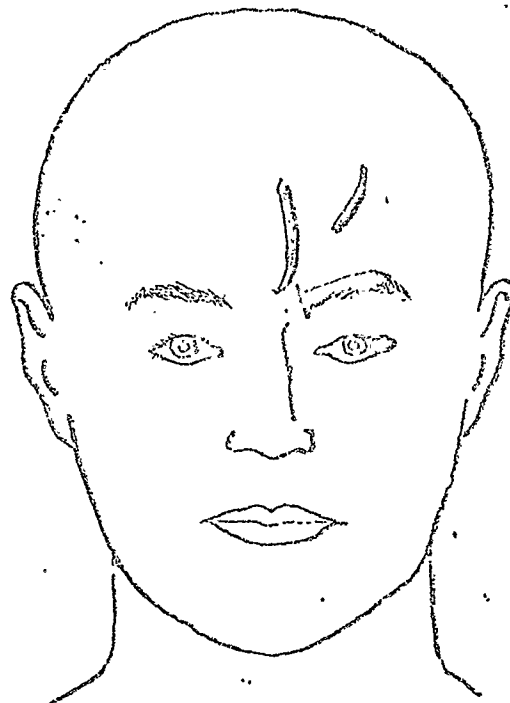
Adrenals-Both adrenal glands show acute hemorrhagic changes without evidence of cortical necrosis or degeneration.

Hematolymphatic System-Microscopically the lymph nodes are within normal limits. The spleen shows almost total depletion of the sinusoidal erythrocytic reserves. The lymphoid architecture is unremarkable. The bone marrow is adequately cellular and shows normal, orderly maturation of both the erythrocytic and granulocytic series. Megacariocytes are active and apparently functional.

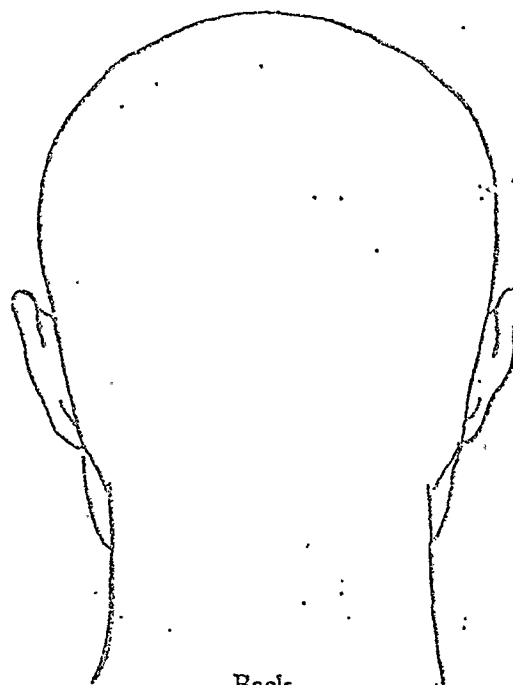
Central Nervous System-Early minor acute perivascular edematous changes are seen. There is no contusion, hemorrhage, infarction or evidence of pre-existing central nervous system disease.

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BODY DIAGRAM-HEAD



Front



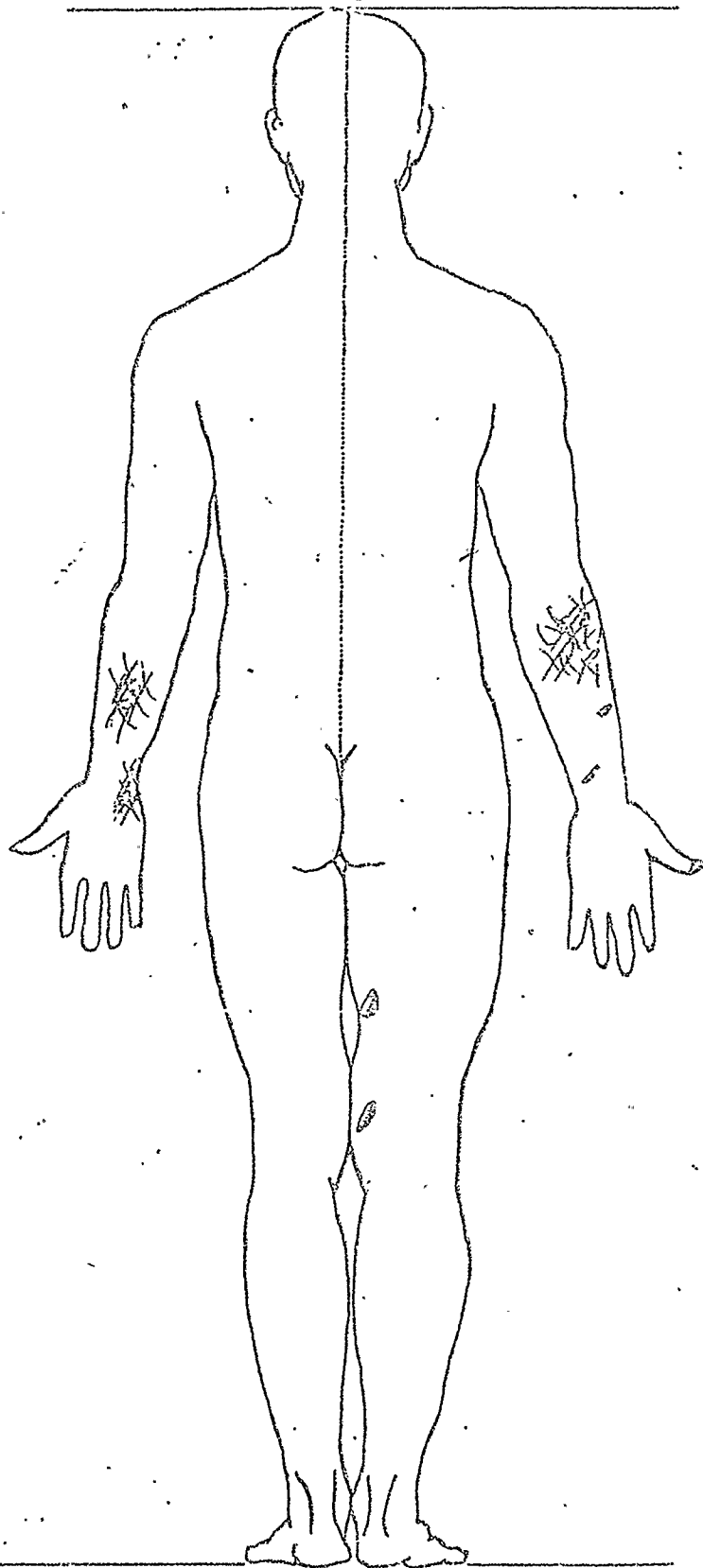
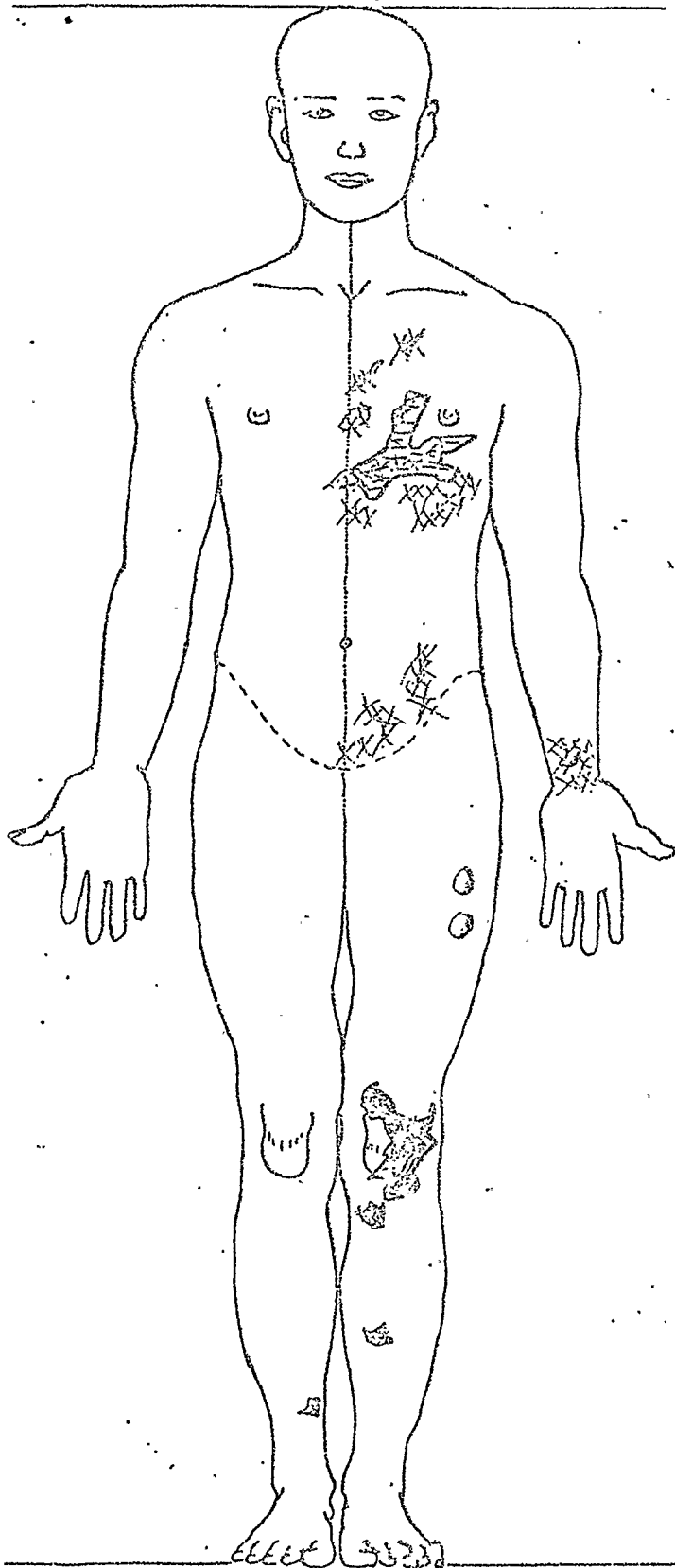
Back

Decedent's Name KAREN GAY SILKWOOD  
Examined  
By A. JAY CHAPMAN Date 11/14/74

BODY DIAGRAM

Front

Back



Decedent's Height 64 inches

Name KAREN GAY SILKWOOD

Examined

By A. JAY CHAPMAN

Date 11/14/74

XXX — PATTERNED ABRASIONS  
 ZZZ — LACERATIONS  
 [shaded] — CONTUSION

OC. 159-45  
12

BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Box 26901  
800 Northeast 13th Street, 4-B  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73190

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND  
CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

A. JAY CHAPMAN, M.D. DATED NOV 22 1974

CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

REPORT OF LABORATORY ANALYSIS

NAME: Silkwood, Karen Gay

LABORATORY NO. 741565

MATERIAL SUBMITTED: Blood, Gastric Contents, Bile, DATE RECEIVED: November 15, 1974  
Urine, Brain, Kidney, Liver and  
Small Vial Containing Yellow and Blue Tablets

SUBMITTED BY: A. Jay Chapman, M.D.

MEDICAL EXAMINER: Robert Ringrose, M.D.

RESULTS:

Blood:

Ethyl Alcohol - Trace (less than 0.02% w/v)

Methaqualone - 0.35 milligrams/100 ml

Barbiturates - Negative

Chlordiazepoxide - Negative

Diazepam - Negative

Liver:

Methaqualone - 1.08 milligrams/100 grams

Gastric Contents (118 grams submitted for analyses):


Methaqualone - 49.53 milligrams present in total specimen received

Urine:

Ethyl Alcohol - Trace (less than 0.02% w/v)

November 18, 1974

Date of Report

  
RICHARD W. PROUTY  
CHIEF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST

Please Note: Unless notified in writing to the contrary, the specimen(s) submitted in this case will be discarded at the end of 30 days.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 12/5/74

[redacted] Oklahoma City, was contacted at his office. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. He furnished the following information:

b6  
b7C

[redacted] stated that he was KAREN G. SILKWOOD's physician from November 28, 1973, until November 4, 1974. His records reflect that SILKWOOD was single, worked nights, and slept during the day. On October 25, 1974, [redacted] saw SILKWOOD and prescribed Qualude (Methaqualone) to assist her in sleeping. The prescription was for 30 tablets of 300 milligram Qualude and was to be taken upon retiring. The prescription could not be refilled, but after 30 days SILKWOOD could return and have another prescription written.

[redacted] records reflect that he saw SILKWOOD on November 1, 1974, regarding minor neck pains as a result of a previous auto accident. She was seen again for a follow-up examination on November 4, 1974.

b6  
b7C

91

Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # 159-45 Oklahoma City

by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 12/3/74



OC 159-45

V. INVESTIGATION REGARDING OCTOBER 31, 1974 ACCIDENT

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/11/74

1

[redacted] born [redacted]  
 [redacted] Missouri, who resides at [redacted]  
 [redacted] of Martin's Auto  
 Salvage and Repair, 2400 South Division, Guthrie, Oklahoma,  
 telephone number 282-1406, was interviewed at his place of  
 business. [redacted] advised as follows:

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He has been in business three years at this  
 location. He operates a wrecker service in connection  
 with his business under a "Corporation Commission of  
 Oklahoma Wrecker and Towing License" number 26329W,  
 effective January 25, 1974.

[redacted] exhibited a pink copy of a bill of  
 lading, number 1416, dated October 31, 1974, which bears  
 the caption "Martin's 24 Hour Wrecker Service, 2400  
 S. Division, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044, Tel. 282-1406 or  
 282-3022" which document shows the following data:

b6  
b7C

Vehicle	Honda
Tag number	YF 8261
Payment	Cash
Location	Five miles west on 33
Remarks	Pulled car from ditch
	\$8.00; five miles \$5.00;
	Total amount \$13.00
Truck number	2 (which [redacted] said is a GMC truck, 1973 model, blue with yellow trim)

[redacted] advised that he initialed this document  
 as "GEO" for his first name [redacted] The bottom of the  
 form showed the answer of no to the following questions  
 on this printed form:

b6  
b7C

Round trip?  
 Use of dolly?

93

Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Guthrie, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] b6  
 b7C Date dictated 12/6/74

Was vehicle wrecked?  
Was vehicle damaged?  
Was vehicle loaded?  
Perishables?

It is noted this form bore a space for customer signature, however, none was shown.

[ ] advised that this document was in connection with the Honda vehicle believed owned by KAREN SILKWOOD which he said he pulled from a ditch five miles west of Guthrie on State Highway 33 at about 1:30 P.M. on October 31, 1974, at which time SILKWOOD paid him in cash in the amount of \$13.00 for his services.

b6  
b7C

[ ] advised that SILKWOOD called him by telephone between 9:00 and 10:00 A.M., on October 31, 1974, and asked him to meet her at the car's location at 1:30 P.M., on October 31, 1974, in order to tow it from the ditch. In this telephone conversation she said she slid off the highway into a ditch "five miles west of Guthrie on 33 highway".

He said it was his understanding that the vehicle ran into the ditch at a time when SILKWOOD was returning home from work and that she had been confronted by a cow on the highway and in order to avoid the cow, lost control of the car, spun in 180 degree turn and went backwards into the ditch on the wrong side of the highway coming to rest with the right-hand taillight against a fence post breaking the dome type lens in the taillight.

[ ] said that this was the only damage sustained to the car. He said the housing containing the light was not bent or damaged and he could see the point of impact of the lens on the fence post at the time he pulled the car from the ditch. He said that when the car was retrieved from the ditch he and SILKWOOD and a male friend that was with her who apparently had driven her to the scene of the accident, carefully looked over the car for any damage and as stated above the only damage they observed was the the taillight lens.

b6  
b7C

[ ] said that on October 31, 1974, he had not observed any personal effects or material inside this

b6  
b7C

vehicle for the reason that he had no reason to examine anything within the car as his concern had primarily been with whether or not there had been any damage to the exterior of the car when it ran into the ditch and when he towed it from the ditch back onto the highway. He said in order to pull the car from the ditch it was necessary to ask SILKWOOD to unlock the car in order to turn the wheels and secure the steering wheel with a rope by means of tying a rope to the steering wheel and then closing the other end of the rope in the door jamb. This was necessary to keep the wheels straight for towing the vehicle from the ditch. He said in towing the car out of the ditch in that incident, he hooked his cable underneath the car on a rear suspension bar making the attachment of the tow cable on the inside of the tow bar towards the center of the vehicle. [ ] stated that he was certain that he did not damage SILKWOOD's car in any manner in towing it from the ditch on October 31, 1974. [ ] advised that in his examination of her car on that date he did not recall finding any paint scratches or dents on the exterior of the car which he said was a "kind of blue color", two-door vehicle, of the station wagon type or style, "as I remember".

b6  
b7C

[ ] advised that he did not observe anything unusual in SILKWOOD's physical condition on October 31, 1974. He said she seemed to be very alert.

[ ] said the individual who was with SILKWOOD was a white male, in his mid or late 20's, long blond hair, approximately 5'10"-6', slender build, approximately 145-150 pounds, fair complexioned, wearing a pair of slacks and shirt.

b6  
b7C

[ ] further advised concerning the accident where SILKWOOD slid into the ditch, he would estimate it was about 40-50 feet from the shoulder of the highway to where the car came to rest against the fence post. He said her direction of travel was east and the car had come to

rest north of the highway. The highway was concrete, two lane divided, and [ ] further advised he did not observe any marks in the concrete on the highway on October 31, 1974.

b6  
b7C

[ ] said that SILKWOOD did not inform him of the time when she ran off the highway, but merely indicated she was going from work to her home. [ ] noted that there was a ravine before the area where she reported she had skidded and the highway at that point was a fill area. He said he did not note the condition of the tread on her tires. He said he assumed she was alone when she skidded and went into the ditch, however, she did not so state.

Subsequently [ ] showed the area where SILKWOOD had slid into the ditch on Highway 33 to a Lieutenant of the Highway Patrol and to Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) Trooper [ ] on November 23, 1974. He said he did not recall the Lieutenant's name but the Lieutenant was a Negro male. He said he showed the area to them on November 23, 1974, at around 5:00 P.M. He said he established this date from a record he has maintained which shows that on that date he was engaged in delivering a vehicle to an individual in Crescent, Oklahoma, and the site of SILKWOOD's skid into the ditch was on his route to Crescent. He said he pointed out to the OHP officers on that date the exact location from which he towed the vehicle and pointed out to them the fence post which the car had struck and pointed out some of the broken glass from the taillight lens still at the scene. [ ] stated that in fact the fence post was broken and the bottom of the post was still hanging in the fence wire.

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b7C

[ ] advised additionally that on the night that KAREN SILKWOOD was killed in a subsequent automobile accident he was on his way home from his place of business and the Guthrie Police Department was trying to get hold of him by radio. [ ] noted that he has radio communication in his wrecker with the Guthrie Police Department and the Logan County Sheriff's Office. [ ]

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said that he walked into the Guthrie Police Station and was informed by Captain [ ] that District 1 of the OHP had called indicating that a party was trapped in a car in an accident one mile south of Highway 33 on Highway 74 and [ ] was to get there as fast as he could. [ ] said that he left the police station immediately, driving his wrecker, and as he proceeded to the scene of the accident he was in view of Guthrie Fire Department ambulance which was proceeding ahead of him. There were two men in the ambulance, but [ ] did not get close enough to the ambulance to determine who they were. [ ] said that he got as far as five miles west of Guthrie on Highway 33 and was advised by radio by the Guthrie Police Department that he was to turn back and return to Guthrie. The police department advising a wrecker from Crescent, Oklahoma, had been obtained to take care of the wreck. [ ] said that he did as instructed, turning around, returning to Guthrie, and went home and thought nothing more of the matter at that time.

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[ ] advised that the Guthrie Fire Department ambulance, to the best of his knowledge, is a Chevrolet van-type ambulance, is city owned, and is red and white or orange and white in color.

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Concerning interviews regarding KAREN SILKWOOD's skidding into the ditch on or about October 31, 1974, [ ] advised that he has been interviewed by the following:

[ ] of Channel 5 News, Oklahoma City.

A Negro Lieutenant and Trooper [ ] of the OHP.

A brief interview by two men from the Atomic Energy Commission whose names [ ] said he does not recall.

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Two men from Kerr McGee Corporation.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/5/74

[redacted] Allstate Insurance, 4705 Northwest Highway, Oklahoma City, was contacted at his office. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. He furnished the following information:

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[redacted] advised that Allstate claim number 16F88344 for KAREN SILKWOOD, 908 North Washington, Apartment 2, Edmond, Oklahoma, dated November 2, 1974, reflects the following:

Car year	1973
Make	Honda Civic
Model	2-door
Insured car damage	Right rear side
Date of loss	October 31, 1974
Time of loss	1:15 am
Location of loss	Highway 33, five miles west of Guthrie, Oklahoma
Description of loss	Insured swerved to miss cow on road and ran off into ditch

Allstate estimate dated November 2, 1974, claim number 16F88344 for KAREN SILKWOOD on a 1973 Honda Civic, white, odometer 35,167, identification number 1014541, license number YF-8261, reflects the following description of repairs:

1. Replace rear bumper;
2. Replace rear bumper arms;
3. Replace rear deflector;
4. Repair rear body panel
5. Replace right tag lamp assembly;
6. Replace right tail lamp assembly;
7. Repair right quarter panel

This estimate reflects the following estimated costs for the above repairs:

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Interviewed on 12/27/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] b6 Date dictated 12/3/74  
b7C

2  
OC 159-45

Labor	\$ 73.80
Paint sublet	56.00
Parts	93.62
Tax	2.81
Total	<u>\$226.23</u>
Less deductible	<u>\$100.00</u>
Net total	<u>\$126.23</u>

The estimate reflects Whitfield Volkswagen as the repair shop. [ ] advised that the Adjustor's Inspection Report dated November 4, 1974, reflects May Avenue Dodge to do repairs, paint rear body panel and right quarter.

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[ ] advised that Allstate records reflect that Allstate paid \$146.23 on November 4, 1974, by check payable to KAREN SILKWOOD and May Avenue Bank, Oklahoma City.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 12/6/74

[redacted] BOB SHULL Volkswagen, (Formerly Whitfield Volkswagen), 5600 Northwest 39th, Oklahoma City, was contacted at his office. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. He furnished the following information:

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[redacted] stated he is familiar with KAREN SILKWOOD. He stated that she was dating [redacted] who is an employee at the body shop. Approximately four or five days before SILKWOOD's fatal accident, she brought her Honda Civic into the body shop for an estimate of repairs on damage caused by an earlier accident. [redacted] described her automobile as a 1973 or 1974 Honda Civic, two-door, white in color.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] drew up the estimate for the repairs of damage to her car. [redacted] stated he observed the damage and described it as being damage on the rear of the car, right of center. He stated that it needed a new taillight assembly on the right side, a new bumper, and that the gravel deflector was damaged. [redacted] stated that to his knowledge these repairs were not made prior to SILKWOOD's fatal accident.

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[redacted] stated that he has seen SILKWOOD's automobile since her fatal accident. He said that he observed new damage to the left rear of the car which was not there when it was brought in earlier for the estimate. He said he knows the whereabouts of the car but declined to furnish that information. He said he feels this information should be obtained from another source. He said he feels [redacted] will be willing to furnish that information.

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Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # 159-45 Oklahoma City

by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 12/3/74

OC 159-45

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VI. INTERVIEWS WITH  AND

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 12/6/74

[redacted] was contacted at Bob Shull's Volkswagen, (formerly Whitfield Volkswagen), 5600 Northwest 39th, Oklahoma City, where he is employed in the body shop. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. He furnished the following information:

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[redacted] stated that he was very close to KAREN SILKWOOD and dated her off and on for approximately two years before her death.

[redacted] stated in regard to the damage to SILKWOOD's auto resulting from an accident on or about October 31, 1974, SILKWOOD brought her car, a 1973 Honda Civic, two-door, white in color, to the Whitfield Volkswagen body shop on or about November 1, 1974, to obtain an estimate of repairs. [redacted] stated he wrote the estimate for the repairs for her. He said the damage to her car at that time was as follows:

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1. Right rear quarter wrinkled;
2. Right taillight assembly broken;
3. Bumper creased approximately 2" deep, right of center;
4. Back panel around the license tag damaged including the light tag lamp assembly and sheet metal wrinkled.

The estimate for the repair was approximately \$300. [redacted] stated that the damage was not repaired prior to her fatal accident. [redacted] said that he now has SILKWOOD's car and it is located at BOB IVINS' residence, 5818 Northwest 33rd, Oklahoma City. He stated that there is additional damage to the left rear of the car which was not present at the time he wrote the above estimate.

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Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # 159-45 Oklahoma City

by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 12/3/74

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 12/6/74

[redacted] Lynn Hickey  
Dodge, (formerly May Avenue Dodge), 4025 North May, Oklahoma  
City, was contacted at his office. He furnished the following  
information:

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[redacted] advised that the body shop records reflect no  
records identifiable with KAREN G. SILKWOOD and stated that to  
his knowledge the body shop has made no repairs on her 1973  
Honda Civic.

103

Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45  
by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 12/3/74

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/9/74

On December 2, 1974, SA [ ] telephonically contacted [ ] at his residence, [ ] telephone [ ] in [ ] an effort to set up an appointment with [ ]. An appointment was made for 6:30 pm on December 3, 1974, at [ ] residence.

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SA [ ] met [ ] at the appointed time. [ ] identified himself to [ ] and indicated to [ ] the nature of the current investigation. [ ] advised that the wrecked Honda automobile in which KAREN SILKWOOD was killed was not at his residence, but was at a location in Northwest Oklahoma City and offered to take SA [ ] there.

Enroute to the location, [ ] indicated that prior to the examination of the car, that he desired to return to his residence where he wanted the interview between SA [ ] and himself to take place, inasmuch as he had various papers and tape recorder. He stated that he wanted to record the interview.

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SA [ ] thereafter explained in additional detail the nature of the investigation, [ ] status as a witness and the fact that the circumstances of any interview would not be dictated by [ ]. [ ] thereafter indicated that if he could not record the interview, he desired to have another person present at the interview such as a friend or better yet, an attorney of his choice. [ ] was informed by SA [ ] that this also would be unacceptable to SA [ ].

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[ ] advised that he was not being hostile or argumentative, but was merely following advice that had been given to him in regard to any interviews relative to the SILKWOOD matter. He advised that he had no objections in showing SA [ ] the car and he would check and receive further instruction relative to any possible interview.

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12/2-4/74

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Oklahoma City 159-45

Interviewed on

SA [ ]

b6

File #

b7C

12/9/74

by

Date dictated

2  
OC 159-45

SA [ ] and [ ] proceeded to [ ]  
[ ] which location was a private  
residence with an attached garage. SA [ ] was advised  
that this was the residence of a co-worker of [ ]  
[ ]

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At this location, SA [ ] examined a white  
'1973 Honda. During the course of the examination, SA  
OLSON partially overheard [ ] placing a telephone  
call in the kitchen just off from the garage. At the  
conclusion of the car examination, SA [ ] asked [ ]  
[ ] what the result of his instructions were and [ ]  
advised that he had been in telephonic contact  
with [ ] in Washington, D. C. who advised him that  
the union preferred that he, [ ] have an attorney  
present for any type of FBI interview. SA [ ] again  
indicated to [ ] that this was an unacceptable  
condition for actual interview, however, in the event that  
[ ] had any information he wished to furnish the  
FBI, the FBI would accept this information. [ ]  
was also advised that the conditions he set forth in regard  
to the interview would be brought to the attention of the  
U. S. Attorney and that the U. S. Attorney could cause  
[ ] to be called before a grand jury to furnish them  
information relative to the current investigation.

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On the morning of December 4, 1974, [ ]  
telephonically contacted SA [ ] to advise that he would  
be available that day for interview and he was not making  
any conditions relative to the terms of the interview.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/10/74

[redacted]  
[redacted] Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

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She is employed as an analyst at the Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), Nuclear Facility, located near Crescent, Oklahoma. As of January 2, 1975, she will have been working for the company one year. [redacted] advised she can be contacted through her parents. [redacted] who live [redacted] on a farm road. She was the roommate of KAREN SILKWOOD, who is now deceased. She and KAREN shared an apartment located at 908 North Washington, Apartment #2, Edmond, Oklahoma, and shared the apartment with KAREN for about two months prior to KAREN's death. She was not really what one would call a close friend of KAREN's. They shared the apartment for mutual convenience. Prior to moving in with KAREN, she was living at home and wanted to get away and was anticipating attending Central State University (CSU) in Edmond. About this time KAREN had a fight with her boyfriend, [redacted]. [redacted] lived in a house on [redacted]. KAREN lived there with him. [redacted] stated she believes they truly loved one another but they both were coming off a divorce and apparently had decided to both remain "free." From time to time either KAREN or [redacted] would do something, such as go out with someone else to demonstrate their freedom.

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Interviewed on 12/5/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # OKLAHOMA CITY 159-45  
by SA [redacted] b6 Date dictated 12/9/74  
b7C

KAREN spent very little time at the apartment and almost every night was at [redacted] She would see KAREN only infrequently at best, inasmuch as they worked different shifts - KAREN worked days and she worked "graveyards."

KAREN was very much a union-oriented person; however, [redacted] stated she [redacted] was not a union-oriented person, has not joined the union, and is not thinking about joining the union. When KAREN would try to discuss company and union problems with her, she would simply turn KAREN off and say there were more important things to talk about. Therefore, KAREN and she would not even discuss topics in this area, let alone KAREN confiding in her concerning any important information relative to the company and union. [redacted] stated she is aware of the fact that KAREN did not fully trust her and certainly would not disclose to her any union secrets.

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KAREN's boyfriend, [redacted] would not discuss union affairs with KAREN. [redacted]

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On the evening of November 12, 1974, [redacted], KAREN, and she returned from Los Alamos, New Mexico, where they were examined at the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) facility in regard to a contamination incident. They got back into town sometime around 11:00 p.m. and the three of them briefly stopped by a night club to pick up a friend of hers. Thereafter the four of them went to DREW's house where they all spent the night. [redacted]

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She got up the next morning about the same time KAREN did and briefly saw her at the house. During this time she did not observe KAREN drink any other alcoholic beverage.



She and KAREN went to the plant that morning in their respective cars. KAREN went into union negotiations and she [ ] met with AEC representatives. She did not see KAREN afterwards. She can not really say if KAREN on the morning of November 13, 1974, was high or low emotionally because of her limited contact; however, the previous evening KAREN was perhaps more relaxed than any time that she had seen KAREN. KAREN had been very distraught over her contamination and apparently thought she was going to die as a result. The physical they took, however, in New Mexico put KAREN's true physical condition in proper perspective and thus relieved KAREN considerably.

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She has no personal knowledge concerning KAREN's fatal car accident. Her first impression upon hearing about the accident was that KAREN possibly committed suicide but when she later heard that KAREN's car might have been forced off the road, she could see something like that happening too. Just what happened, she does not know. She has absolutely no suspects in the matter if there was truly foul play. She never heard KAREN say that she was in fear of her life; that is, she never said that she thought any member of the company, an ex-girlfriend of [ ] or any other person was after her.

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She knew that KAREN and [ ] had a meeting set up with a union representative, [ ] for the evening of November 13, 1974, but she did not know the purpose of the meeting. She did not know that a New York Times reporter was supposed to be at this meeting. She thought that the meeting was to be at [ ] house so she went over to [ ] house about 7:00 p.m. on November 13, 1974, and found no one there. She thereafter left after waiting briefly.

She knew that KAREN had been going around picking up information regarding the health situation at the Crescent plant, but did not know anything else about KAREN's activities. She did not know that KAREN had made any allegations concerning falsification of fuel rod records.

About October 31, 1974, KAREN was involved in a wreck between Guthrie and the plant. KAREN said a cow had been out on the road and she went off the road when she tried to get around the cow. KAREN wrecked the back end of her car at that time. Another employee of the plant,

[ ] who came to work just a short time prior to when KAREN called about the accident, said she too had seen a cow on the road at about the place where KAREN indicated the wreck had occurred. KAREN told her that she tried to flag down a couple of cars but was unsuccessful in doing so. She walked back to her car and "took a pill" and walked to a nearby farmhouse from where she called. She does not know anything about KAREN having been prescribed sleeping pills at this time.

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However, on November 10, 1974, Dr. [ ] who was examining them at Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City, gave them both a prescription for Valium for their nerves. He made only one prescription in KAREN's name. She obtained two of the pills while KAREN got the rest. She does not know if KAREN received any other medication by prescription at Los Alamos, New Mexico, thereafter.

If KAREN stole some nuclear material from KMC, she certainly would not have told her [ ] because KAREN knows that she would have turned her in. She is totally afraid of Plutonium and certainly would not have stood for KAREN ever bringing any Plutonium or other radioactive material into their apartment.

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If KAREN had stolen some material from the plant it would seem that she would have had a better idea of the nature of her contamination problem, but she acted very concerned and during the examination at the Baptist Hospital, she told her [ ] that she had radioactive material in her lungs and was breathing it out into the atmosphere.

She does not think that if KAREN had stolen any material she would have dared told [ ] because she believes that [ ] would not go along with such an irresponsible act. She feels that if KAREN did steal some nuclear material, she did it on her own.

She has no information whatsoever which would indicate that KAREN was salting her urine and fecal samples with radioactive material.

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She was at the apartment on November 7, 1974, when the apartment was being checked for contamination. She was present at the discovery of [ ]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She never observed [REDACTED] or  
KAREN [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] She certainly would  
not be surprised to learn that [REDACTED] and KAREN used marijuana.  
In her opinion, however, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The first night that KAREN had spent at the apartment in a good long while, was the evening of November 6, 1974. She spent the night with [REDACTED]. They may have also spent the previous night there but she is not sure since she worked. On Wednesday night they were sharing a pizza at the apartment when KAREN casually mentioned that she had gotten contaminated the day before. She did not pick up on KAREN's remark and nothing was further said about the matter.

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She was at the apartment Thursday morning and just got home when KAREN called and said some people were coming to the apartment to check it for contamination. She could not believe the remark KAREN made and just went to bed. Later on that afternoon, however, the apartment was checked and determined to be contaminated. It was also determined that she had surface contamination herself.

To her knowledge, KAREN never broke down to such a point that she was crying in regard to her contamination. KAREN did act as if she were truly concerned. Her understanding of the contamination incident was that it was a result of there being a leak in the gloves, which were in the glove box KAREN had been working out of. On November 5, 1974, when she learned on November 13, 1974, that the company had apparently found nothing wrong with the gloves, it indicated KAREN was a liar. She believes that it is likely that KAREN was aware of this information prior to the time she died.

Sometime during mid October, 1974, perhaps two weeks before the contamination incident, KAREN made the remark that she was considering taking a vacation [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] does not know for sure but assumed that KAREN was serious when she said this. KAREN had also told her

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6

that she [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED],

[REDACTED] has no personal knowledge concerning KAREN's allegations about falsification of fuel rod records. KAREN did not keep any documents or papers at the apartment. [REDACTED] felt that if KAREN did keep papers, she would probably have kept them at [REDACTED] house. She does not know of any items, such as papers, notebooks, etc., which might have been missing from KAREN's car after the accident.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 12/9/74

[redacted] furnished the following information:

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He was the boy friend of the late KAREN SILKWOOD. He formerly worked at the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Crescent Nuclear Facility and quit that job in September, 1974.

[redacted].

He had been going with KAREN for most of the time that she was employed at the Crescent Facility and during the time that he was employed at the facility, he was very active in the union affairs. KAREN was also active in the union. KAREN was involved in a contamination incident, which was discovered on or about November 5, 1974 and as a result of that incident, KAREN, her roommate, [redacted] and he all were sent by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to the AEC Facility at Los Alamos, New Mexico for a full body count. They were at Los Alamos during the period of November 10-12, 1974, returning via air to Oklahoma City at about 9:30 pm. They stopped at the Crescendo Club located on N. W. 36th, spending a period of time there, arriving at his residence sometime about 11:00 pm. They drank a little wine that evening.

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[redacted] and KAREN both spent the night at his residence. He saw both girls the next morning before he left for work. He understands that KAREN went to the Crescent Facility. He does not know where [redacted] went that day. KAREN was involved in contract negotiations, which were then ongoing at the Crescent plant.

He and KAREN had previously made arrangements to meet with [redacted] Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) international representative and [redacted] a "New York Times" reporter in reference to allegations concerning falsification of fuel rod records at the Crescent plant. He was to pick up [redacted] at the Oklahoma City airport at 6:00 pm, November 13, 1974 and thereafter pick up [redacted] who was to arrive on a flight a short time later.

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12/4/74 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Oklahoma City 159-45  
Interviewed on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ File # \_\_\_\_\_  
SA [redacted] b6 12/9/74  
by \_\_\_\_\_ b7C Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

2  
OC 159-45

While he was still at work, just before 6:00 pm, he received a telephone call from KAREN who was then at a union meeting at the Hub Cafe in Crescent. He finalized their plans for the meeting with [ ] and [ ] and KAREN was to meet them at the Holiday Inn Northwest, Oklahoma City. She appeared to be in good spirits at the time of their telephone conversation.

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They had previously made arrangements to meet [ ] and [ ] prior to their going to Los Alamos. He believes that the actual date that the arrangements were made was early on November 10, 1974. KAREN had been gathering data for quite some time on specific falsification incidents relative to the quality controls that were set up to check the fabrication of the plutonium fuel rods made at the Crescent Facility. It is his understanding that her data consisted of the weld numbers of rods that had been passed that were not up to standard, and alphas (x-rays) of the imperfect welds themselves. It is his understanding that she had in her possession an actual negative that had been altered.

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He had not seen any of the documentary information that KAREN had to support her allegations. He did, however, have turned over to him all the papers and documents that were recovered from KAREN's wrecked car. He retained a portion of these items and other items of KAREN's personal property and sent the remainder to her parents in Texas. In conversation with KAREN's family in Texas, he found out they had in their possession something which might have been the negative of which KAREN spoke. This was sent to him by the family and inspection determined that this negative had nothing to do with the altered fuel rod documentation, but related to a fuel rod examination (valid), which took place sometime in December, 1973, which was a time prior to the falsification incidents.

It is his understanding that KAREN had previously had conversations, perhaps in Washington, D.C., and perhaps by telephone with [ ], which [ ] recorded, in which she described the negative which she then apparently had in her possession. He thinks that [ ] may have more specific information as to what material or data KAREN was supposed to have.

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OC 159-45

KAREN had also gathered information where she was able to document instances where a supervisor, [ ] recorded raw data and adjusted these figures to conform with acceptable standards. She reportedly had specific times, dates and the numbers of the analysis that had been altered.

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He believes that she had mentioned to [ ] these falsifications in rather general terms, not giving specifics such as times, numbers, etc., and that [ ] had told KAREN to get all of the stuff together in a form that would be useable and it is his impression that this is what KAREN had done and was going to give to [ ] and [ ] at the time of their November 13, 1974 meeting; however, he has never actually seen any of this specific information KAREN was supposed to have.

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He left work at 6:00 pm, went to the airport and met [ ] plane at about 6:40 pm. [ ] came in on a later flight, getting there about 7:20. While the three of them were together in the airport, they saw an AEC employee by the name of [ ] [ ] commented, "I wonder if [ ] recognized me?"

[ ] and [ ] went to the Holiday Inn Northwest and he went there to change clothes. He joined [ ] and [ ] at the motel about 8:15 or 8:30. They decided that KAREN appeared late and called the plant and found that she had left sometime earlier. They had telephone trouble with the room telephone for about 45 minutes and could not complete an outgoing call. Around 9:30 or 10:00, [ ] called [ ] at Crescent who told [ ] that KAREN's car had been towed to a garage in Crescent (after having been wrecked) and that he had gone down to the police department and found that she had been killed.

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[ ] and he immediately thereafter drove to Crescent; while enroute there, they tried to find the scene of the accident, however, could not do so. They went to the Ford garage and could see the car still attached to the wrecker inside the garage. The garage was closed and they could not closely examine the car. Inquiry determined where the accident was located and they went to that scene and looked around for a few minutes and thereafter went to [ ] house. They made a few telephone calls to the hospital and so on, to gather

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OC 159-45

additional details concerning KAREN's death. He called KAREN's parents in Texas and got their consent to have an autopsy performed on KAREN. He thereafter went home and to bed while [ ] and [ ] went back to the motel.

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Early the next day, the three of them went to Guthrie, Oklahoma, to talk to Trooper [ ], who conducted the Oklahoma Highway Patrol investigation relative to KAREN's accident. They went thereafter to Crescent, to the Ford garage where KAREN's car had been taken and found that the car was outside the garage. They looked at the car and tried to find the documents that KAREN was bringing to the motel meeting. The man who ran the garage had KAREN's personal belongings, including some papers that had been recovered from the car, boxed up. He called KAREN's parents in Texas and secured their authority to obtain KAREN's personal effects and the car.

They thereafter went through the personal effects, but could not find the documents which would seem to relate to the meeting. He found a folder containing old union papers, another folder consisting of information concerning nuclear hazards and industrial ecology, typewritten union proposals to change the contract and type-written proposals to change the contract from the company. There was a small notebook about four by five inches, which contained old notes. [ ] has this notebook. There was no spiral binder about nine by 11 inches in dimensions, included in this material and there was no material that contained any specifics concerning the allegations of falsification of fuel rod records. He thereafter had the car pulled to its present location in Oklahoma City and he took KAREN's personal effects, most of which he shipped to her parents in Texas. He retained certain papers.

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His immediate thought when he heard of KAREN's accident was that she perhaps met with foul play because KAREN was a very good driver, who drive that same road every day. He and KAREN have participated in several sport car events and he has had numerous opportunities to evaluate her driving skill.



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OC 159-45

It appeared to him that her car had gone off the left side of the road at a sharp exit angle and based on his knowledge of her driving skills and her familiarity with the road, he finds this hard to believe that she would have just gone off the road on her own.

He certainly does not suspect that KAREN may have committed suicide as others have suggested, because she was very excited and looking forward to the meeting that they were to have that evening because after a long period of frustration concerning the union-company problems, the safety situation and so on, it appeared to her that at last, something was going to be done. He does not believe that she could have purposely driven into that particular culvert, since it is not visible from the road, therefore, she would not have known that the culvert was located there. Also when he had talked to KAREN earlier that evening, when she called from the union meeting, she sounded fine and in good spirits.

He has no tangible information to support the theory that KAREN met with foul play. The only information he has in this regard is the report made by the independent accident investigator, [redacted] who the union hired. [redacted] said he believed that her car was hit on the left rear bumper by another vehicle, causing her car to go off on the left side of the road. [redacted] theory is primarily based on the bumper damage as he understands it and not on the damage to the corner of the fender below. In regard to the [redacted] theory, he could go along with it or reject it, he just does not know at this time.

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In regard to the methaqualone sleeping pills that KAREN had been taking, this was a prescription drug that had been prescribed to her by her doctor in Oklahoma City, [redacted]. She is under quite a bit of tension and strain and was relying on these pills, not for sleeping pills as such, but she was "dependent on them as downers to keep her head together, that is, she was using them as a sedative and not as a sleeping pill". It is her recollection that she had been dependent on these pills

b6  
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6

OC 159-45

for about the last one and one-half months. He is aware of the fact that some toxicologists involved in the investigation have made a big point of the amount of methaqualone in KAREN's system at the time of the accident. He has seen her on numerous occasions when she has been under the influence of these pills and found her to be perhaps a little drowsy, but still very functional. He does not believe that the pills would have impaired her driving ability.

In regard to the minute amount of alcohol found in her blood stream, which some people have taken great note of, he feels that this amount of alcohol would not have impaired her driving ability and was likely a residual amount in her blood stream, resulting from the fact that the evening of November 12, they drank a little wine.

He has no other information that would indicate that KAREN met with foul play from any other sources. He knows of no person, including union officials or KMC employees that have any personal knowledge of KAREN's accident or whose information would support the claims of foul play.

KAREN has taken in the past two years that he has known her, a multitude of prescription drugs for a variety of ailments, including sinus pills, stomach relaxants and etc.

He heard that KMC had dispatched a salaried-employee to go to the scene of KAREN's accident, as soon as the information came out that she had been involved in the accident. He does not know the identity of this employee.

He heard that a Guthrie, Oklahoma, wrecker driver, [redacted] had been dispatched to KAREN's accident and called back while enroute. He finds this most peculiar. Of course the accident was handled by the Ford Garage in Crescent. He talked to [redacted] the garage owner, who actually drove the wrecker that night and he also talked to the helper, [redacted] and from

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OC 159-45

his conversations with them, he does not believe that they caused the pertinent damage to the left rear to KAREN's car.

He does not know the names of any other witnesses, including union members who may have been at the scene of the accident.

In regard to KAREN's contamination, he has no reason to suspect that she may have purposely contaminated herself and believes that the contamination was of an accidental type, which occurred on the job. He has no personal knowledge as to how the contamination occurred. KAREN told him that on November 5, 1974, she "check hot" after working in a glove box. Two of the KMC Health Physics people, he understands, checked the box out and found a hole in the glove. KAREN thereafter followed the standard decontamination procedures, scrubbing and so on, and was found to be "clean" after the procedures.

He was at KAREN's apartment Wednesday evening, November 6, 1974. This was the first time he saw her in two days. At this time, she described the November 5, 1974 contamination incident. He spent the night at the apartment with KAREN. KAREN called him on November 7, 1974 and told him that the Health Physics people from the company had checked her apartment and found it to be contaminated. She indicated that [redacted] her roommate and he both needed to be checked to see if they were contaminated too. That evening, he went to KAREN's apartment and found about 20 persons there, including KMC personnel and State Health Department representatives. Of these individuals, several were in the safety uniforms with respirators and they were checking the apartment and its contents for radioactivity. He was checked at this time and he showed no surface contamination.

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He asked some of the people involved in the check as to what kind of levels they were getting. One individual told him that they were getting readings in the area of 400,000 disintegration per minute (dpm). This is a very high level of radioactivity and he became rather upset out of concern for the safety of KAREN and

8  
OC 159-45

others that a contamination of this magnitude at the Crescent Facility could occur. However, he later got additional information that indicated the levels were much lower and he also was upset over this because there was such a variation in the information that people were giving him. Someone was wrong, but he did not know who. He is also upset over the fact that KAREN was not there, no one knew where she was and no one was concerned. He felt that in view of the severity of the problem, that someone should have gotten hold of KAREN and taken care of her.

He thereafter went to his residence in Oklahoma City with the Health Physics people who checked his house and found it not to be contaminated.

Thereafter, KAREN called his next door neighbor's house in a hysterical condition. She was convinced that she was going to die because of the abnormal high body samples that she had submitted earlier that day. He tried to find out her location so that he could come get her, but she would not tell him where she was other than she was in a telephone booth somewhere in Edmond, Oklahoma.

KAREN indicated she was coming to his house, so the only thing he could do was wait for her. While he was waiting, he got a telephone call from [redacted] KAREN had apparently called [redacted] just before. KAREN had related the full nature of the current contamination problem to [redacted] and [redacted] was concerned for KAREN.

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KAREN came in a short time later and he was able to get her calmed down.

He has no definite idea as to how KAREN's apartment got contaminated. He noted that the refrigerator and some of the food therein was highly contaminated and he is aware that the toilet bowl in the bathroom was highly contaminated. He feels that KAREN may have ingested at the plant a radioactive particle and brought it home.

He is sure that the ingestion was accidental and from what he has found out, the amount was very likely a minute sample. KAREN was a mouth breather and therefore, it would be very easy for her to contaminate her stomach, rather than her lungs. From what KAREN said concerning the contamination, she definitely believed that the contamination was tied to a contamination incident at the plant. KAREN felt responsible for bringing the contamination to her apartment and did not think that her roommate, [ ] had been the source of the apartment contamination through [ ] having been involved in a separate contamination incident at the plant. KAREN was aware of the fact that [ ] had checked relatively clean.

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He is also aware that certain allegations have been made against KAREN having salted her body samples with radioactive material. He has no personal knowledge of her having salted her body samples and cannot conceive of her doing such a thing. She came back from her Washington, D.C. trip in late September, 1974, very much more aware than she ever had been concerning the dangers involved in handling radioactive material. She had a healthy respect, almost in fear of radioactive material. He is convinced in his own mind, that she would not try to handle radioactive material on her own outside of the controlled conditions that exist in the laboratory. She certainly would not knowingly bring anything home that was "hot".

During the period of November 7, through November 11, 1974, KAREN was very distraught. She was upset because of the high readings obtained from the body samples that she submitted on November 7, and in her own mind, she was convinced that she was going to die. However, after going through the thorough examination at Los Alamos, she had a better insight into her physical condition and found that she had no "lung burden" and all indications were that her contamination problem was not serious. Her spirits picked up considerably after this.

10

OC 159-45

In regard to information concerning the alteration of fuel rod records, he has no specific information or personal knowledge in this area. KAREN revealed nothing to him in regard to specifics.

This information was not surprising to him because he had been previously employed at the Crescent Facility and quit because he was disenchanted. He felt "that the place was nothing but a numbers mill" and their quality control procedures would be somewhat questionable. While he was working there, he made no effort to document any derelictions in quality control, which he observed, but he is aware that such things had occurred in the past and would likely occur again. He cannot give any specifics concerning these derelictions.

KAREN was quite upset about the overall situation at the plant, including union-company relations, safety and so on, and he felt that it was best that she not worry about these matters as much as she did. Whenever she would bring anything up concerning KMC, he would cut her off and not let her discuss the matter, for he felt it was better for her to try to put these thoughts aside. This is one reason why he knows as little as he does know concerning KAREN's allegations.

It is his understanding that [ ] has some tapes relative to these allegations. The information contained in the tapes is the information that was previously given to the AEC at the safety meeting in Washington, D.C. and they included some additional telephone conversations from local people who were not in attendance at the meeting. Most of the information that [ ] has, if not all, has previously been given to AEC.

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He had been in contact with KAREN's parents in Texas and found that they had in KAREN's effects, some negatives that may have related to KAREN's allegations concerning alteration of fuel rod documents. This material was sent to him and examination determined that the two negatives pertinent to examinations made in late 1973 and did not relate to the fuel rod falsification matter.

11  
OC 159-45

He never heard KAREN mention the name of a specific individual as having been involved in the fuel rod falsification matter; however, on the evening of December 3, 1974, he received a telephone call from an "Oklahoman" and "Times" reporter, [redacted] that [redacted] supposedly a former employee by the name of [redacted] [redacted] was involved in the falsification. How [redacted] got this name, he does not know.

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OC

VII. CONTACT WITH USA

On December 4, 1974, and on December 12, 1974, SA [ ] discussed the prosecutive aspects of this matter with U. S. Attorney [ ] Western District of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City. [ ] advised that it would appear that investigation thus far has apparently failed to substantiate the allegations that the SILKWOOD fatal accident was a result of foul play. However, [ ] would like to have the opportunity to study at length the results of the FBI investigation conducted in this matter before making final judgment. He is particularly interested in seeing the results of the investigation conducted by the independent accident investigator, [ ]. He is desirous that the Atomic Energy Commission also furnish the results of their completed investigation to the Department and his office so that consideration can be given to other aspects of the case, such as possible diversion or theft of nuclear material and the merits of the allegations concerning alteration of quality control records of fuel rods.

b6  
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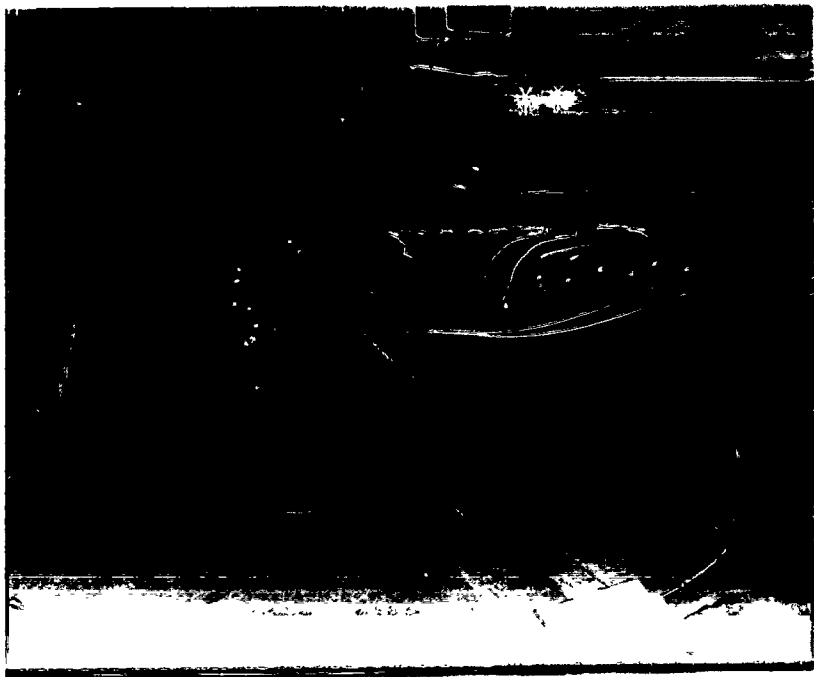


73 OKLAHOMA 15 OK  
YF-8261

L/O

12/3/74

159-4005-6



RD

12/3/74

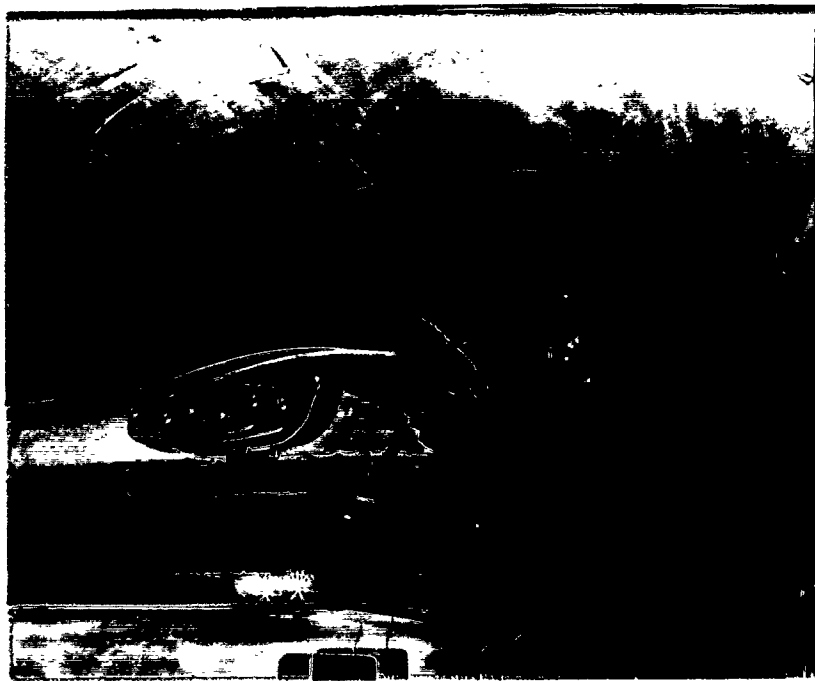
159-4005-6



View south towards  
culvert along bar  
ditch

15-9-4005-6

L/D  
12/3/74



L/D  
2/3/74

154-6005-6



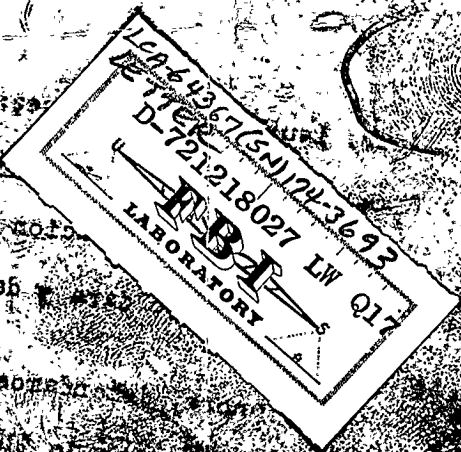


CULVERT

From ~~South~~ <sup>North</sup> BANK

7/20  
12/3/74

159-4005-6





CULVERT FROM  
SOUTH BANK

159-4005-6

AB  
12/3/74



View south towards  
culvert along bar  
ditch

159-4005-6

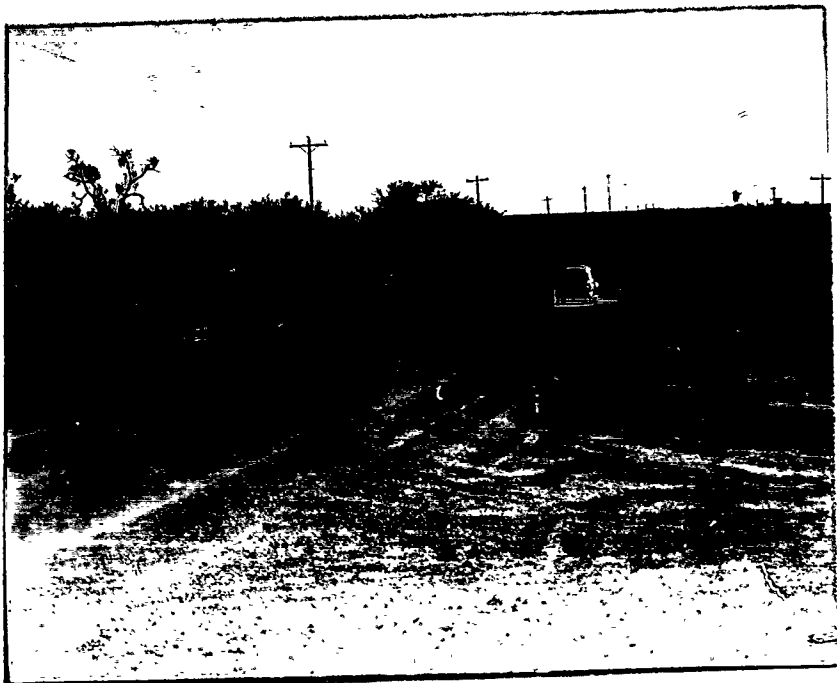
L10  
12/3/74





LD  
12/3/74

159-4005-6



View South (towards  
culvert) <sup>from</sup> SH 74  
AND SECTION LINE  
ROAD

159-4005-6

LP  
12/3/74



2/10  
12/3/74

159-4005-16



View south towards  
culvert along bar  
ditch

159-4005-6

L/O  
12/3/74





L/O  
12/3/74

154-4005-6



L/D  
12/3/74

159-4005-6



CULVERT

159-4005-6

LP  
12/3/74



CULVERT  
from ~~South~~ BANK  
NORTH

159-4005-6

L/O  
12/3/74





CULVERT

159-4005-6

AD  
12/3/74



CULVERT

159-4005-6

L/D  
12/3/74



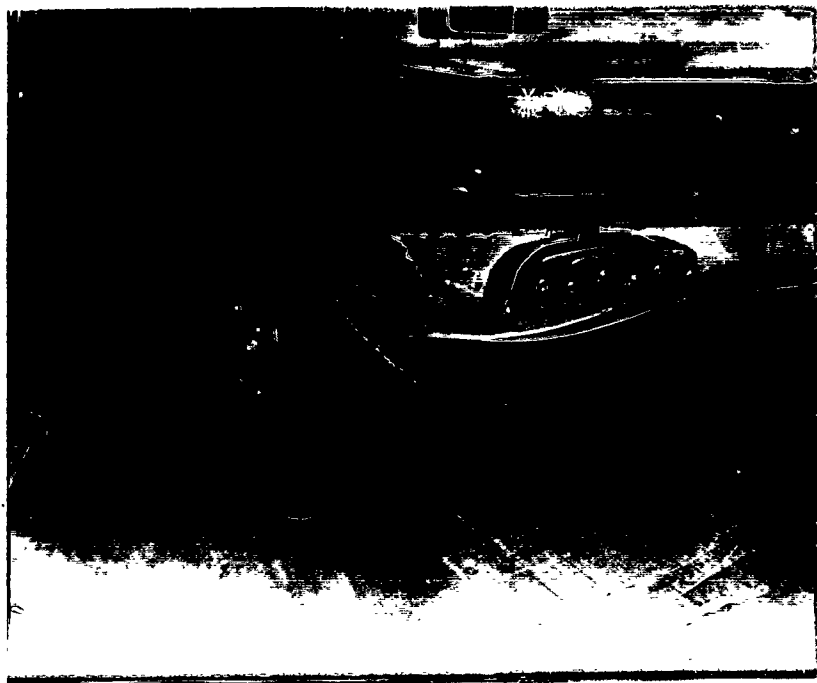
157-4005-6

~~BB~~  
12/3/74



RD  
12/3/74

159-4005-6





L/O  
12/3/74

159-4005-6



L/O  
12/3/77

154-4005-6

RD  
12/3/74

159-4005-6

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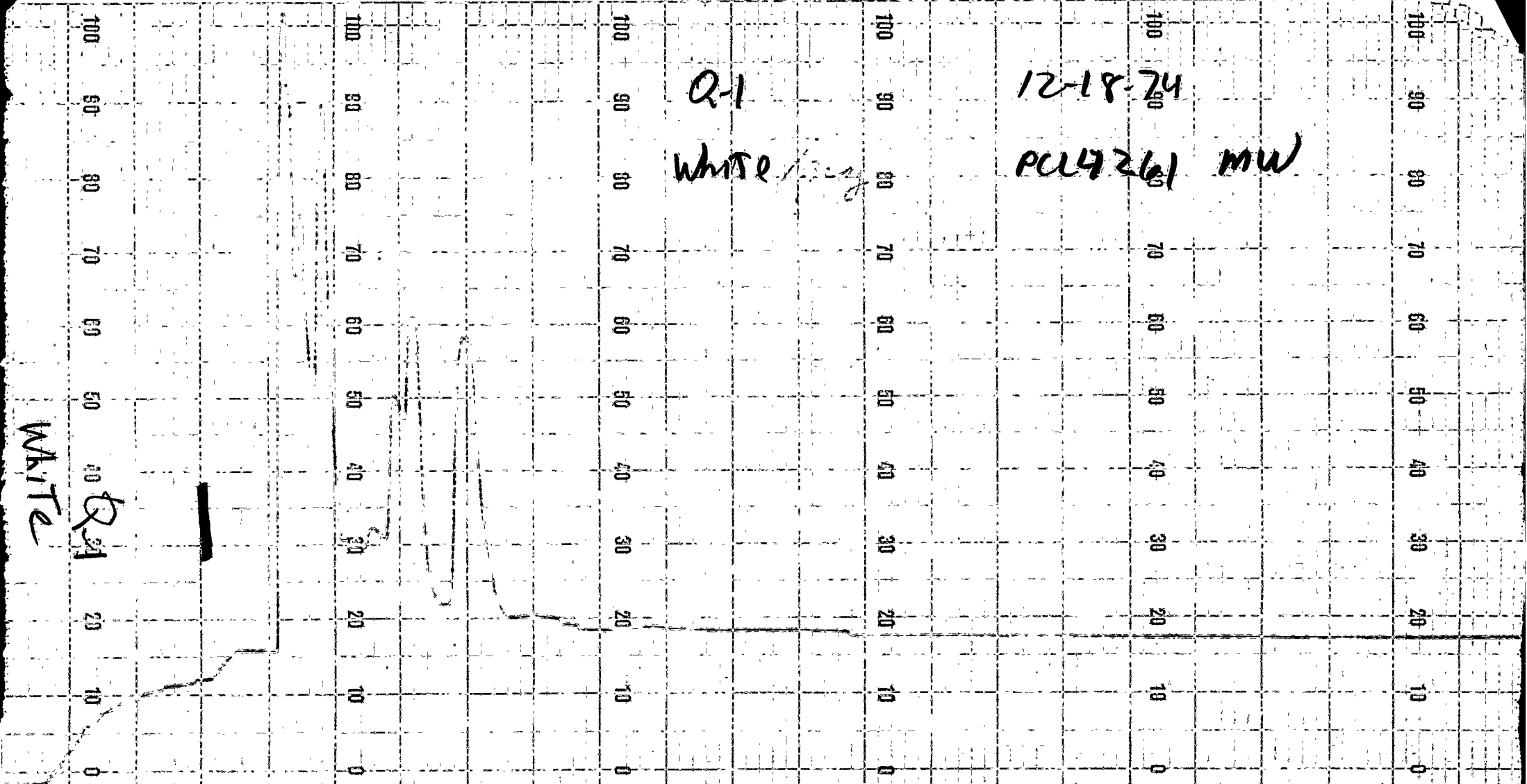
Q2  
white

Q2  
white

Q-1  
white / 13-2

12-18-74  
PCL 4261 MW

white Q-2





**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)

Date: December 23, 1974

From: Director, FBI

Re: **UNSUBS; @**  
**KAREN G. SILKWOOD**  
**(Deceased)**  
**LIRDA; OOJ**  
**OO: Oklahoma City**

FBI File No.

Lab. No. **PC-L426**

Examination requested by: **Oklahoma City**

Reference: **Airtel 12/11/74**

Examination requested: **Instrumental**

Remarks:

Specimens Q1 and Q2 are being returned to your office under separate cover by registered mail.

b6  
b7C

REC-37 159-457

ENCLOSURE

DEC 26 1974

DEC 23 1974  
FBI

DO NOT RETURN TO FBI  
FBI  
FBI

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

Deleted Copy Sent

By Letter Dated 5-16-76, 5-10-76  
Per FOIPA Request re K. Silkwood

b6  
b7C

U.N./csi (4)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

DEC 23 1974

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE

DEC 24 9 25 AM '74

F.B.I.  
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

DEC 24



REPORT  
of the

1-Office, 7135

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: SAC, Oklahoma City

Date: December 23, 1974

Re: UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD  
(Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma CityFBI File No.  
Lab. No. PC-L4261 MW

Specimens received 12/16/74

Q1 Paint from dented area of Honda  
Q2 Scrapings from bumper of Honda

## Result of examination:

The Q1 specimen from the dented area of the Honda contained paint particles exhibiting the following layer structure:

1. White enamel
2. Gray primer

The Q2 specimen from the bumper of the Honda contained one paint particle that matched those of Q1 in colors, textures, layer structure and types.

No significant material or paint which could be identified as foreign to the two-layered paint particles was found in Q1 or Q2.

*cal*  
DMH/esl (4)

7-2  
RECORDED  
12/17/74  
csi.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: ~~INSIDE~~ UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD  
(Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

File # 159-4005-7  
Lab.# PC-L4261 MW

Airtel 12/11

Examination requested by: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)

Examination requested:

Date received: 12/16 hw

Result of Examination: Instr (Spec)

Examination by:   
*DWN*

b6  
b7C

Specimens:

Q1 Paint from dent area OF HONDA  
Q2 SCRAPINGS ~~Paint~~ from bumper OF HONDA

*Lab report  
DWN/csl  
12/23/74*

1.

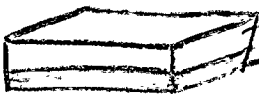
78C-L 4261 MR

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY

NOTES

Q1 - Paint from dent area of Honda - (1973 ATF)

Many Contains p.p. w/ fl. l.s.:

orig.  1.) WHITE ENAMEL  
2.) GRAY PRIMER

Chlor, acet, digl-neg. (→ tarsin')

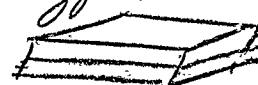
Surface of some have orange soil (as rep'ted in H+O & is neg. rest. test).

Surface of some are smeared w/ grayish smears. But, can't ID, but it is from 1st Honda primer. Chlor, acet, digl-neg. (→ tarsin')

Surface of a few have dark brown asphalt-like mat. that flks in chlor, + acet, neg.

There are 3 p.p. that have dark smears on surface + 2 chips are held together at 1 sm. get. by a dls screw. These smears are too thin + limited to identify the nature of this material. Nothing else of apparent significance fd in Q1.

Q2 - Scrappings from bumper of Honda -

Contain a few soil particles + 1 chip (sm.) v to Q1 in color, texture, l.s. + type. (Some GC + micron). No other paint present.  1.) WHITE EN. 2.) GRAY PRIMER

Concl: No paint other than 2 l. w/ gray p. identified in Q1 + Q2. Nothing of apparent significance fd in Q1 or Q2.

12/16

F B I

Date: 12/11/74

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD  
(Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City*PC-2 4261 MW*  
*Labrup csl*  
*DWN*  
*12/23/74*Re Oklahoma City airtel to the Bureau, 11/27/74,  
and Bureau airtel to Oklahoma City, 11/21/74.Enclosed herewith for the Bureau is one film  
cassette container and one purple pill box. Enclosed  
for WFO is "New York Times" article of 11/19/74, and  
telegram of [REDACTED]b6  
b7cFor the information of the Bureau and WFO,  
Oklahoma City has conducted extensive investigation  
relative to captioned case in the immediate Oklahoma  
City area. Contact with local leaders and members of the  
Oil, Gas, and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW)  
in the Oklahoma City vicinity has failed to develop any  
person who has specific information or personal knowledge  
of allegations of possible violations under captioned  
characters.Contact with the deceased's boy friend has  
failed to develop any knowledge of specifics on his part  
as well.[REDACTED] when contacted on 12/3/74,  
would not submit to interview except under his conditions  
including tape recording of interview and/or having an  
attorney present based on instructions received from  
OCAW Legislative Assistant [REDACTED]b6  
b7c

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 2)

2 - WFO (Enc. 2)

2 - Oklahoma City

LJO:pwo

(7)

CARBON COPY

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

OC 159-45

On 12/4/74, after further checks with [ ] [ ] submitted to interview without any restrictions whatsoever.

It is noted that [ ] was one of the two persons with whom the deceased was to meet on the evening of her death (the other being "New York Times" reporter [ ]).

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b7C

It is noted that the telegram over the name of [ ] claims that the union is in possession of tape recordings, records, and other data relative to this case.

Accordingly, it is felt that contact with union officials, including [ ] and [ ] would be helpful and leads in this regard are being set forth below.

Oklahoma City has a pending report in this matter in dictation setting forth results of investigation to date.

On the evening of 12/3/74, SA [ ] [ ] at Oklahoma City examined the deceased's vehicle, a 1973 Honda Civic, 2-door sedan, white in color, VIN SBC1014541, bearing 1974 Oklahoma License YF 8261. [ ] stated that damage to left rear corner of car was damage believed by [ ] Independent Accident Investigator hired by union, to be pertinent to [ ] theory of possible foul play in connection with fatal accident. Visual inspection of damage failed to note any particles of paint either on dent or bumper other than white Honda paint. From interviews with wrecker personnel it was learned that car possibly received this damage when wrecker was removing car from culvert. The left rear quarter panel was at one time against wing wall of concrete bridge. It is noted that damage to the car was at a point some 13 to 15" off of ground level at a point below horizontal midline on Honda bumper.

b6  
b7C

Q1  
Film cassette container contains white paint samples from dent area and pill box contains minute quantity of scrapings obtained from bumper. Samples were collected with hard steel tool. //

OC 159-45

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

It is requested that the enclosed material be examined for paint particles and other evidence so that a determination can possibly be made whether or not deceased's car was struck from behind by another vehicle.

LEADS:

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will locate [redacted]  
Legislative Assistant, OCAW, and [redacted]  
Legislative Director, OCAW, 1126 16th Street, Northwest,  
Washington, D.C., and contact them for any pertinent  
information they may have in this case to support their  
allegations concerning violations in areas of captioned  
characters. [redacted] should be asked to specify nature and  
extent of documentary information believed to be in  
possession of deceased for her use in intended meeting  
with [redacted] and [redacted].

b6  
b7C

Airtel

12/24/74

To: SAC, Oklahoma City (159-45)

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);  
LRMDA; OOJ  
OO: OC

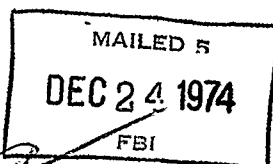
ReButelcal to Oklahoma City 12/24/74.

This will confirm reButelcal wherein you were advised that on 12/24/74, [ ] Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Operations 4350 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland, telephone 973-7353, contacted FBIHQ relative to a report prepared by AEC concerning captioned matter. [ ] related he desired to brief representatives of the FBI concerning this report on either January 2 or 3, 1975. He requested he be telephonically contacted at the above number so that a definite date and time could be agreed upon.

NOTE: Retelcal made to L. J. Olson, Oklahoma City by SA [ ]

ELR:cjl (4)

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_



Deleted Copy Sent [ ]

by Letter Dated 5-10-76 [ ]

Per FOIA Request [ ]

b6  
b7C

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

F B I

Date: 12/19/74

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) P

RE: UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (Deceased);  
LRMDA; OOJ  
OO:OC

b6  
b7C

Re: Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau 11/27/74;  
Report of SA [redacted] at OC 12/13/74;  
Oklahoma City tel to Bureau 12/17/74 entitled

"SCATTERING OF URANIUM FUEL PELLETS, KERR-MC GEE CORPORATION (KMC),  
CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA, 12/16/74; AEA".

As the Bureau is aware, several allegations stemming from the captioned SILKWOOD case and related matters have arisen, both from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) and from representatives of the KMC. It has been alleged that SILKWOOD's death was the result of foul play, that KMC was in violation of AEC health-safety standards at the Cimarron Facility, that quality control documents regarding plutonium fuel rods fabricated at the Cimarron facility had been falsified and it has been alleged that some of the contamination incidents at the Cimarron facility may have been contrived. It is also alleged that SILKWOOD's body samples were salted with radioactive material and that SILKWOOD herself may have diverted some of the nuclear material responsible for her contamination and also diverted material used to salt her body specimens.

The most recent known incident regarding the KMC Cimarron facility concerns the scattering of uranium fuel pellets as set out in referenced teletype. REC-72 1-9-11

3-Bureau  
2-Dallas  
2-Washington Field  
4-Oklaoma City (1-117-43) (Cimarron Facility)  
(1-117-49) (Uranium Fuel Pellets)  
(2-159-45)

LJO:ddw (11)

DEC 21 1974

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 - 455-574

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b6  
b7Cby Letter 12/21/74  
Per FOIA Request



RECEIVED  
INTELLIGENCE DIV.  
JAN 16 9 46 AM 1975

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DEC 23 3 46 PM '74  
F.B.I.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

OC 159-45

The resultant widespread local and national publicity given to the SILKWOOD case and attendant matters at the KMC Cimarron facility has generated considerable interest from various parties. The matters which appear to relate to AEC have been thoroughly investigated by that agency.

As set out in rerep, the USA at Oklahoma City, [REDACTED] WDO, indicated he was desirous that the AEC also furnish the results of their completed investigation(s) to the Department and his office so that consideration can be given to other aspects of the case...

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As recently as 12/18/74, USA [REDACTED] again expressed his interest in the status of the AEC investigation. Details of the AEC investigations are unknown to the Oklahoma City Office.

#### REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

It is requested that the Bureau through liaison with AEC insure that results of AEC investigations are obtained and insure that AEC remains conversant with the investigative interest and jurisdiction of the FBI in regard to the Atomic Energy Act and related matters.

#### DALLAS DIVISION

Will expedite reporting of results of the obtaining of the accident investigation report of [REDACTED]

#### WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

b6  
b7C

Will expedite reporting of interviews of OCAW representatives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

F B I

Date: 12/24/74

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: ACTING SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) P<sup>3</sup>

UNSUBS; <sup>①</sup>

KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

LMRDA; OOJ

OO: Oklahoma City

b6  
b7C

Re Oklahoma City report of SA [REDACTED]  
SR. dated 12/13/74; Bureau telephone call to Oklahoma City  
on 12/24/74; and Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau dated  
12/19/74. *See 8*

Enclosed for Baltimore are two copies of referenced  
Oklahoma City airtel dated 12/19/74.

On 12/24/74, [REDACTED] Labor Section,  
FBIHQ, telephonically contacted the Oklahoma City Office  
to advise that FBIHQ had been contacted relative to report  
resulting from Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) investigating  
relative to captioned case and related matters. [REDACTED]  
of AEC Operations, 4350 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland,  
telephone number 973-7353, was in possession of the report  
and desired to provide same to the FBI.

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] would be available on the afternoon of  
1/2/75 or 1/3/75 and requested that he be telephonically  
contacted by FBI representative prior to his coming by  
to pick up the report.

For the information of Baltimore, captioned case  
relates to a deceased employee of the Kerr McGee Corporation

- ③ - Bureau  
2 - Baltimore (Enc.-2)  
3 - Oklahoma City (1 - 119-43) (Cimarron Facility)  
LJO:mbs  
(8)

REC-101

159-4005-9

3 DEC 27 1974

Deleted Copy Sent  
by Letter Da. 8-3-16-76. *See 11*  
Per FOIPA Request *See K. Silkwood*

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

DEC 27 1 30 PM '74

F. B. I.  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

OC 159-45

(KMC), Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, which facility is considered to be a critical AEC licensed facility. The facility has two production units - uranium enrichment plant and a plutonium fuel rod fabrication plant.

SILKWOOD was active in the affairs of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW).

On or about 11/5/74, SILKWOOD was involved in a contamination incident at the plant. Her residence was found to be contaminated. SILKWOOD and two others were sent to the AEC facility, Los Alamos, New Mexico, for examination on 11/10-12/74.

On 11/13/74, SILKWOOD, upon her return to Oklahoma was involved in union-company negotiations, and at about 7:30 p.m., 11/13/74, she was involved in a fatal one-car accident when reportedly she was enroute to meet with a union representative and a New York Times reporter.

OCAW made allegations that SILKWOOD's death was a result of foul play.

The Department requested an investigation re captioned case under LMRDA since allegations, if substantiated, may constitute violation through the impairment of SILKWOOD's rights (as a union member) guaranteed by the act and OOOJ (in that SILKWOOD was a witness in a pending investigation before AEC).

For the further information of Baltimore, additional related allegations have been made re health and safety standards at the Cimarron Facility that SILKWOOD's contamination was contrived that body samples submitted by SILKWOOD were "salted" with radioactive material and quality control records re plutonium fuel rods were altered (by the company).

Several related investigations have been conducted by various departments (units) of AEC concerning the various aspects of this case. Some of the allegations, if substantiated, could possibly constitute violations of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.

F B I

Date: 12/31/74

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: ACTING SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) P

UNSUBS; ①  
 KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
 LRMDA; OOJ  
 OO: Oklahoma City

Deleted Copy Sent [redacted]  
 by Letter Dated 3-16-76 Lmb  
 Per FOIPA Request *Re. K. Silkwood*

b6  
 b7C

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five (5) copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. Enclosed for Dallas are two (2) copies of instant LHM. (One copy of LHM being furnished to USA, Oklahoma City.)

REC-100 MCT 10

On 12/30/74, [redacted]

KOMA radio station, Oklahoma City (offices and transmitter, Moore, Oklahoma) telephonically contacted the Oklahoma City FBI Office to advise that his station was in possession of information of possible interest to FBI concerning captioned case. This information consisted of a tape recording of an unidentified female who telephonically contacted station during a radio talk show 12/29/74, and an unsigned letter received by the station 12/30/74.

JAN 4 1975

Tape and letter would appear to both be "crank" or hoax-type. It is noted letter refers to victim as KAREN LYNN SILKWOOD, true name being KAREN GAY SILKWOOD. As set out on enclosed LHM, Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC) advised that SILKWOOD on two dates was alleged to have made trips to Dallas 9/14/74 and 10/12/74 and worked at the Cimarron Facility 12½ and 11 hours respectively. KMC also advised they have no financial or other interest in the company mentioned on page 2 of letter - Odessa Pipeline Inc., and that this company is owned by El Paso Natural Gas Company.

- ENCLOSURE
- ② - Bureau (Enc.-5)
  - 2 - Dallas (Enc.-2) (159-107)
  - 2 - Oklahoma City

LJO:mbs. (6)

2cc ROM CRIM. DIV., by 0-6D  
 1cc D + Destroyed  
 1cc LABOR DESK. TICKLER

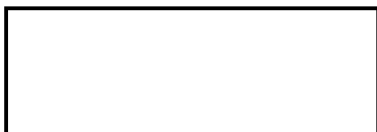
SOX

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

OC 159-45

Of the individuals specifically mentioned in instant letter, Oklahoma City indices are negative re the following:



b6  
b7C

It is also noted there is no motel known as the Capital Inn as such in Oklahoma City; however, there is the Capitol Motel, 2900 Lincoln Blvd.

The envelope and letter furnished by KOMA were handled by numerous station personnel and not preserved for latent fingerprints.

Liaison with Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) determined that that agency had no investigation re SILKWOOD or related matters in that the names of individuals mentioned in letter are unknown to them.

It does not appear that any extensive investigation regarding contents of letter is warranted; however, Oklahoma City is requesting that Dallas conduct the limited investigation set out below:

LEADS:

DALLAS

AT DALLAS, TEXAS. Will conduct indices and credit check re [redacted] and determine if [redacted]

b6  
b7C

OC 159-45

LEADS:

BALTIMORE

AT BETHESDA, MARYLAND. Will contact [ ]  
[ ] AEC Operations, 4350 East-West Highway, and  
obtain copy of AEC report relative to captioned matter.

b6  
b7C





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
December 31, 1974

Unknown Subjects;  
Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased)  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING  
AND DISCLOSURE ACT of 1959;  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

On December 30, 1974, [redacted]  
[redacted] KOMA radio station, Oklahoma City, with  
offices and transmitter, 820 Southwest 4th, Moore, Oklahoma,  
was contacted at his request. [redacted] advised that  
during a Sunday morning radio audience participation talk  
show entitled "Sunday Forum", December 29, 1974, an unidentified  
female called the station and made reference to the Kerr McGee  
Cimarron Facility. The station received an unsigned, and undated  
letter on December 30, 1974, which referred to the deceased  
Karen Gay Silkwood.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] made available a copy of the tape  
recorded conversation of the female caller and made available  
the original envelope and letter received. The transcription  
of the tape recording is set forth below and a copy of the  
letter follows.

b6  
b7C

Radio Disc Jockey - DJ  
Unidentified Female Caller - Unfemale

DJ: "This is Sunday Forum. You're on the air."

Unfemale: "Ah yes. I am calling concerning the Kerr  
McGee situation at Crescent, Oklahoma."

DJ: "Okay."

Unfemale: "I noticed one man already called in and a  
team of us have been investigating this and we  
have reason to believe it is definitely true there  
are 60 lbs. missing of that plutonium. We have  
reason to believe it has been sold to Russia due to  
some very informed sources. Unfortunately I can not  
divulge where my information has come from."

This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

Unknown Subjects;  
Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased)

DJ: "Uh-huh."

Unfemale: "However, we have just about traced it, and you're going to be hearing about the next two or three weeks, a team of very dedicated Oklahoma Citians are going to reveal the facts about this, and we are very interested in America, and you know a friend of mine has found that through very, very much investigation, his life has been threatened several times, that the plutonium is missing, and that the man has checked in at the Hilton Inn at the time of Karen Silkwood's death, and this is one reason we feel that her death was not accidental. I'm sorry but this is all we can tell you at this time, but you will be hearing about it in the future. Thank you."

DJ: "Okay."

Unknown Subjects;  
Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased)

On December 30, 1974, [ ] Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), [ ] advised that his company was furnished copies of the aforementioned tape and letter. Review of company records reveals that on the two dates that Karen Silkwood reportedly traveled to Dallas, Texas, September 14 and October 12, 1974, she worked 12½ and 11 hours respectively at the KMC Cimarron Facility. [ ] advised that Kerr McGee has no financial connection or ownership in the Odessa Pipeline Inc., Midland, Texas, and this company is owned by El Paso Natural Gas Company. [ ] advised his company considers the tape recording and letter both to be nuisance-type crank material. [ ] advised the information concerning Silkwood's contamination set out in the letter was well reported in the media.

b6  
b7C

On December 31, 1974, [ ] Department Director, Special Services, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), advised his agency had also been furnished copies of aforementioned tape and letter by the KOMA radio station. [ ] advised his agency had conducted no investigation relative to Karen Silkwood or related matters, and the names of the persons appearing within the letter were unknown to his agency.

b6  
b7C

F B I

Date: 1/6/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (159-618)(RUC)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED).  
LMRDA; OOJ;  
(OO:OKLAHOMA CITY)Re Oklahoma City airtels to the Director, 12/19/74;  
12/24/74.

Enclosed for Oklahoma City are the following:

- 1) A copy of the autopsy report dated 10/21/74 signed by Dr. A. JAY CHAPMAN re KAREN SILKWOOD.
- 2) One copy of the accident report prepared by the Oklahoma City Highway Patrol of the accident in which SILKWOOD was killed.
- 3) A copy of the Atomic Energy Commission report regarding "An employee and her residence were found to be contaminated with plutonium on 11/7/74."
- 4) A copy of an Atomic Energy Commission report regarding various allegations against the Kerr-Mc Gee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

2 - Bureau  
2 - Oklahoma City (159-45)(Enc. 4)  
1 - Baltimore  
GGS:mjm  
(5)

Deleted Copy Sent \_\_\_\_\_  
by Letter Dated 5-10-76 \_\_\_\_\_  
Per FOIA Request re K. Silkwood

b6  
b7C

6 JAN 8 1975

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

JAN 9 1975

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE

JAN 8 1 40 PM '75

F. B. I.  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JAN 8 1975

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

BA 159-618

On 1/2/75, [redacted] Atomic Energy Commission, 4350 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland, made available the above enclosures.

b6  
b7c

For information of Oklahoma City, the Atomic Energy Commission, in their report regarding the contamination of KAREN SILKWOOD and contamination of her apartment, does not set forth names of those contaminated and identifies them in the report as Individual A, Individual B and Individual C.

[redacted] identified those persons as Individual A - KAREN SILKWOOD, Individual B - [redacted]

b6  
b7c

[redacted] Oklahoma, and Individual C - [redacted]

[redacted] Oklahoma.

FBI

Date: 1/8/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: ACTING SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

b6  
b7C

Re report of SA [REDACTED], dated 12/13/74, at Oklahoma City; Oklahoma City airtels to Bureau, dated 12/19/74 and 12/24/74; and Dallas airtel to Oklahoma City, dated 12/23/74.

b6  
b7C

For the information of WFO and Baltimore, the Bureau has advised that the U. S. Department of Justice has indicated that they are desirous of bringing this case to an expeditious conclusion.

For the information of the Bureau, Dallas, by referenced Dallas airtel, furnished Oklahoma City a copy of report of [REDACTED] Accident Reconstruction Lab, which report is relative to a fatal accident of deceased. Copy of report also furnished by [REDACTED] to Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP). [REDACTED] report is being critically analyzed by OHP. Oklahoma City will include report and results of OHP analysis in subsequent Oklahoma City report.

b6  
b7CLEADSWFO

EX-105 REC-74 159-1155-12  
16 JAN 11 1975  
AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Will expedite coverage

② - Bureau  
2 - Baltimore  
2 - WFO  
2 - Oklahoma City  
LJO:gs  
(8)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Deleted Copy Sent  
by Letter dated 5/18/76  
Per FOIA Request of K. Silkwood

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION 5710

JAN 13 1975

JAN 11 2 07 PM '75

F. B. I.  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

ACCT'G SEC.  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE



OC 159-45

of leads and interview oil, chemical and atomic workers,  
union officials, [ ] and [ ] and  
submit report.

BALTIMORE

b6  
b7C

AT BETHESDA, MARYLAND. Will expedite reporting  
of contact with [ ] AEC Operations, and submit  
report.

Airtel

1- Mr. Rothman

1/10/75

TO: SAC, Oklahoma City (159-45)

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS; *D*  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD, DECEASED  
LMRDA; OOO  
OO: OC

*ReBuairtel* to Oklahoma City 12/24/74, and  
Baltimore airtel 1/6/75. *new*

Enclosed for the information of Oklahoma City  
are the following documents, which were made available  
to FBIHQ by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Washington,  
D. C.

AEC News Release #U-11 dated 1/6/75

AEC News Release #U-12 dated 1/7/74

AEC Report of Inspection during period  
11/21 & 22/74, and 12/5 & 6/74.

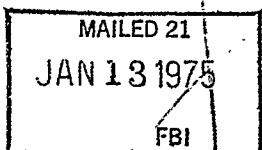
AEC Investigative Report #74-09

AEC Division of Inspection Report 44-2-339

Enclosures (5)

ELR:maw  
(4)

Deletd Copy Sent  
by Letter Dated 5-10-76  
Per FOIPA Request 24-K-  
Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_



EX 104

JAN 14 1975

51 JAN 21 1975

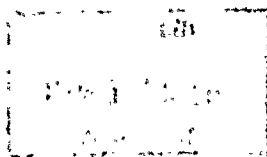
MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

GPO 954-54

217VNSJ 0212

JAN 14 1975



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. McDermott

DATE: 1/13/75

FROM :

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

SUBJECT:

CONGRESSMAN JAMES R. JONES (D-OKLAHOMA)  
INQUIRY TO DETERMINE IF FBI INVESTIGATING THE  
DEATH OF KAREN G. SILKWOOD AT KERR-MC GEE  
AEC FACILITY; CIMARRON, OKLAHOMA

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

[Redacted] Congressman Jones' Office, telephonically contacted Unit Chief [Redacted] 1/13/75 and stated the Congressman is interested in knowing if the FBI is investigating the death of Karen G. Silkwood who was employed at the Kerr-McGee AEC Facility, Cimarron, Oklahoma. A check was made with the General Investigative Division and [Redacted] was advised that allegations had been made by the union to which Miss Silkwood belonged that her death was not accidental. At the request of the Department of Justice, the FBI is conducting an investigation to determine if her rights as a union member had been violated under the provisions of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act. She was further advised the results of our investigation will be furnished to the Department and other interested Government agencies.

We have had limited cordial contact with Congressman Jones.

## RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Jenkins
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. McDermott
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - Congressional Services Office

58 JAN 27 1975 JCW:nmi (8)

b6  
b7C

REC-74

EX-101

14 JAN 20 1975

med  
gm

TSB  
000  
K

Amel

file  
8/gm

JCW

RECEIVED DIRECTOR  
FBI  
JAN 14 3 55 PM '75  
RECEIVED  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
DIVISION

RECEIVED  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
DIVISION  
JAN 15 8 AM '75  
JAN 21 1975

JAN 14 10 11 AM '75  
JAN 13 11 46 AM '75  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

JAN 14 8 AM '75  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
RECEIVED  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
DIVISION  
JAN 16 12 46 AM '75

REC'D GEBHARDT  
FBI

JAN 17 12 57 PM 1975  
FBI  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED  
JAN 16 11 56 AM 1975

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b>	DATE <b>1/21/75</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/18/74 - 1/15/75</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUBS KAREN C. SILKWOOD (Deceased)</b>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em;"></div>	TYPED BY <b>dah</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>LMRDA; OOJ</b>	

## REFERENCES:

Report of SA  at Oklahoma City, 12/13/74;  
 Dallas airtel to Oklahoma City, 12/23/74; IO;  
 Baltimore airtel to Bureau, 1/6/75;  
 Oklahoma City airtel and LHM to Bureau, 12/31/74;  
 Bureau airtel to Oklahoma City 1/10/75;

b6  
b7C

-P-

## ENCLOSURES:

TO BUREAU

Deleted Copy Sent   
 by Letter Dated 3-16-76, 5-10-76  
 Per FOIPA Request *Mr. R. H. [illegible]*

b6  
b7C

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are three copies of xerox copies of Accident Reconstruction Lab dated December 15, 1974, and two copies each of the following items:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

- ③ - Bureau (Enc. - 13) ENCLOSURE  
 2 - USA, Oklahoma City (Enc. - 6)  
 1 - WFO  
 2 - Oklahoma City (159-45) BEHIND FILE

159-4005-15

17 JAN 27 1975

ST-110

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	100 ROM CRIM. DIV
Request Recd.	
Date Fwd.	1/30/75
How Fwd.	HAND CARRIED TO <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 1.2em;"></span>
By	EDP/CL

Notations

DATA PROC

b6  
b7C

51 JUN 02 1975

COVER PAGE

OC 159-45

AEC News Release #U-11 dated 1/6/75;

AEC News Release #U-12 dated 1/7/74;

AEC Report of Inspection during period 11/21 and 22/74, and 12/5 and 6/74;

AEC Investigative Report #74-09;

AEC Division of Inspection Report 44-2-339.

Three copies of the Accident Reconstruction Lab report were furnished to the Bureau, one of which is for dissemination to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Dissemination of other enclosed material to AEC is not warranted since the material is originally obtained from AEC.

Baltimore by re Baltimore airtel furnished Oklahoma City draft copies of much of the material furnished to Oklahoma City by the Bureau by re Bureau airtel, 1/10/75. None of the Baltimore material is being disseminated since it has been included in the material furnished to Oklahoma City by the Bureau by re 1/10/75 airtel. All the material in enclosed re Bureau airtel has been disseminated by this report.

Three copies of report being provided to Bureau in view of Obstruction of Justice aspect of this case in event that dissemination of report to AEC is desired.

LEADS:

WFO (Info). Information copy furnished to WFO in view of outstanding investigation that division.

OKLAHOMA CITY

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will recontact USA, WDO, upon receipt of outstanding investigation from WFO.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 2 - USA, Oklahoma City

Report of:  
Date:SA [REDACTED]  
1/21/75

b6

b7C Office: Oklahoma City

Field Office File # 159-45

Bureau File #:

Title: UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (Deceased)Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT of 1959;  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Synopsis:

[REDACTED] Accident Reconstruction Lab, Dallas, Texas, on 12/18/74, made available a copy of his report dated 12/15/74 re fatal auto accident of KAREN G. SILKWOOD. FBI Lab advised no significant material or paint could be identified as foreign to paint particles submitted. Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) critically analyzed [REDACTED] report and advised that [REDACTED] report does not alter their original conclusion re SILKWOOD's death and that there was no evidence of foul play connected with her accident. [REDACTED] Kerr-McGee Cimarron facility, advised she attended union meeting 11/13/74 and saw KAREN SILKWOOD at the meeting. SILKWOOD had in her possession a tan manila folder.

b6  
b7C

-P-

Enclosures:

TO USA, OKLAHOMA CITY.

One copy each of the Accident Reconstruction Lab and one copy each of the five enclosed AEC material is being furnished to USA, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Details:

On December 18, 1974, [REDACTED] Accident Reconstruction Lab, 1710 Boll Street, Dallas, Texas, made available a 17 page report dated December 15, 1974, concerning the fatal accident of KAREN SILKWOOD November 13, 1974. [REDACTED] advised that the original report was sent to the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) and the OCAW has been advised that he is providing a copy of the report to the FBI, Dallas, Texas.

b6  
b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/18/75

1

Lieutenant [redacted] Public Information, Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), furnished the following information:

b6  
b7C

The OHP is in receipt of the report prepared by [redacted] of Accident Reconstruction Lab, Dallas, Texas, which [redacted] prepared relative to the fatal one car accident of KAREN G. SILKWOOD which occurred in Logan County, Oklahoma, on the evening of November 13, 1974.

Upon receipt the report was studied at length by three Highway Patrol accident specialists led by Lieutenant [redacted]. The group studied the report for a week.

b6  
b7C

On January 10, 1975, a lengthy press conference was held at OHP Headquarters, Oklahoma City, at which time the Highway Patrol's critical analysis of the [redacted] report was stated by Public Safety Commissioner [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted]. No formal written report by the Highway Patrol relative to their analysis of the [redacted] report has been prepared.

He was in attendance at the January 10, 1975, press conference and also was aware of the complete details of the OHP study of the [redacted] report. The OHP has ruled out any possibility that foul play was involved in the SILKWOOD accident. All the known evidence indicates that the crash was accidental and apparently the result of Miss SILKWOOD having fallen asleep while driving. It was noted that the State Medical Examiner's report indicated that Miss SILKWOOD had one and one-half times the therapeutic dosage of Methaqualone, a hypnotic drug, in her blood at the time of the accident with a large quantity of undissolved drug in her stomach.

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There was no evidence of SILKWOOD's car having been struck from the rear, thus precipitating the fatal crash as postulated by [redacted]. The dents to the left rear

Interviewed on 1/15/75 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 1/16/75

bumper and left rear corner of the body noted by [ ] were in the Highway Patrol's opinion caused by wrecker drivers in their attempt to remove the car from the culvert where it came to rest. If the dents had been caused from impact of another vehicle, they more than likely would have been smooth; however, close-up photographs of the dents were taken reflecting raspy-type indentations showing a sandpaper effect such as would come from the car having come in contact with the rough concrete surface of the culvert. White paint flakes were found on the top portion of the south wing of the culvert thus indicating that the dents to the car that [ ] thought significant occurred there.

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The OHP also noted that these dents that [ ] thought significant occurred relatively close to the ground from 13 to 15" above the ground surface on the lower surface of the bumper and below the bumper. The OHP could not visualize what type of vehicle would be closer to the ground than a Honda that could have caused the accident in the version that [ ] described. [ ] reconstruction of the path of the SILKWOOD car as it left the road and striking the culvert was thought to be contrary to the laws of physics. [ ] contended that SILKWOOD overcompensated upon receiving a blow in the rear and swerved from the right land across the left lane and off the left side of the road, but the OHP was unable to find any skid marks to indicate she lost control of the car before leaving the road.

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[ ] cited three lines of tire indentations toward the culvert which [ ] believed were caused by the SILKWOOD car moving in a somewhat sideways configuration toward the north wing wall. If that were correct, the tire impressions would have ground up the turf along its path, but no such evidence was found by the OHP.

[ ] also thought it significant that a tire tread mark found on the road surface indicated to him that the SILKWOOD car was jackknifing, but if a jackknife situation had occurred the OHP noted that the tires would not have left the tread marks thought significant by [ ].

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[ ] interpretation of the significance of SILKWOOD's car leaving the left side of the road was also

faulty. [ ] had indicated because the road surface is crowned, that is slightly higher in the center, that SILKWOOD's car would have veered to the right side if she had fallen asleep. The OHP noted that this would have been true only if the car had been in alignment. The OHP noted SILKWOOD's car had been in another accident just two weeks prior to the November 13, 1974, accident. The damage from this accident had not been repaired indicating that the SILKWOOD car was likely not in proper alignment.

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The OHP noted that [ ] opinions had no real physical evidence to support the theory of foul play.

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The [ ] report in no way altered the OHP initial findings in the SILKWOOD fatality.

REPORT  
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: SAC, Oklahoma City

Date: December 23, 1974

Re: UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD  
(Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

FBI File No.

Lab. No. PC-L4261 MW

Specimens received 12/16/74

Q1 Paint from dented area of Honda  
Q2 Scrapings from bumper of Honda

## Result of examination:

The Q1 specimen from the dented area of the Honda contained paint particles exhibiting the following layer structure:

1. White enamel
2. Gray primer

The Q2 specimen from the bumper of the Honda contained one paint particle that matched those of Q1 in colors, textures, layer structure and types.

No significant material or paint which could be identified as foreign to the two-layered paint particles was found in Q1 or Q2.

15

OC 159-45

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC),  
Washington, D.C., made available to FBI Headquarters,  
Washington D.C. the following items:

AEC News Release #U-11 dated January  
6, 1975;

AEC News Release #U-12 dated January  
7, 1974;

AEC Report of Inspection during period  
November 21 and 22, 1974, and December 5 and 6, 1974;

AEC Investigative Report #74-09;

AEC Division of Inspection Report 44-2-339.

OC 159-45

TWM:ddw

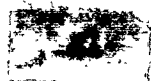
1

At Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

On January 8, 1975, [redacted]  
[redacted] Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, telephonically contacted the Oklahoma City Office of the FBI to advise that he had received information that a union member, who is employed at the Kerr-McGee Corporation (KMC), Cimarron Facility, saw a folder in possession of KAREN SILKWOOD at the union meeting, November 13, 1974 just prior to SILKWOOD's fatal accident. The folder contained information that would support the allegations concerning the company having been involved in the falsification of fuel rod records. [redacted] advised that he received much of SILKWOOD's personal possessions obtained from the car involved in the fatal accident but he did not receive a folder such as described by the union member.

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[redacted] advised that the union member who saw the folder was [redacted] of [redacted] Oklahoma. [redacted] does not desire to be contacted at the plant inasmuch as she is apprehensive that the company may take some type of disciplinary action against her should it be known that she is talking to the FBI.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/15/75

[redacted] Oklahoma  
was interviewed at her residence, a mobile home located at  
the corner of [redacted] and furnished the following  
information:

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She is employed at the Kerr-McGee Corporation (KMC),  
Cimarron Facility, and has worked at that plant for the  
past 18 months. She works in the pellet assembly room of the  
plutonium plant. She was acquainted with KAREN SILKWOOD.  
SILKWOOD worked in the laboratory in the plutonium plant.  
She and KAREN worked in different sections and often times  
on different shifts. Both she and KAREN are members of the  
Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union.  
She knew KAREN through their mutual association in union  
activities. She and KAREN did not socialize with each  
other. She and KAREN were not close friends but were  
acquaintances.

On the evening of November 13, 1974, she attended  
the union meeting held at The Hub Restaurant in Crescent.  
KAREN also attended this meeting. There was a total of six  
or eight union members in attendance at this meeting.

She also attended a union meeting on the evening  
of January 7, 1975 at which the international representative,  
[redacted] was also present. It was not until conversation  
developed at this January 7, 1975 meeting that she recalled  
seeing certain items in possession of SILKWOOD at the November  
13, 1974 meeting. In the conversation with [redacted] a  
Cimarron Facility employee and a union member, [redacted] mentioned  
that she believed she recalled seeing KAREN with a folder  
at the November 13, 1974 meeting.

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After [redacted] mentioned the folder, she also recalled  
seeing KAREN with a folder at the November 13, 1974 meeting.

KAREN arrived at the November 13, 1974 union meeting  
after it had started. KAREN was accompanied by [redacted].  
She did not sit with KAREN. She recalled that KAREN had in  
her possession at the meeting a purse and a brown manilla folder

Interviewed on 1/9/75 at [redacted] Okla. File # Oklahoma City 159-45  
by GA [redacted] Date dictated 1/13/75  
b6  
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OC 159-45

approximately one inch thick containing papers and a dark brown spiral notebook approximately 8 inches by ten inches and a half-inch thick. She believes that the notebook contained KAREN's notes concerning union-company negotiations.

The manilla folder was identical to the folder which she now observed in the possession of the interviewing agent. (It is noted that the folder [redacted] is referring to is a tan manilla folder nine inches by twelve inches.)

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She does not know what the nature of the papers were within the manilla folder that KAREN had at the November 13, 1974 meeting. KAREN did not tell her what the papers were nor did she actually observe the contents of the folder. She assumes that the papers in the folder dealt with the information that KAREN had acquired regarding the falsification of the fuel rod quality control records but she does not know this to be a fact, it is merely an assumption.

After the meeting had broken up on the evening of November 13, 1974, KAREN mentioned to her that she was going to thereafter see [redacted]. KAREN said that she had evidence concerning the falsification of fuel rod records. Just what the nature of the evidence that KAREN had, she does not know.

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During the course of the November 13, 1974 meeting, KAREN was visibly shook. By this, she means that KAREN appeared very nervous and very "scared". This condition was a result of KAREN having been contaminated. At the meeting, KAREN broke down and cried. She heard KAREN say "I don't know who got it in for me to take my life with this contamination. I've got enough to kill me."

It was her opinion that KAREN should have someone drive her home because of her "condition". She did not hear any of the other union members make any offers to drive KAREN home prior to KAREN's leaving but after KAREN left, she learned that [redacted] had offered to drive KAREN home but she refused.

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She did not see KAREN eat or drink anything at the union meeting. She did not see KAREN take any type of pill or medication at the union meeting.



OC 159-45

It was shortly after the November 13, 1974 meeting, that KAREN was involved in the fatal automobile accident.

She has no personal knowledge as to how the fatal accident occurred. She has no personal knowledge as to how KAREN became contaminated. She has no personal knowledge concerning the allegations that KAREN's body samples were tampered with.

She has no personal knowledge as to what information KAREN had acquired relative to the falsification of fuel rod records. The only information she has in this regard is information that KAREN told her in various conversations at union meetings, etc., subsequent to the September, 1974 meeting in Washington, D. C. that KAREN and other union officials attended. From her conversations with KAREN and other union members, she is aware that KAREN had gathered much information concerning health-safety conditions at the Cimarron Facility and to her knowledge, KAREN had passed on this information to the Atomic Energy Commission.

She was at another union meeting sometime in October, 1974, exact date unrecalled, which meeting was held at The Hub Cafe in Crescent. During this meeting, KAREN had complained that she was sick, coming down with a virus. KAREN looked sick to her. KAREN talked to [redacted] a Cimarron Facility, non-union employee, who was at The Hub but not in attendance at the union meeting.

[redacted] invited KAREN to spend the night with her and from conversation with both KAREN and [redacted] she understands that KAREN did in fact spend the night with [redacted].

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She does not know where KAREN went immediately after the union meeting and presumes that KAREN went directly to [redacted] house.

OC 159-45

LJO:ddw

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[redacted] Reference is made to the report of SA [redacted]  
[redacted] at Oklahoma City dated December 13, 1974.

It is noted that [redacted]  
Ted Sebring Ford Company, Crescent, Oklahoma, as set out on  
page 59 of the above-mentioned report recalls observing  
two "binders" which were placed in a box containing personal  
effects from SILKWOOD's car.

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SILKWOOD's boy friend, [redacted] as set out  
on page 115 of above-mentioned report, indicates that he  
obtained from SILKWOOD's personal effects two folders, one  
containing old union papers and the other concerning nuclear  
hazards and industrial ecology.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/16/75

[redacted] Texas, telephone [redacted] telephonically contacted the Dallas Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at 12:40 p.m. and furnished the following information:

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She stated she had just read an article in the January 20, 1975, issue of "Time" magazine pertaining to an FBI investigation at Kerr-McGee Plutonium Plant, Cimarron River Facility, in Oklahoma. She said the article concerned a girl named KAREN SILKWOOD, who was killed in an automobile accident on November 13, 1974, at approximately 7:30 p.m. while driving on Oklahoma State Highway 74. [redacted] said she inferred from the article that the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAWU), Local 5-283, was implying that SILKWOOD was killed intentionally by persons unknown because of SILKWOOD's criticism of Kerr-Mc Gee for handling nuclear materials.

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[redacted] explained she often visits in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and was in the general vicinity of the Kerr-McGee Cimarron River facility on November 13, 1974, in her own automobile. She said the wind gusts were very strong that day and estimated the wind to be gusting up to 60-70 miles per hour. She said the "Time" magazine article revealed SILKWOOD was driving a Honda automobile at the time of her accident. [redacted] said, in her opinion, in view of the windy conditions on November 13, 1974, and the fact that SILKWOOD was driving a lightweight car, it is highly probable that the wind blew SILKWOOD's car off the road.

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[redacted] stated she has never been employed by or associated with anyone with Kerr-McGee or OCAWU. She added she has no direct knowledge of the conditions at the Kerr-McGee plant or the circumstances of SILKWOOD's death other than what she read in "Time" magazine. She said her

Interviewed on 1/15/75 at Dallas, TexasFile # Dallas 159-107  
Oklahoma City 159-45by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 1/15/75

2

DL 159-107

OC 159-45

reason for contacting the FBI was simply that she was in the general area during the approximate time SILKWOOD had her accident and wished to point out her observations to responsible authorities of the wind conditions at that time.

[ ] added she has not been contacted by anyone from Kerr-McGee, or OCAWU in regard to this matter and has no interest in it other than to furnish information which may be of assistance as a responsible citizen.

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1- Mr. Gebhardt  
1- Mr. Long  
1- Mr. Adams  
1- Mr. McDermott  
1- [redacted]

b6  
b7C

January 20, 1974

b6  
b7C

**KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LABOR MANAGEMENT REPORTING  
AND DISCLOSURE ACT  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

Deleted Copy Sent [redacted]  
By Letter Dated 5-16-76 [redacted]  
Per FOIPA Request 16 R. [redacted]

Captioned individual was an employee at the Kerr McGee Corporation, manufacturer of plutonium at Crescent, Oklahoma (20 miles north of Oklahoma City), and a member of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) at the time she was killed in a one car accident 7.3 miles south of Crescent at 7:30 p.m., 11/13/74. Since this individual was reportedly engaged in union business at the time of her death and was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), the Criminal Division of the Department requested a preliminary investigation be conducted by the FBI. This investigation was to determine if violations of Section 530, Title 29, U. S. Code (through the impairment of Silkwood's rights guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, U. S. Code) and Section 1505, Title 18, U. S. Code (in that Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before AEC) existed.

Investigation by the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, FBI office has revealed that on November 13, 1974, Silkwood was involved in union-company negotiations, met with AEC representatives and later that day attended a union meeting at Crescent. Two union members offered to drive her home from this meeting since they felt she was under a severe emotional strain as a result of her union activities and having been involved in a contamination incident at Kerr McGee. Silkwood turned this offer down and left the meeting shortly after 7 p.m. and was involved in the fatal accident at 7:30 p.m.

This accident was investigated by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, whose official report revealed no indication of foul play although allegations were received from OCAW indicating that an independent accident investigator, hired by the union, suggested that Silkwood's automobile was hit from behind by another vehicle causing the fatal accident. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol has ruled out any such possibility.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

ELR:maw  
(8)

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

GPO 97

KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

Autopsy performed on Silkwood indicated cause of death was multiple injuries and that she was under the influence of hypnotic drug, methaqualone, at time of her death. A trace of ethyl alcohol was also found in her system. Investigation has determined methaqualone was prescribed for Silkwood by her physician on October 25, 1974, to assist her in sleeping and was to be taken upon retiring.

Silkwood had previously been involved in a one car accident October 21, 1974, which was not reported to the police at which time the right rear of her car received damage.

Investigation by the FBI to date has developed no information indicating the death of Silkwood was other than accidental.

A review of the results of an investigation conducted by AEC based on allegations that Kerr McGee Corporation was in violation of the AEC health-safety standards, is being made and upon completion of this review, final results of requested preliminary investigation will be furnished to the Criminal Division of the Department.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE WASHINGTON FIELD	OFFICE OF ORIGIN OKLAHOMA CITY	DATE 2/5/75	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/27-28/75
TITLE OF CASE RESURF MAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)		REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]	TYPED BY RJA
		CHARACTER OF CASE LURDA; OOT	
REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 12/13/74 at Oklahoma City.			

- P -

## ENCLOSURES

## OKLAHOMA

1) Tape of conversations furnished by [REDACTED] and referred to in this report.

2) One (1) copy of hearings before the Subcommittee on Research, Development, and Radiation of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. b6 b7C

3) Copy of letter dated 1/20/75 to members of the CNU Union at Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED *Dunn/9/HW* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

- 3- Bureau
- 4- Oklahoma City (159-45 (Enc. 3))
- (2- USA, Oklahoma City)
- 1- Deleted Copy Sent [REDACTED]
- Letter Dated 1-13-76 [REDACTED]
- Per FOIPA Request [REDACTED]

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

159-45-17	REC-31
FEB 10 1975	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	

## Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	1cc ROM CRIM. DIV
Request Recd.	[REDACTED]
Date Fwd.	2/18/75
How Fwd.	HAND CARRIED TO [REDACTED]
By	ERB/c [REDACTED]

Notations

SIX  
DATA PROCb6  
b7C

100-1-100-200

RECEIVED  
INTELLIGENCE DIV.

75000 3700

TO: HON CHIA\* DEPT 14 9 50 AM 75075  
FEB 10 3 01 PM 1975  
RECEIVED  
INTELLIGENCE DIV.

UF



WFO 159-360

ADMINISTRATIVE

An attempt was made to contact [redacted]  
and [redacted] on 1/27/75.

Oklahoma City airtel to the Director, dated 11/27/74, advised that [redacted] Executive Director, Staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy (JCOAE), had contacted FBI Headquarters and stated that testimony taken from [redacted] in September, 1974 might be pertinent to this investigation.

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[redacted] has retired from the JCOAE. [redacted] Acting Director, JCOAE, was contacted and he advised he knew of no testimony by [redacted] before the JCOAE in September, 1974. He had a staff assistant, [redacted] make a check to determine if [redacted] had ever testified before the Committee and the only record that could be located was testimony of [redacted] on 6/8/67. A copy of [redacted] testimony on 6/8/67 is enclosed for Oklahoma City.

As WFO does not know the extent of the investigation conducted by the Oklahoma City Division, no leads are being set forth to interview any of the individuals in attached report.

LEADS

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will maintain contact with [redacted] OCAW, to obtain copy of the report of [redacted] [redacted] pertaining to the rubber smudge on SILKWOOD'S car.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 2- USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

Office: Washington, D.C.

Date: 2/5/75

Field Office File #: 159-369

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959;  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

## Synopsis:

[REDACTED] OCAW, advised that on 11/7/74, SILKWOOD telephoned him reporting she was contaminated and requested his help. [REDACTED] flew to Oklahoma on 11/8/74 and met with SILKWOOD who told him her apartment was contaminated, especially her refrigerator and food. SILKWOOD stated she felt someone had tried to poison her. SILKWOOD stated she had also reported her suspicions to two AEC investigators. SILKWOOD also told [REDACTED] fellow member of the OCAW, of her belief while at union meeting evening of 11/13/74. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] observed SILKWOOD in possession of a file containing documents which SILKWOOD stated would document the falsification of quality control data. [REDACTED] stated this file is missing. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED], who investigated SILKWOOD's accident for OCAW, felt that if her car's left rear fender had been damaged at time it was extracted from the culvert there would be concrete fragments in the dents so [REDACTED] with approval of the OCAW, engaged [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Consultants, to examine the fender and bumper of SILKWOOD's car. Their reports are set forth.

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DETAILS

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/4/75

1

[redacted] Oil, Chemical  
and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW), 1126 16th  
Street, furnished the following information:

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In September, 1974, KAREN SILKWOOD, together with other OCAW members employed at the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, were in Washington, D.C. (WDC) to inform the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) about the unsafe working standards at the facility.

While in WDC, SILKWOOD mentioned that documents were being falsified concerning quality control data at the facility. SILKWOOD was instructed by [redacted] to secure documentation concerning the allegations and to keep him apprised of her progress. SILKWOOD did as she was instructed and by late October or early November, 1974, it was decided she was ready for a meeting to discuss the documentation she had obtained.

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It was first decided to meet SILKWOOD in Dallas, Texas, and he purchased an airline ticket on November 6, 1974 for SILKWOOD to fly to Dallas to meet with him on November 13, 1974. SILKWOOD decided she did not want to go to Dallas to meet him because of her contamination problem so the meeting was changed to Oklahoma City on November 13, 1974. On November 13, 1974, he and [redacted] a reporter for the "New York Times", were waiting for SILKWOOD at the Holiday Inn, Oklahoma City, when he learned of her death after he made some telephone calls to OCAW union officers employed at Kerr-McGee when she failed to appear for the meeting by 10:00 p.m.

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On November 14, 1974, he talked to [redacted] Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), who conducted the investigation of KAREN SILKWOOD's accident on November 13, 1974. He told FAGAN he suspected foul play and that it was not just a normal accident. FAGAN replied that he was going to proceed on the theory it was a normal accident unless the autopsy examination showed something to the contrary. WODKA's suspicions of foul play were based on information he had received as set forth below.

Interviewed on 1/28/75 at Washington, D.C. File # WFO 159-369

by SA [redacted] [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 2/3/75

2

On the evening of November 7, 1974, he received a telephone call from KAREN SILKWOOD who told him she had been contaminated and asked him to help her. On November 8, 1974, he flew to Oklahoma and met with SILKWOOD, who told him that she had been discovered to be contaminated on November 5, 1974, and that it had been discovered on November 7, 1974, that her apartment was contaminated, especially her refrigerator and food therein, which she had eaten. During their conversation, SILKWOOD said she felt someone had tried to poison her.

SILKWOOD also told him that she had been on a four day break from work from November 1 through November 4, 1974 and had not been at her apartment during this period until she returned on November 4, 1974. SILKWOOD told him that during this period [redacted] had worked on grave-yard shifts at the plant. SILKWOOD also said that [redacted] often had difficulty locking the apartment door and left it unlocked. SILKWOOD had said she felt that during this period someone had entered her apartment and contaminated the food in the refrigerator. SILKWOOD also told him she had reported her suspicions to [redacted] and [redacted] investigators of the AEC, who were then conducting an investigation at the Kerr-McGee facility concerning the contamination incident. [redacted] and [redacted] work out of the AEC Glen Ellyn Office just outside Chicago, Illinois.

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On November 13, 1974, [redacted] told him that SILKWOOD had stayed with a friend, [redacted] in [redacted] Oklahoma, from November 1 to November 4, 1974. [redacted] who works at the Kerr-McGee facility, now resides at [redacted] Oklahoma.

[redacted] also told him after SILKWOOD's death that on the evening of November 7, 1974, the team from Kerr-McGee that were decontaminating SILKWOOD's apartment stopped working about 9:00 p.m. At the time they found the apartment to be contaminated they requested that all keys to the apartment be turned over to them; however, according to [redacted] one key to the apartment was kept by SILKWOOD and she went to the apartment after the Kerr-McGee men left to get something she did not want them to find. According to [redacted] the

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Kerr-McGee men placed a slip of paper on top of the door when they left so they would know whether anyone had entered the apartment after they departed. On returning the next morning they observed that the paper was not on top of the door.

On November 14, 1974, after talking to [redacted] he, together with [redacted] and [redacted] went to the Sebring Ford Agency, Crescent, Oklahoma, where [redacted] picked up SILKWOOD's personal effects after her parents had authorized [redacted] to take custody of them. [redacted] was given a taped box which was still sealed when he received it. This box was opened in the presence of [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] but no documents were located relating to quality control work.

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Subsequently, he received information from [redacted] a Kerr-McGee employee and a member of the OCAW local at the facility, that on the evening of November 13, 1974, both SILKWOOD and [redacted] attended a union meeting at the Hub Cafe, Crescent, Oklahoma. According to [redacted] SILKWOOD had a legal size folder about one inch thick with her. According to [redacted] SILKWOOD was going through the documents at the meeting arranging them in some order. At the meeting, SILKWOOD told [redacted] that the documents pertained to the falsification of quality control documents and said she had it all there. According to [redacted] there were loose documents, a yellow tablet, and what appeared to be graph paper in the folder. During the meeting, SILKWOOD also told [redacted] that she did not know who had it in for her so bad that they would contaminate her apartment.

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[redacted] stated that after receiving the above information from [redacted] he telephoned the Oklahoma City Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and related the information to a Special Agent. He said he has since been told by [redacted] that a Special Agent of the FBI had interviewed her. [redacted] stated that [redacted] another union member who attended the November 13, 1974 meeting at the Hub Cafe, had also told him that SILKWOOD had with her that night a folder as described by [redacted] [redacted] stated that this file folder was not among the personal effects turned over to [redacted] and he has not been able to learn if it was ever found. He also stated [redacted] had said that on the evening of November 13, 1974, SILKWOOD also had an 8" by 10" spiral notebook which is also missing.

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[ ] stated he has been told that [ ] a trucker from Covington, Oklahoma, had discovered the wreck and notified the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Thereafter [ ] and [ ] Kerr-McGee employees, came upon the wreck and recognized SILKWOOD and telephoned Kerr-McGee. Thereafter [ ] and [ ] Kerr-McGee employees, were sent to the wreck scene to determine if there were any signs of contamination. b6 b7c

[ ] stated that he had been talking with [ ] and [ ] the AEC investigators, on the evening of November 13, 1974, as they were also staying at the Holiday Inn, Oklahoma City. When he learned of the accident he went to their room to inform them of the accident but they had already left for the wreck site.

[ ] stated he had gone to the wreck scene on the night of November 13, 1974, and there found SILKWOOD's pay check but nothing else. He again went to the wreck scene on November 14, 1974, but found nothing.

[ ] exhibited a green spiral stenographer type notebook, captioned "Eye Tint 2000, Easel", stating that this notebook came from the personal effects of SILKWOOD received by [ ] on November 14, 1974. Two pages of the notebook contained handwriting. One page contained a notation of a phone call on October 22, 1974, and the other page appeared to be an inventory of clothes. b6 b7c

[ ] exhibited an AEC report dated December 19, 1974, by [ ] titled "Kerr-McGee - Nuclear Division, Cimarron Nuclear Facility-Crescent, Oklahoma - Alleged Falsification of Quality Assurance Records." [ ] stated that this report of investigation conducted by the AEC had developed that photographs of plutonium rods had been retouched and that analysts had unauthorized knowledge of sample data before they began their analysis of plutonium pellets. [ ] stated that this investigation had developed information that several employees in the laboratory at the Kerr-McGee facility had said they knew that SILKWOOD had been staying after work going through files and that she had told fellow workers what she was doing, that is looking for documentation to support her charges of falsification of documents pertaining to quality control. b6 b7c

[ ] also exhibited another document captioned "RO Investigation Report No. 74-09, Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Region 3" regarding examination of SILKWOOD's contamination. This report set forth a record of the contamination found in SILKWOOD's urine and fecal submissions from the time she was employed. [ ] stated that all samples set forth in the report contained a low level of contamination up to sample number 22. He then furnished the following information concerning samples 22 through 28 set forth in the report:

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<u>Sample</u>	<u>Type(*)</u>	<u>Date Sample Taken</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Where Taken</u>	<u>Contamination</u>
22	U	10/15-22/74	10/22/74	Home	High
23	U	10/31/74	10/31/74	Home	High
24	U	10/31/74	11/8/74(**)	Work	Low
25	U	11/5/74	11/5/74	Home	High
26	F	11/6/74	11/7/74	Home	Very high
27	U	11/5-7/74	11/7/74	Home	Very high
28	U	11/7/74	11/8/74	Work	Low

(\*) - U denotes urine, F denotes fecal

(\*\*) - Sample was stored in a locker between October 31, 1974, and November 8, 1974, when submitted.

[ ] stated that the AEC had concluded that something had been added to samples 22, 23, 25 and 27 between the time they were taken and the time they were analyzed to contaminate them. He said that he feels that somebody wanted to get SILKWOOD removed from the laboratory area, a hot area, to stop her from securing documentation to support her allegations concerning the falsification of quality control data.

[ ] stated he feels someone deliberately salted samples 22, 23, 25 and 27, in the attempt to get her removed from the laboratory knowing that if SILKWOOD's samples showed she was contaminated the company would remove her from the laboratory, a hot area, and place her in a cool section of the plant. By being removed from the laboratory, SILKWOOD

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no longer would be in a position to obtain the documentation she needed, according to [redacted].

[redacted] stated that Kerr-McGee ordinarily sends samples to be tested to the United States Testing Laboratory, Hanford, Washington, and there is usually about a 30 day delay before the results of the tests are made known to Kerr-McGee. According to [redacted] samples 22, 23 and 25 were sent to the United States Testing Laboratory and the results had not been returned to Kerr-McGee at the time of SILKWOOD's death.

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[redacted] stated that samples 24, 26 and 27 were analyzed by Kerr-McGee after SILKWOOD was found to be contaminated on November 5, 1974.

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[redacted] stated that he believes that someone, realizing that SILKWOOD had to be removed from the laboratory and due to the delay in the results of the analysis of samples 22, 23 and 25 not having been returned, decided to contaminate SILKWOOD's apartment and food.

[redacted] pointed out that fecal samples were taken from SILKWOOD and [redacted] at Los Alamos, New Mexico, on November 11, 1974. He stated that SILKWOOD's sample showed a high rate of contamination while [redacted] was fairly high, although both of them had been removed from their apartment on November 7, 1974.

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[redacted] stated that inasmuch as the OCAW suspected foul play in SILKWOOD's accident and death, it decided to hire [redacted] of Accident Reconstruction Lab, Dallas, Texas, to investigate the accident. [redacted] investigation concluded that SILKWOOD's car was struck from the rear by another vehicle, causing SILKWOOD's car to go out of control. [redacted] then engaged the services of [redacted] a former professor at the University of Oklahoma, and now a structural engineer in Dallas, Texas, who specializes in vehicle accident analysis. [redacted] stated that [redacted] findings supported the findings of [redacted]. He stated that on December 18, 1974, [redacted] submitted his and [redacted] report to the FBI office in Dallas, Texas, and also sent copies of the reports to the OHP.

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[ ] stated that the OHP contends that the dents in the left rear fender of SILKWOOD's car were caused when it was being removed from the culvert. It was [ ] feeling that if this was so there would be concrete fragments in the dents. Therefore, [ ] with the approval of the OCAW, engaged the services of Dr. GERALD U. GREENE, Socorro, New Mexico, a former professor of metallurgy at Fenn College and the New Mexico School of Mines. Dr. GREENE, retired since 1961, does consulting work as a metallurgist. Based on Dr. GREENE's report, [ ], with the approval of the OCAW, engaged the services of ERNEST L. MARTIN, a consulting chemist with the firm of Martin and Carlisle Chemical Laboratory, Inc., 715 San Mateo Boulevard, N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico. Copies of GREENE's and MARTIN's reports are set forth below:

b6  
b7C

Dr. Gerald U. Greene  
CONSULTANT  
P. O. Box 681 - Phone (505) 835-1233  
SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO 87801

## RESUME

D.O.B. June 19, 1896  
B.S. New Mexico School of Mines 1923  
General Science  
M.S. University of Utah 1924  
Metallurgical Engineering  
D.S.C. (Doctor of Science), Harvard University 1934  
Metallurgical Engineering  
1936-1949 Taught at Fenn College  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Metallurgy and Chemical Engineering  
1949-1961 Taught at New Mexico school of Mines  
Metallurgy  
1961 to present - Retired and doing consultant work to  
Insurance Industry, legal profession and  
mining industry as a Metallurgist.

Dr. Gerald U. Greene  
CONSULTANT  
P. O. Box 681 -1- Phone (505) 835-1238  
SUCORRO, NEW MEXICO 87801

January 20, 1975

[REDACTED]  
Accident Reconstruction Lab  
1710 Boll St.  
Dallas, Texas 75201

b6  
b7c

Re: Karen Silkwood  
D/A: 11-13-74

Dear Sir:

On January 17, 1975 I made a metallurgical examination on the rear bumper and a portion of the left rear fender reported to have belonged to the 1973 Honda Civic automobile driven by Karen Silkwood.

The examination was megascopic and was conducted in your presence after having reviewed your report and photographs.

A small dent on the lower left-hand corner of the bumper was examined very carefully. It is my opinion that this dent was not made by the concrete wing wall during removal of the car by the wrecker. The force lines were from rear to front of the automobile. If concrete had made this dent there would have been particles embedded in the force lines or scratches.

The portion of the left rear fender contained a medium size concave dent. The force lines in this dent were also from rear to front. There was no concrete embedded in these lines or scratches. However there did appear to be rubber smudges in some of these force lines. A chemical analysis would confirm this. This dent could not have been made by the concrete wing wall during removal by the wrecker.

Very truly yours,

Gerald U. Greene

ERNEST L. MARTIN

CONSULTING CHEMIST



Certificate No. 355

Martin and Carlisle Chemical Laboratory, Inc.  
715 San Mateo Boulevard, N. E.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Telephone: (505) AM 8-5461

4238 North 31st Place  
Phoenix, Arizona

Telephone: (602) 265-6184

B.S. New Mexico State Teachers' College 1928

M.A. Indiana University 1930

Ph.D. Indiana University 1946

Technical Societies — American Chemical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, New Mexico Academy of Science, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Sigma Xi, Alpha Chi Sigma.

Listed in — American Men of Science, Who's Who in American Education, Who's Who in the West.

Previous Experience — Professor of Analytical Chemistry at the University of New Mexico, and consultant chemist. Former consultant to the Director of Transportation, New Mexico State Department of Education. Director of the Northwest New Mexico Regional Science Fair. Research on analytical procedures; consultation on properties of gases and causes of gas explosions; analytical methods to determine product failure. Consultation with lawyers on problems involving science.

Publications and Patents — Over forty publications in science including Laboratory Manual and Problem book in Analytical Chemistry. Research and articles in electrochemistry. Analytical studies of vanadium, analytical procedures for the determination of various metals, analytical procedures for the determination of cystine and cysteine, narcotics, and barbiturates. Studies of methods of detection of gases and movement of gases through soils, concrete and other materials.

Staff — Graduate chemical engineer as full time manager of the laboratory and graduate students.

Laboratory Facilities — Complete analytical laboratory with modern instruments. Program set up to handle research and consultation in the field of chemistry.

Scope of Activities — Specializing in gas explosions, arson, poisons, chemical research, consultation and court testimony, product failure.



# MARTIN AND CARLISLE CHEMICAL LABORATORY, INC.

715 SAN MATEO BLVD. NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87108  
PHONE 268-5461

January 18, 1973  
L-7000

## EXAMINATION OF AUTOMOBILE BUMPER

To:   
Accident Reconstruction Lab.  
1710 Boll St.  
Dallas, Texas 75201

b6  
b7C

### EXAMINATION:

A rear bumper reported to be from the 1973 Jonda Civic automobile belonging to Karen Silwood, was examined microscopically to check a dent on the bumper. The indentation was approximately 3 1/4 inches from the left end.

The microscopic examination of the marks on the bumper showed sharp striation marks in the lower chrome plate. The marks were at an angle and had been made by contact with a metal object. As a result of the impact a slight indentation had been made in the center of the damaged area.

There was no evidence of any foreign material and the dent was result of contact between two metal surfaces.

By: 

E. L. Martin

[ ] stated that Dr. MARTIN is presently analyzing the rubber smudges on the left rear fender and as soon as the results of the examination are furnished to the OCAW, they will be made available to the FBI. He said that copies of GREENE's and MARTIN's reports are also being furnished to the OHP. [ ] stated that the assumption is, based on GREENE's and MARTIN's reports, that the bumper of the automobile which struck SILKWOOD's car had a protective rubber covering over its bumper. b6 b7C

[ ] stated that the bumper and left rear fender of SILKWOOD's car are in [ ] possession and will be made available to the FBI or OHP for examination. He said the OHP has not once examined the bumper or fender after [ ] and [ ] reports were furnished to the Patrol, although they discredit the reports. He said that the press has reported the OHP could not find the automobile for re-examination, but to his knowledge they have never asked to see the automobile. b6 b7C

[ ] stated that [ ] had told him that SILKWOOD appeared fatigued but alert at the union meeting on the night of November 13, 1974. [ ] stated he is aware that methaqualone had been found in SILKWOOD's blood and that everyone assumed that SILKWOOD's accident was the result of drowsiness. He stated, however, that some pathologists feel the level of methaqualone in SILKWOOD's blood could have been the result of a pill she took the previous day and that the level of the drug in her blood was not even at a therapeutic level and was insufficient to cause drowsiness. WODKA stated he feels it was highly unlikely that SILKWOOD would have taken any drug on November 13, 1974, knowing she had to attend union negotiating meetings all day and then meet him that evening which would keep her up late.

[ ] stated that he also wanted to mention three threatening telephone calls that have been brought to his attention relating to the SILKWOOD matter.

The first call was received by [ ] at her home in [ ] on January 14, 1975. The caller asked [ ] if she knew where her husband was and what she was wearing. This phone call was reported to the police who stated it fit a pattern of phone calls received by women recently in the [ ] area. b6 b7C

WFO 159-369

13

The second call was received on January 18, 1975, by [redacted], employed by National Public Radio, WDC. [redacted] has been doing feature stories on the SILKWOOD case and was in Oklahoma in late December, 1974, gathering information. The caller is reported to have told [redacted] "to get off the Kerr-McGee case or else."

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b7C

The third call was received on January 20, 1975, by [redacted] a Kerr-McGee employee. The caller threatened to kill [redacted] boy friend in New Jersey. [redacted] an OCAW member and who is mentioned elsewhere in this report, told [redacted] that very few people even know she has a boy friend in New Jersey, but the caller even knew his name.

[redacted] made available the tape recording and documents which [redacted] Legislative Director, OCAW, offered to make available in his telegram dated November 19, 1974, to Attorney General [redacted]. [redacted] stated that all the material pertained to the matter of quality control at the Kerr-McGee facility and copies of the tape and documents had been made available on November 21, 1974, to [redacted] Division of Inspection, AEC, Germantown, Maryland.

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[redacted] stated the tape had been compiled from a recorded conversation with [redacted] OCAW member, when he was in WDC in September, 1974, from a recorded telephone conversation with SILKWOOD and from recorded telephone conversations on November 17, 1974, with [redacted] and [redacted] OCAW members.

[redacted] stated that the document, identified in the upper right corner as I-A, was received from [redacted] in September, 1974, and pertains to the plutonium rod photographs which had allegedly been retouched. The documents identified as II-A through II-F are copies of pages from several small notebooks which SILKWOOD gave him on November 8, 1974, while he was in Oklahoma. Copies of the documents identified as I-A and II-A through II-F are set forth below:

b6  
b7C

177 E 12 B1 ✓

182 E 22 B1 ✓

175 E 22 B2

197 E 34 F2

198 E 22 B2

198 E 12 B1

208 E 12 B1

206 E 22 B2

256 E 12 B2

259 E 12 B2

259 E 22 B1 *Check  
lat 153 Pub*

265 E 22 B2

265 E 22 B1

269 E 22 B2



II-A

Still passing all welds  
no matter what pictures look!  
Met into qualifying new  
welders. Will equalizing  
[redacted] + K Silwood for  
a East starting from  
scratch. [redacted] said  
procedures. SAYS start over.  
[redacted] [redacted]  
[redacted] all say of reference  
if they will get verbal ok.  
No mention of NUMEC  
shut down. Production  
speed up blamed on  
furnace down: But  
either due to Dumas or  
strike fear. Telling every  
one of meeting.

b6  
b7C

Oct 1, 1974

~~I-B~~

While storing materials I  
overheard the other analysts,  
supervisors, & HP sup ask  
why no one summoned  
help & where were all  
his techs. I told him!

399 E 22 (B)

3 porosities visible in weld

<sup>p</sup>  
raised

Oct 2, 1974

3 X 74

## Union Meeting

- ① Rm 124 201 50kg  
Has frequent over  
today lost 13-7kg  
barrels stacked on top  
of each other. 201  
limits in wet end  
after extended.  
In line fill.  
Many employees  
told by Co- "Do  
not talk to AEC  
or Westinghouse Reps.  
or else. Div down  
AP's on procedures  
Under Staffed.

<sup>QC</sup>  
John over running from lab to  
lab as if many orders to take care  
of.

For last week specifically; due  
to my shifts; I have noticed  
respirators being cleaned &  
routine nightly check of lab  
slot boxes & other violations of  
regulations being written up.

QC — Halide on pellets  
run this PM by [redacted] &

b6  
b7C

# for all 5 weld 70, 98,  
68, 64, 63, not decreasing craft  
as should be. [redacted] said.

b6  
b7C

Turn this into [redacted] he will  
change & make a graft to fit so  
they would pass. Analyst looked  
at me & said he had given  
up on getting good #s, No one  
would accept them.

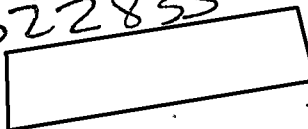
Oct 18, 1974

449E22 UC

- 2 VOIDS ON

WEID 100X  
29 ~~V~~ 74

2822835



b6  
b7C

FE

Also talked to some  
members of the QA + QC  
inspection teams. Pellets  
that are being loaded  
now to ships in the  
past are put on the  
highest speed by the  
supervisor + the  
employee is told to look  
through a magnification  
lamp light + check them.  
The pellets are running  
past at a speed of  
about 1 per 5 sec.  
on the roll mic. +  
they say there is no  
way that they can  
evaluate these pellets.

Nov 5, 1974

II-F

Possibly this is the  
reason that so many  
of our pellets are  
being returned by  
Stanford for white  
spots - bad pins -  
out of spec, etc.

Kps

Also J. Davis  
said we are not up  
to par in ballroom  
facilities. (Garns).

Nov 5, 1974

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/5/751

[redacted] Oil,  
Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW),  
1126 16th Street, N.W., furnished the following information:

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The only time he has ever met KAREN SILKWOOD was on September 26, 1974, and again briefly on September 27, 1974, while she was in Washington, D.C. (WDC), to present a complaint to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) about the health and safety problems for employees of the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma. All the information he has concerning SILKWOOD's death is based on information developed by and furnished to him by his assistant, [redacted] and from the reports of consultants the OCAW hired to investigate the accident.

b6  
b7C

At first he was very skeptical that SILKWOOD's death was anything other than an accident but now, based on information developed by [redacted] and the engineering reports of the consultants hired by the OCAW, he is convinced that she was killed. He is not alleging that someone set out to deliberately kill SILKWOOD but someone may have tried to "shake her up" and SILKWOOD's hitting the concrete culvert was unforeseen.

The OCAW at Kerr-McGee's facility is a weak union and SILKWOOD undoubtedly was well aware that her efforts to report on the health and safety standards and the falsification of quality control data at the facility would incur the wrath of the company resulting in her dismissal at a future date. In talking about the health and safety standards and the falsification of records one was talking about a lot of money. He can even conceive of SILKWOOD contaminating her apartment with a minute amount of plutonium to help prove her point but he feels it is sheer "baloney" that SILKWOOD would contaminate her refrigerator and food therein with plutonium, which she knew was deadly toxic, and then eat the contaminated food.

The OCAW felt morally responsible to pursue SILKWOOD's allegations after she had reported the falsification of documents and after her death the union felt it had to hire consultants to make an independent study of the accident in view of the possibility of foul play.

Interviewed on 1/28/75 at Washington, D.C. File # WFO 159-369

by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 2/3/75

22\*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b>	DATE <b>2/12/75</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>1/23/75</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)</b>		REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]	TYPED BY <b>abp</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>LMRDA; OOJ</b>	b6 b7C

## REFERENCES:

Oklahoma City report of SA [REDACTED] 1/21/75.  
Baltimore letter to Oklahoma City, 1/23/75.

b6  
b7C

- P -

## ENCLOSURES:

TO BUREAU:

Deleted Copy Sent [REDACTED]

by Letter Dated 5-21-76 [REDACTED]

Per FOIPA Request [REDACTED]

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are three (3) copies of Atomic Energy Commission Report dated 12/19/74 regarding the Kerr-McGee, Nuclear Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma - Alleged Falsification of Quality Assurance Records.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

- (6) - Bureau (Enc. 3) (159-4005)  
1 - USA, Oklahoma City (Enc. 1)  
1 - WFO (Info) (159-369)  
2 - Oklahoma City (159-45)

5 FEB 18 1975

REC 98

SI-111

## Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Notations

Agency	<b>1cc ROM CRIM. DIV</b>
Request Recd.	
Date Fwd.	<b>2/21/75 after [REDACTED]</b>
How Fwd.	<b>Hand Delivered</b>

b6  
b7C

OVER PAGE



100 BOW CHIEF

FEB 20 12 28 PM '75

FEB 21 0 11 1975

DEPT 5500

RECEIVED  
INTELLIGENCE DIV.

RECEIVED  
INTELLIGENCE DIV.

DEC 87

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK  
SUBJECT: [illegible]

RE: [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

OC 159-45

ADMINISTRATIVE:

It is noted that the enclosed Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) report contains information relative to a separate criminal violation of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA). This possible violation has been mentioned in brief in previous reports and communications submitted by the Oklahoma City Division. The enclosure sets forth the first detailed information Oklahoma City has received in this regard.

Oklahoma City is conducting no active investigation relative to the allegation but is awaiting receipt of Bureau instructions concerning Department's attitude re this particular aspect of the SILKWOOD case.

Oklahoma City furnished the Bureau three copies of referenced report. Thereafter, Oklahoma City was informed by the Bureau to submit three additional copies of all future reports or communications prepared for dissemination. Accordingly, Oklahoma City is furnishing six copies of this report to the Bureau. Only three copies of enclosure being furnished to the Bureau inasmuch as the material was obtained from AEC, therefore, dissemination to the Energy Research and Development Administration and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is not warranted.

LEADS:

WFO

Information copy furnished to WFO in view of outstanding investigation in that division.

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will recontact USA, WFO upon receipt of outstanding investigation conducted at WFO.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Oklahoma City

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b7C

Report of:

Office: Oklahoma City

Date:

12/12/75

Field Office File #:

159-45

Bureau File #: 159-4005

Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

Character:

LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE  
ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Synopsis:

[REDACTED] Inspection Division,  
Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), made available a copy of  
AEC report dated 12/19/74 regarding Kerr-McGee Nuclear  
Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma - Alleged  
Falsification of Quality Assurance Records.

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b7C

- P -

## ENCLOSURE:

To USA, Oklahoma City:

Enclosed one copy of Atomic Energy Commission Report  
dated December 19, 1974 regarding the Kerr-McGee Nuclear  
Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma - Alleged  
Falsification of Quality Assurance Records.

## Details:

On January 23, 1975, the Baltimore Division of  
the FBI advised that [REDACTED]  
Inspection Division, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC),  
Germantown, Maryland, made available a copy of an AEC  
Report dated December 19, 1974 regarding the Kerr-McGee,  
Nuclear Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma -  
Alleged Falsification of Quality Assurance Records.

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-1\*-

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE OKLAHOMA CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN OKLAHOMA CITY	DATE 2/18/75	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/28 - 2/11/75
TITLE OF CASE <u>CHANGED</u> UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED), aka Karen Gay Silkwood		REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]	b6 b7C TYPED BY jlw
		CHARACTER OF CASE  LMRDA; OOJ	

Title changed to include middle name of KAREN GAY SILKWOOD.

REFERENCES: Oklahoma City report of SA [REDACTED] dated 1/21/75.  
WFO report of SA [REDACTED] dated 2/5/75.  
Bureau telephone call to Oklahoma City, 2/10/75.

b6  
b7C

## ENCLOSURES

TO THE BUREAU

- P -  
Deleted Copy Sent [REDACTED]  
by Letter Dated 3-11-76, 5-10-76, 5-10-76  
Per FOIPA Request [REDACTED]

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are six copies of letter dated 1/20/75 to members of the OCAW Union at the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

## ADMINISTRATIVE

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
ENCLOSURE						159-4005-19	
6 - Bureau (159-4005) (Enc. - 6) 2 - USA, Oklahoma City (Enc. - 1) 2 - WFO (159-369) 2 - Oklahoma City (159-45)						14 FEB 24 1975	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						REC-23	
Agency	1cc ROM CRIM. DIV					EX-101	
Best Recd.							
1st Fwd.	2/26/75						
2nd Fwd.	OCD Hand delivered						
3rd Fwd.	57M						
Notations						DATA PROC	

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JCO BOX 041N\* DIA GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIA

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F. B. I.  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

DIVISION

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FEB 27 11 00 AM 1975

RECEIVED  
INTELLIGENCE DIV.

7/27

OC 159-45

Referenced WFO report enclosed three items to Oklahoma City (none of which were furnished to the Bureau) as follows:

1) Tape of conversations furnished by [redacted] and referred to in WFO report;

2) One copy of hearings before the Subcommittee on Research, Development and Radiation of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy; and

3) One copy of letter dated 1/20/75 to members of the OCAW Union at Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation from [redacted] and [redacted]

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Oklahoma City is disseminating only Item 3 enclosed by WFO in referenced WFO report. It is noted that the tape furnished by [redacted] had previously been made available by [redacted] on 11/21/74 to [redacted] Assistant Director, Division of Inspection, AEC, Germantown, Maryland. This tape is germane to captioned case, but pertains to the quality control investigation conducted by AEC at the Kerr McGee Cimarron Facility. The FBI at present does not have an ongoing investigation relative to this particular aspect of the SILKWOOD case.

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Item 2 enclosed by WFO pertains to a 1967 hearing in which [redacted] testified and his testimony has no relevance to captioned matter; therefore, it is not being disseminated.

This report contains, as requested by the Bureau, further details from the Chief Medical Examiner, [redacted] M.D., Oklahoma City, of the Board of Medicolegal Investigations regarding the effect of methaqualone on SILKWOOD at the time of her death.

WFO is maintaining captioned case in a pending status based on lead to maintain contact with [redacted] OCAW, to obtain a copy of the report of [redacted] pertaining to the rubber smudge on SILKWOOD's car. [redacted] also has indicated that he would make available to the FBI the rear bumper and fender portion of SILKWOOD's car, which have been examined by several experts retained by OCAW.

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b7C

OC 159-45 ▲

The Bureau has previously instructed that six copies of all LIEMs and reports in this matter be furnished to the Bureau.

LEADS

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Will, UACB, upon recontact with [ ] in the event that he offers to the FBI the bumper and fender from SILKWOOD's car for FBI Laboratory examination, advise [ ] the FBI will be unable to accept these items inasmuch as they had previously been examined by several non-FBI experts.

b6  
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OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will recontact USA, WDO, upon receipt of outstanding investigation from WFO.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 2 - USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: [REDACTED]

b6

b7C Office: OKLAHOMA CITY

Date: 2/18/75

Field Office File #: 159-45

Bureau File #: 159-4005

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT  
OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

## Synopsis:

A. J. CHAPMAN, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Board of Medicolegal Investigations, advised methaqualone is hypnotic, sleep inducing drug and the amount of this drug found in the system of KAREN G. SILKWOOD subsequent to her death would indicate that she was under the influence of the drug at the time of her death, and was drowsy or sleepy.

- P -

ENCLOSURE:

TO USA

Enclosed herewith is one copy of letter dated 1/20/75 to members of the OCAW Union at the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Details:



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 2/14/75

A. J. CHAPMAN, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Board of Medicolegal Investigations, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

In regard to the autopsy performed on KAREN GAY SILKWOOD, his office has previously furnished to the FBI and many other interested agencies or persons, an extensive report concerning the autopsy. As set out in this report, laboratory analysis of blood gastric contents and etc., indicated that found within the blood of Miss SILKWOOD was methaqualone in the amount of 0.35 milligrams (ml.)/100 ml. The average therapeutic amount is considered to be 0.20 ml./100 ml. and the average toxic amount is considered to be 0.50 ml./100 ml.

The amounts given above are averages and there have been numerous instances of persons dying from an overdose with less than 0.50 ml./100 ml. methaqualone in their blood at the time of death. Variables such as the deceased's physical condition and constitution at the time of death are all factors that have to be considered.

The drug methaqualone is a hypnotic drug which is prescribed as a sleeping pill. SILKWOOD's doctor, [redacted] [redacted], M.D., of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, did prescribe to Miss SILKWOOD methaqualone in the amount of 30 tablets of 300 ml. qualude (methaqualone). This drug was prescribed to SILKWOOD to assist her in sleeping with instructions that the drug be taken upon retiring.

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The drug definitely is a sleeping pill and this fact should have been definitely understood by SILKWOOD inasmuch as it was prescribed to her by her physician. It is evident that one should not operate machinery, drive an automobile or etc., after ingesting the drug and such instructions are usually so stated when the drug is prescribed.

If SILKWOOD was using the sleeping pill as a "downer" this would most clearly be an abuse of the drug.

Interviewed on 2/11/75 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] b6 Date dictated 2/12/75  
b7C

It is noted that methaqualone was also found in her liver in the amount of 1.08 ml./100 ml. and in her gastric (stomach) contents, there was 49.53 ml. of methaqualone (undissolved) present in the total gastric specimen received. This would indicate that SILKWOOD had sometime shortly prior to her death ingested methaqualone which would have continued to have entered into her system had she not died.

The effect of the methaqualone on SILKWOOD would be to induce drowsiness and to make her sleep. From the distribution of methaqualone in her system, it would be evident that she was under the influence of the drug at the time of her death.

There was a trace of ethyl alcohol (less than 0.02% w/v) in SILKWOOD's blood at the time of her death. It is rather doubtful that this minor amount of alcohol in her system would have had any magnifying effect on the methaqualone influence.

In his opinion, based on the autopsy findings, SILKWOOD at the time of her death was under the influence of the drug methaqualone and that the drug was working on her system at that time in the desired fashion; that is, the drug was inducing sleep on the person of SILKWOOD.

OC 159-45

On January 28, 1975, [redacted]  
[redacted] Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International  
Union (OCAW), Washington, D. C., made available a copy of  
a letter dated January 20, 1975, to the members of the OCAW  
Union at the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation in Crescent,  
Oklahoma, from [redacted] and [redacted]

b6  
b7c

UNITED STATES

MENT

# Memorandum

Mr. Gebhardt

DATE: 2/14/75

FROM : R. E. Long

SUBJECT: KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LMRDA; OOJ

b6  
b7C

- 1- Mr. Gebhardt
- 1- Mr. Long
- 1- Mr. Moore
- 1- Mr. Wannall
- (Attention [redacted])
- 1- [redacted]
- (Attention Legal Analysis Office)
- 1- [redacted]

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

This is to advise of the status of the ongoing LMRDA; OOJ investigation being conducted by our Oklahoma City office wherein [captioned individual, a former employee at the Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), manufacturers of plutonium at Crescent, Oklahoma, and a member of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) was killed in a one car accident on 11/13/74. Since this individual was reportedly engaged in union business at the time of her death and was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice requested a preliminary investigation be conducted by the FBI. This investigation was to determine if violations of Section 530, Title 29, USC (through the impairment of Silkwood's rights guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, USC) and Section 1505, Title 18, USC (in that Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before AEC) existed.

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This investigation continued to receive wide-spread publicity due primarily to allegations by officials of OCAW, who claim the results of an investigation conducted by an independent accident investigator, hired by the union, suggested that Silkwood's automobile was hit from behind by another vehicle causing her to run off the road resulting in her death. This accident, which occurred at 7:30 p.m., on 11/13/74, approximately seven miles south of Crescent, Oklahoma, was investigated by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), whose official report revealed no indication of foul play. A critical analysis of the report prepared by this independent investigator was made by the OHP and they thereafter advised this report does not alter the official conclusion that there was no evidence of foul play connected with Silkwood's accident. Investigation by the FBI to date has developed no information indicating the death of Silkwood was other than accidental.

REC-50

157-4005-20

FEB 19 1975

ELR:maw (7)

CONTINUED - OVER

57 MAR 4 1975

Deleted Copy Sent  
by Letter Dated 5-13-75  
Per FOIPA Request 11-13-75

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION 6030 J.E.H.

FEB 20 10 42 AM '75

FEB 18 5 41 PM '75

F.B.I.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

F.B.I.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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FEB 14 2 35 PM '75

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

REC'D

ACCT'G  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Long to Gebhardt Memo

An autopsy which was performed on Silkwood indicated the cause of her death to be multiple injuries and that she was under the influence of a hypnotic drug (methaqualone), at the time of her death. A trace of ethyl alcohol was also found in her system. This drug had been prescribed by her physician on 10/25/74, to assist her in sleeping and was to be taken upon retiring.

Investigation by the Oklahoma City office concerning the activities of Silkwood on 11/13/74, prior to the time of her death, revealed she had been involved in union-company negotiations, met with AEC representatives, and later that day attended a union meeting at Crescent. Two union members offered to drive her home from this meeting, since they felt she was under a severe emotional strain as a result of her union activities and having been involved in a contamination incident at KMC. Silkwood turned this offer down and left the meeting shortly after 7 p.m. and was involved in the fatal accident at 7:30.

The contamination incident referred to above allegedly occurred at the KMC on 11/5/74. Silkwood was sent to AEC at Los Alamos, New Mexico, for examination on 11/10-12/74. Investigation conducted by the AEC revealed that Silkwood was "probably" not contaminated in an accident or incident at KMC. There were indications that sometime after she had been tested in New Mexico and before the tests were analyzed, plutonium was added to her urine samples. By whom and how the plutonium was added was not known.

Allegations have also been made by the union that KMC was in violation of AEC health safety standards, that quality control documents regarding plutonium fuel rods fabricated at the KMC facility had been altered and that enriched uranium fuel pellets had been scattered around the plant grounds at KMC facility.

CONTINUED - OVER

Long to Gebhardt Memo

These matters have been investigated and reported by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and this information, as well as all information in possession of the FBI concerning captioned investigation, has been disseminated to the Internal Security Section of the Department. To date no request has been received from the Department for the FBI to conduct an AEC investigation.

The results of the investigation conducted to date relative to requested LMRDA; OOJ matters have been furnished to the Management and Labor Section, Criminal Division of the Department; as have all inquiries from the press.

On 2/12/75, Silkwood's former physician informed the Oklahoma City office that he had been contacted by representatives of the press and has been led to believe that the possibility exists the Silkwood incident would be made into a special for the CBS program *60 Minutes*. The Security Manager for KMC has also advised that he has heard a rumor to the effect that ABC intends to use the Silkwood case as a special on the *Reasoner Report*. These individuals were unable to furnish any information as to the date of those telecasts.

Our preliminary investigation in this <sup>OKLA.</sup> matter has been completed with the exception of the receipt of a report concerning the above accident from Stephen ~~Wadka~~, Legislative Assistant, OCAW. Mr. Wadka has advised this report is in preparation and he desires to furnish it to the FBI upon completion. WFO is following this matter closely.

ACTION: For information

ELR CMW  
ref N

50324  
020

REG / 10

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1253881-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 21

Page 10 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 24 ~ Referral/Direct - 159-4005 letter dated March 6 1975;  
Page 25 ~ Referral/Direct - 159-4005 letter dated March 6 1975 pg2/ GSA;  
Page 33 ~ Referral/Direct - 159-4005 letter dated Feb 21 1975/ NRC;  
Page 34 ~ Referral/Direct - 159-4005 letted dated Feb 20 1975 pg2/ NRC;  
Page 152 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 153 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 154 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 155 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 156 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 157 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 158 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 159 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;  
Page 168 ~ Referral/Direct - 159-4005 serial 38/ ODAG;  
Page 169 ~ Referral/Direct - 157-4005-serial 38/ ODAG;  
Page 187 ~ b6; b7C;  
Page 188 ~ Referral/Direct - 159-4005 serial 43/ ODAG;  
Page 212 ~ b6; b7C;  
Page 213 ~ b6; b7C;  
Page 214 ~ b6; b7C;  
Page 230 ~ b6; b7C;

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Plan. & Eval.	
Spec. Inv.	
Training	
Legal Coun.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director Sec'y	

NR 011 OC PLAIN

954 PM NITEL FEB 27, 1975 DAF

TO DIRECTOR 159-4005

FROM OKLAHOMA CITY 159-45 P

UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED) AKA, LMRDA; 00J; 00:  
OKLAHOMA CITY.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, THE OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES, A DAILY  
NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AT OKLAHOMA CITY, IN THE FEB 26, 1975,  
EDITION, PAGE 13, HAD AN ARTICLE INDICATING THAT THE REASONER  
REPORT HAD PREPARED A DOCUMENTARY ENTITLED "HOW DID KAREN SILKWOOD  
DIE?" AS A SEGMENT TO THE WEEKLY ABC PROGRAM, MARCH 1, 1975,  
AT 5:30 PM EDT. THE ARTICLE QUOTED A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED  
BY ABC NEWS WHICH INDICATES THAT ABC HAD UNCOVERED SEVERAL  
PREVIOUSLY UNDISCOVERED FLAWS IN THE OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY PATROL  
INVESTIGATION OF SILKWOOD'S FATAL WRECK.

THE ARTICLE INDICATED THAT THE OKLAHOMA CITY ABC AFFILIATE,  
KOCO TV, CHANNEL 5, WILL NOT AIR THE PROGRAM. THE STATION DOES  
NOT REGULARLY BROADCAST THE REASONER REPORT.

OKLAHOMA CITY WILL CONTINUE TO FURNISH BUREAU PERTINENT

INFORMATION REGARDING CAPTIONED CASE.

END Deleted Copy Sent [REDACTED]  
by Letter Dated 3-16-76 Per FOIPA Request

b6  
b7C

ACK-FIVE-PLS

58 MAR 4 1975

February 8, 1975  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This involves an investigation which has received nationwide publicity into the death of Karen G. Silkwood, former employee at Kerr McGee Corporation, manufacturers of plutonium at Crescent, Oklahoma, and active member of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW). Silkwood was killed in a one-car accident 11/13/74. It has been alleged by OCAW that Silkwood's automobile was hit from behind by another vehicle, causing her to run off the road, resulting in her death. Oklahoma Highway Patrol investigated accident and found no indication of foul play. Investigation by FBI has developed no information indicating her death was other than accidental.

Attached advises of an article appearing in an Oklahoma City daily newspaper, 2/26/75, indicating the "Reasoner Report" has prepared a documentary entitled, "How Did Karen Silkwood Die?", as a segment to the weekly ABC program, 3/1/75, at 5:30 p.m., EDT. Article quoted press release issued by ABC News which indicates ABC has uncovered several previously undiscovered flaws in Oklahoma Highway Patrol investigation into accident.

Oklahoma City following this matter closely.

ELR:cjl

1 - Mr. Moore

*can*  
*rel*  
*2/28/75*  
*REF*  
*21*  
*ms*

Airtel

1 - Mr. R. E. Gebhardt  
(Attn: [redacted])  
1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin

b6  
b7C

To: SAC, Oklahoma City (Enclosure)

2/27/75

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS; UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF  
PLUTONIUM RESULTING IN THE CONTAMINATION  
OF KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED), [redacted]  
AND [redacted] KERR-MC GEE CORPORATION  
(KMC), NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION, CIMARRON  
FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA  
AEA

b6  
b7C

Enclosed herewith is a copy of self-explanatory  
letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General dated 2/21/75.

According to the Department, if it can be established  
that one or more persons involved in the contamination of  
captioned individuals during November, 1974, had unauthorized  
possession of plutonium, a Special Nuclear Material, a  
violation of Section 2077, Title 42, U. S. Code could have  
occurred. In this regard, the Department requests that the  
Bureau conduct an investigation to determine whether such a  
violation has occurred.

Oklahoma City should immediately institute an Atomic  
Energy Act (AEA) investigation in line with Departmental  
instructions and closely coordinate any inquiries with your  
investigation captioned "Unsub; Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased);  
LNRDA; OOJ;" Oklahoma City file 159-45, Bureau file 159-4005.

Surep promptly.

1 - Oklahoma City (159-45)

① - 159-4005 (Unsub; Karen G. Silkwood, et al)

ADD [redacted]

(7)

NOTE:

Since 11/74, Oklahoma City has had ongoing investigation  
concerning labor difficulties experienced at KMC. This investi-  
gation along with results of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)  
investigation furnished to Department. Review of information by  
Department indicates possible violation of Section 2077, Title  
42, U. S. Code (AEA) exists and Department requests Bureau  
conduct AEA investigation. Oklahoma City being so advised.

DUPLICATE YELLOW

159-4005-  
NOT RECORDED  
45 MAR 2 1975

ORIGINAL FILED IN 117

1 - Mr. R. E. Gebhardt  
(Attn: )

Airtel 1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin

b6  
b7C

To: SAC, Oklahoma City (117-49) (Enclosure)

2/26/75

From: Director, FBI

UNSUB; SCATTERING OF URANIUM FUEL  
PELLETS, KERR MC GEE CORPORATION,  
CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA,  
12/26/74  
AEA

ReOCairtel with letterhead memorandum (LHM) enclosure  
dated 1/28/75.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of Departmental letter  
dated 2/14/75.

It is pointed out in enclosed Departmental letter that  
if it can be established that the person or persons who  
scattered captioned fuel pellets had unauthorized possession  
of the pellets at that time, a violation of Title 42, U. S. Code,  
Section 2077, could have occurred.

The Department requests that the FBI continue  
investigation in this matter and endeavor to identify the  
individual or individuals responsible. Accordingly, you should  
immediately institute investigation at captioned facility in an  
effort to identify unsub. In this regard, you should closely  
coordinate this investigation with investigation currently  
underway at Cimarron Facility entitled "Unsub; Karen G. Silkwood  
(Deceased); LMRDA; OOJ;" your file 159-45, as it may be directly  
connected with the labor difficulties Kerr-McGee has recently  
experienced.

Surep.

1 - Chicago (For information)  
① - 159- (Unsub; Karen G. Silkwood, et al)  
AJD:mjg (7)  
NOTE:

By airtels 12/29/74, and 1/28/75, with LHM enclosures,  
Oklahoma City furnished details concerning captioned matter. LHMs  
referred to the Department for decision as to FBI investigation  
under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. By letter  
of 2/14/75, Department requested continuance of investigation and  
Oklahoma City being so advised.

6 MAR 05 1975

159-  
DUPLICATE YELLOW

NOT RECORDED  
45 FEB 27 1975

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>WASHINGTON FIELD</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b>	DATE <b>3/6/75</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>2/28/75</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUBS; Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased)</b>		REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]	TYPED BY <b>lej</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>LMRDA;OOJ</b>	

REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 2/28/75,  
at Washington, D. C.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

[REDACTED] was advised that inasmuch as the fender and bumper from SILKWOOD's automobile has been examined by four examiners hired by the OCAW, it was highly unlikely the FBI Laboratory would at this time be interested in conducting an examination of the bumper and fender as there was no guarantee they had not been contaminated or altered in some fashion and they could not be considered as evidence, as of the time of the accident, at this time. [REDACTED] stated he realized this, but felt that such an examination might provide the FBI with a clue.

b6  
b7C

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:		
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES					
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> COPIES MADE						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE			
6- Bureau (159-4005) 3- Oklahoma City (159-45) (1- USA, Oklahoma City) 1- WFO (159-369) Deleted Copy Sent by Letter Dated 5-10-75 Per FOIA Request 1cc DT Destroyed						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW			
						1		22	REC-43
						MAR 10 1975			
						Notations			
Dissemination Record of Attached Report									
Agency	1cc ROM CRIM. DIV								
Request Recd.	1- [REDACTED]								
Date Fwd.	3/12/75								
How Fwd.	06 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] To [REDACTED]								
By	[REDACTED]								

b6  
b7C

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1- USA, Oklahoma City

Report of:

b6

b7C

Office: Washington, D. C.

Date:

3/6/75

Field Office File #:

159-369

Bureau File #: 159-4005

Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased)

Character:

LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF  
1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Synopsis:

Report of  regarding his examination of a  
section of the fender from SILKWOOD's automobile obtained  
and set forth.

b6

b7C

- RUC -

DETAILS: WASHINGTON, D. C.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/6/751

[redacted] Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW), 1126 16th Street, N.W., made available a copy of the report of E. L. MARTIN, Martin and Carlisle Chemical Laboratory, Incorporated, concerning an examination of a section of an automobile fender from SILKWOOD's automobile. MARTIN's report is set forth below.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] stated that the fender and bumper from SILKWOOD's automobile were still in the custody of [redacted] Accident Reconstruction Laboratory, Dallas, Texas, and would be made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for examination if requested.

b6  
b7C

Interviewed on 2/25/75 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 159-369

by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 2/28/75

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>WASHINGTON FIELD</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b>	DATE <b>2/28/75</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>2/11 - 18/75</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)</b>		REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]	b6 b7C TYPED <b>vif</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>LMRDA; OOF</b>	

REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 2/5/75,  
at Washington, D.C.

- P -

b6  
b7CADMINISTRATIVE DATA

An attempt was made to contact [REDACTED] on  
2/11/75, but she was in Oklahoma.

LEADSWASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

b6  
b7C AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will continue to maintain contact  
with [REDACTED] OCAW, to obtain a copy of the report of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] pertaining to the rubber smudge on SILKWOOD's car.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED <b>NFS H+</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW																
COPIES MADE:		<b>159-4005-23</b> <b>MAR 4 1975</b> <b>EX-103</b>																
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1- USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: [REDACTED]

b6

b7c

Office: Washington Field

Date: 2/28/75

Field Office File #: 159-369

Bureau File #: 159-4005

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)Character: LABOR - MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE  
ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

## Synopsis:

[REDACTED] National Public Radio, received a telephone call at her home on 1/25/75, in which the caller stated, "If you continue covering the KERR MC GEE piece you will be in trouble". [REDACTED] does not know if it was a local or long distance call, but is inclined to think the call was made by someone in her office.

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- P -

DETAILS:Deleted Copy Sent [REDACTED]  
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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/25/75

1

[redacted], National Public Radio, 2025 M Street, N.W., was interviewed at her office and she furnished the following information:

On Saturday, January 25, 1975, she received a telephone call at her home, [redacted] telephone number [redacted]. When she answered the phone call the caller, a man, stated, "If you continue covering the KERR MC GEE piece you will be in trouble." She immediately asked for the identity of the caller whereupon he hung up. The entire conversation did not last over 20 seconds.

b6  
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[redacted] had been in Oklahoma a week or two prior to the call gathering information on the KAREN SILKWOOD accident. In Oklahoma she had talked to several KERR MC GEE employees, members of the union at the company, and to reporters for the "Daily Oklahoman".

She did not recognize the voice and has no idea whether the call was a local or long distance call. She does not place any significance on the fact the call was made to her home because she has instructed her office to furnish her home phone number to individuals who call her office.

[redacted] is inclined to think the call was made by someone from her office although everyone she has asked if they made the call has denied making it. The reason she believes it may have been a co-worker is because several of them have made remarks, such as "watch out or you will be in an accident", or "you will be killed", since she has been working on the SILKWOOD story.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] was again in Oklahoma from February 9 through February 13, 1975. While in Oklahoma she was not threatened in any manner but she has noticed antagonism displayed on the part of KERR MC GEE employees toward her as they feel the news media is trying to close the plant with resulting job losses to them.

She does not feel that the KERR MC GEE Corporation would be involved in any threat against her although officials

Interviewed on 2/18/75 at Washington, D.C. File # WFO 159-369

by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 2/19/75

of the company have not been cooperative with her and on her recent trip to Oklahoma she feels she was under surveillance because several individuals she interviewed told her that company investigators contacted them shortly after her interviews.

[ ] attempted to solicit information concerning the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation but the interviewing agent was noncommittal. She was then asked what her own inquiry had developed. [ ] replied that she had been surprised to learn from interviews with SILKWOOD's friends [ ]

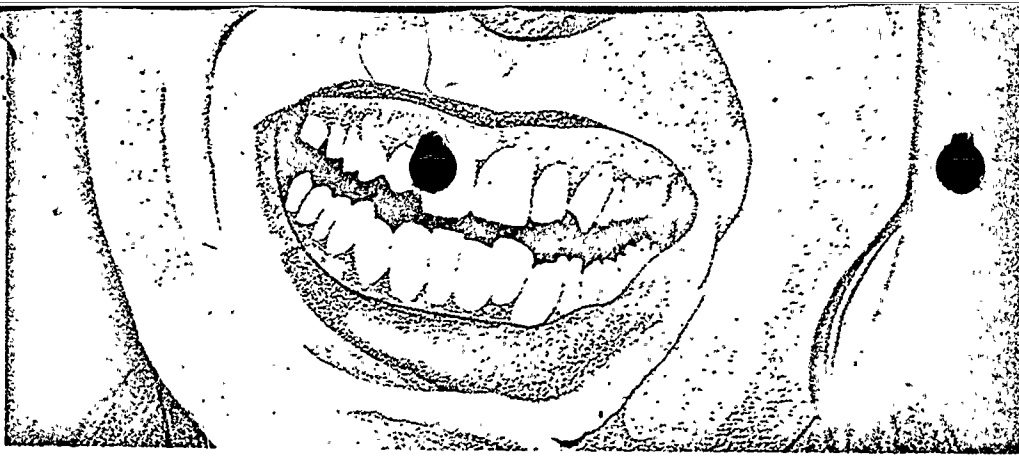
b6  
b7C

[ ] that she was a very mixed up individual, no saint and had signed away her three children with no visiting rights. [ ] also said that she had learned that SILKWOOD had told many KERR MC GEE employees that she was gathering information to be used against the company. [ ] stated that the attitude of many KERR MC GEE employees was that SILKWOOD was a "bitch" who was going to cost them their jobs.

[ ] stated that according to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol the dents on the left rear fender of SILKWOOD's car were caused at the time the car was removed from the culvert. She stated she had interviewed the operator of the wrecker who removed the car from the culvert and he denied he could have caused the dents.

b6  
b7C

[ ] stated that she had been told by another reporter, name undisclosed, that two current employees and a former employee of KERR MC GEE had been involved in smuggling plutonium out of the KERR MC GEE facility. She stated that various employees she had interviewed had stated it would be easy to smuggle plutonium out of the plant.



NEW TIMES, February 21, 1975, Volume 4, Number 4  
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# LETTERS

## Beware the hazards

I am amazed that Amanda Spake was able to complete and file her report about "South Carolina's Silent Death Factory" in the January 24 issue. Drive carefully, Amanda.

I am sure that with the high unemployment of the work force today, this is the psychologically right time to push construction on hazardous and possibly disastrous facilities like the Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant. Politicians of the Solomon Blatt and Edgar Brown type know that people welcome money—even if it's dirty. What is most frightening is that it will take a million or more people dying, billions of dollars damage and untold genetic damage to children yet to be born before such madness will be stopped.

Until that occurs, all I'm able to say is, "Thank God I live in Montana!"

*Chuck Peters  
Superior, Montana*

## Acquitted

Lizzie Borden took an axe  
And gave her parents forty whacks.  
For Ms. Kole's wrist, a tiny tap:  
Lizzie Borden beat the rap.  
("Women Who Murder," January 24)

*Dorothy G. Weatherby  
Columbia, Maryland*

*Editor's Note: Thanks for making the point for us. A full confession was in the works.*

With great interest I read your January 24 article pertaining to the preferential treatment women may receive in a court of law.

Something similar was mentioned in the 1813 copy of the *Constable's Guide*. A section of Chapter 5 deals with those "privileged from arrest." Married women were immune to the law, as were congressmen's servants and servicemen's companions. Any arrests made on Sunday were null and void. Of course, this was in New York State, prior to the pressure of urban sprawl.

*Mark Goldfarb  
Memphis, Tennessee*

## Our etherized state

Re: James S. Kunen's January 24  
Slow Down ("What will '75 be like?") about the etherized state of the world at present. He pats himself on the back for not even

giving "a damn who won the Super Bowl." A mean feat. I don't know when it was played, where it was played or who played in it. And I don't give a damn either!

*Charles Martin  
New London, Connecticut*

## An enlightening morning

This began as any other uneventful Wednesday. I arose, dressed and drove to the bus stop. Somehow, the "Limited" had left without me and I was forced to take the "Express," which, unfortunately, gets me to work too soon and is usually filled with the kinds of people who upset me at 7 a.m. My worst fears were realized. I found myself surrounded by business types reading 1974 federal income tax forms, business publications and, for variety, *Reader's Digest*.

Having resigned myself to a day of anger and depression, I rebelliously pulled out my January 10 edition of *New Times* and read Janet Maslin's article on Randy Newman. Many smiles and stifled chuckles later, I felt much better. I may even begin writing music again. And its only 7:30 a.m.!

Thank you *New Times*. Thank you Ms. Maslin. God love you, Randy Newman.

*Sam R. Culotta  
Glendora, California*

## Zeroing in

It's a damn shame for all the creative, talented, struggling females everywhere, particularly in the motion picture industry, that the only bankable female star is the Lucille Ball of the '70s, Barbra Streisand ("Collision on Rainbow Road," January 24). She has zero social consciousness, zero creativity, zero acting talent. Now with the onset of Jon the Ego leading her around by the tail, she appears to have zero intelligence.

*Jan Drexler  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Who gives a damn about Barbra Streisand and her hairdresser?

*B. Menninger  
Franconia, New Hampshire*

## Right on!

Florence King's Final Tribute just has to be the best thing you've published to date. Thanks.

*F. Hap Kimma  
Holmes, New York*

24

# The nuclear martyr

(and the strange case of the purloined plutonium papers)

By Roger Rapoport

When cars spin off the road in Logan County, Oklahoma, people usually think of George Martin's wrecker service first. Be it a tourist who has flipped on Interstate 35 or a farmer who has gone into a ditch along Highway 77, it's Martin who can be counted on to tow them out long after the competition has turned in for the night. So it was no accident when Guthrie police dispatched Martin to the scene of a possible fatal accident on Highway 74, a mile south of the Kerr-McGee Cimarron nuclear plant, about 7:30 on the night of October 13, 1974. George fell in behind the Guthrie Fire Department ambulance as other cars pulled onto the shoulder, opening a path for the emergency vehicles roaring past.

But about five and a half miles out of town a strange thing happened to Martin, something that had never occurred during any of the 1,200 accident calls he has handled over the past four years. Guthrie police radioed him to turn around and head home. Another wrecker would be taking the call. "I was closer to the accident than anyone else," says Martin. "It just didn't make any sense to turn me around when there was a report that someone was pinned in a car, particularly when I was running right with the ambulance. You just don't pull someone off a Code Two alert like that. I still can't figure out what was going on that night."

The victim was Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old laboratory technician and union leader at Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant. Investigators hired by her union, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), have since found dents indicating that her Honda Civic auto was forced off the road. Kerr-McGee and Oklahoma authorities insist that Silkwood, who was contesting the company's iron rule on several fronts last fall, drove to her own death. But many people with firsthand

knowledge of the wreck scene and other events surrounding the plutonium worker's last days are dubious about these and other official contentions.

What makes them suspicious—besides the unexplained dents in the rear of her car—is the fact that Karen Silkwood, at the time of her death, was on her way to meet New York *Times* reporter David Burnham, bearing documents that not only could have shut down the Kerr-McGee facility but could also have precip-

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**The publicity surrounding the death of Karen Silkwood seems destined to elevate the young plutonium worker to virtual sainthood—and to sink the nuclear industry still further into disrepute.**

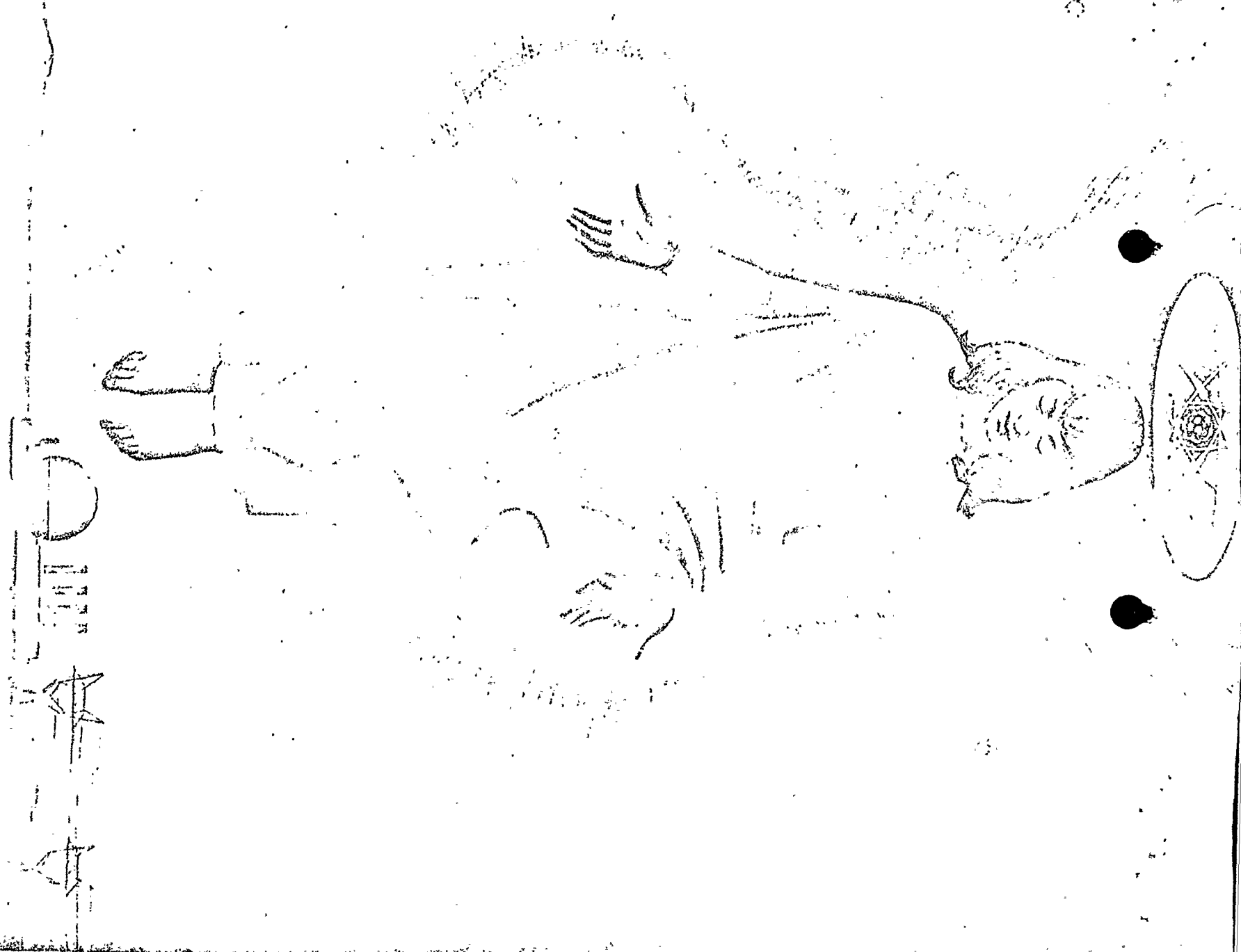
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itated investigations of nuclear plants across the country. As it turned out, the rendezvous was never kept and the documents all disappeared. The country was spared—for the time being—its first full-dress nuclear scandal, but was left instead with smouldering circumstantial evidence of a cover-up, a cover-up that has at the very least created the anti-nuclear forces' first martyr. The civil rights movement had its Goodmans, Schwerners and Chan-eyes, the anti-war protesters had their Kent State victims and now the environmental-

ists have their Karen Silkwood.

Though circumstantial, the evidence of foul play is almost overwhelming: wreckers turned back halfway, accident times fudged, incriminating documents disposed of, post-mortem materials tampered with. At least a week before her fatal accident, it seemed clear that someone was out to get the outspoken plutonium worker. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the new agency that has taken over regulatory functions of the Atomic Energy Commission) data indicates that sometime in early November Karen Silkwood's apartment in Edmond, a suburb of Oklahoma City, was entered by an individual who contaminated her kitchen, bedroom and bathroom with plutonium, the most carcinogenic substance known. Just one-millionth of a gram is sufficient to cause cancer in experimental animals, a fact that was apparently understood by the intruder who spread plutonium on her bologna, cheese, chicken, bed sheets, bathmat, makeup and toilet seat. This effort to poison Karen Silkwood involved roughly 300 micrograms of plutonium, which is sufficient to cause 300 human lung cancers if evenly distributed. The question of how someone managed to smuggle this plutonium out of the Kerr-McGee plant raises two frightening possibilities: that either security precautions designed to prevent the theft of plutonium—which is, after all, the stuff of nuclear bombs—are incredibly lax, or the radioactive material was taken from the plant, to be deposited in Silkwood's apartment, with the compliance of Kerr-McGee higher-ups. Judging from its performance to date, both are conceivable.

With its mines, mills and processing facilities spread across the West, Kerr-McGee, a major integrated fuels company, controls about 20 percent of America's uranium market. Determined to retain its leadership in the nuclear fuel industry, the company opened its Cimar-



on plutonium unit 1969 alongside another plant already making uranium fuel for light water reactors operating around the country. The facility, located 35 miles north of Oklahoma City near Crescent (pop. 1500), was Kerr-McGee's early entry into the fuel market for a second generation of plutonium "breeder" reactors that produce more fuel than they consume. Work at the new facility began with a contract to produce fuel for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) breeder test reactor at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.

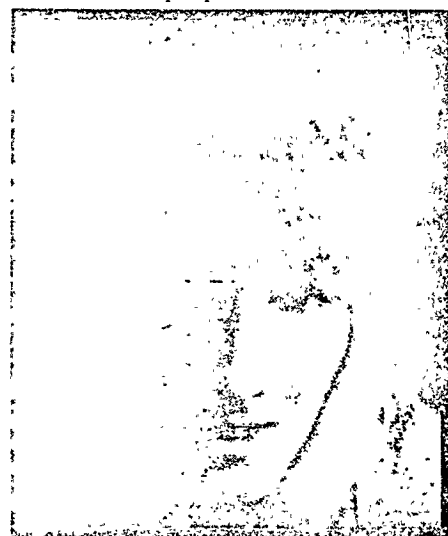
But from the start, Kerr-McGee management discovered that running a plutonium facility brings with it some very special problems. To begin with, the company ran into complex licensing restrictions because of its unfortunate decision to locate its new plant in the midst of a tornado alley. Since 1959, there have been 260 tornadoes in counties within a 50-mile radius of the plant, including eight in Logan County itself. A statistical analysis shows there is a one-in-ten chance of the plant being flattened by a tornado during a 65-year time span. The situation is so serious that operations must be restricted on days of severe weather forecasts to minimize plutonium dispersal in the event the plant is knocked down.

When actual tornado alerts are forecast, employees must hustle as much plutonium as possible into a weatherproof vault. Even if everything goes perfectly under the optimum four-hour warning system, there would still be enough plutonium particles left in the facility—if dispersed by a tornado—to force the evacuation and possible condemnation of roughly 100 square miles of central Oklahoma because plutonium has a half-life of 24,000 years.

Generally, the young production employees hired to start up the new facility failed to appreciate these and other plutonium risks. "During our on-the-job training, we were told a fraction of a microgram of plutonium was toxic to the human body," says Drew Stephens, who went to work as a lab analyst in 1969. "But no one said anything about cancer." Workers like Stephens saw themselves leading the way to what AEC Chairman Glenn T. Seaborg described as a "plutonium economy," in which this synthetic element would fuel half of America's energy needs, and breeders would generate 80,000 kilograms of plutonium annually. Confident of their industry's future, an easy camaraderie developed among the plutonium people, who looked forward to

moving up with Kerr-McGee. At lunch time, they joined in parking lot Frisbee games, and during coffee breaks, groups would slip out behind an adjacent uranium building to share a joint.

Their belief in the future of Seaborg's plutonium economy was renewed in 1971, when President Nixon announced a \$3-billion breeder program that would "move this nation into an era of plentiful, clean and safe atomic power." Some of the Kerr-McGee personnel were aware that environmental groups disagreed with Nixon's program. It was, after all, a fact that the nation's only existing commercial breeder, the Enrico Fermi reactor at Monroe, Michigan, had cost \$120 million, produced only \$303,000 worth of electricity and failed to generate any fuel. In 1966 the reactor core melted down and nearly blew up in an accident that University of Michigan scientists later estimated would have killed 133,000 people.



Karen Silkwood: 1946-1974

But this kind of nit-picking made little impact at Kerr-McGee, as the company bid successfully to supply 18,500 plutonium fuel pins for the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF), the latest experimental unit in the AEC's breeder program. By August 1972, when Karen Silkwood was hired to work in the plutonium plant's metallography lab, work on the Hanford, Washington, FFTF contract was getting under way. Supervisors were impressed with the way this energetic new employee took to her analytical work. Karen had come to Kerr-McGee from Duncan, Oklahoma, after divorcing her husband, Bill Meadows, a Mobil Oil pipeline supervisor, whom she had married at the age of 19 after one semester of college in Texas. Because Meadows had a better income and was remarrying, Silkwood reluctantly chose to give him custody of their three children, a decision that still troubled her as she began a new life at \$3.25 an hour

with Kerr-McGee.

Almost from the start, Karen began to have misgivings about her employers and colleagues. "Although she did a very good job," says one of her former supervisors, "Karen was upset when people took shortcuts that compromised the quality of our product." At the end of 1972, the union local went out on a ten-week strike, during which Karen's insight into Kerr-McGee was sharpened by Drew Stephens, by now a union militant. "Even then, as we walked the picket line, we didn't understand what we were up against," says Stephens. "One of the union leaders told us that plutonium caused cancer. I just laughed at him."

Because the company was successfully running scabs through the picket line, union members finally ratified a substandard contract that gave Kerr-McGee the right to regulate everything down to the OCAW bulletin board. When Karen returned to work, conditions seemed to have deteriorated inside the plant. Her worst fears were confirmed on March 5, 1973, when a bag filled with plutonium-contaminated waste caught fire, exposing seven workers to 400 times the weekly permissible limit for insoluble airborne plutonium. Decontamination of the two affected rooms took two weeks. In a follow-up report the AEC criticized the company for delays in obtaining and analyzing urine and fecal samples from the contaminated individuals as well as for failing to notify the company medical consultant until the day after the accident. It also pointed out that evaluation of radioactivity in the affected areas had been hampered by the fact that the continuous room-air monitor chart had been allowed to run out the day before the fire.

Infuriated by the AEC's criticism, Kerr-McGee executive W.J. Shelley wrote back to bawl out the government agency: "We believe that the attitude that a commercial operation must be equipped to completely research the cause and effect of any such incident is beyond the requirements of the regulations and sound business judgment."

While executives like Shelley continued making their sound business judgments at Kerr-McGee headquarters in Oklahoma City, Karen Silkwood watched helplessly as nine more of her fellow employees were contaminated in three other accidents that year. She worried about the high turnover that was putting relatively inexperienced young workers in dangerous working situations. Low morale and boredom helped spur several young employees to engage in a morbid race to see who could get the "hottest" the fastest. Unaware that plutonium causes cancer,

Roger Rapoport's last piece for New Times was Bates Street Crazy.



the workers deliberately built up their exposure levels. By talking to her fellow employees, Karen learned there were also problems in the uranium plant. There, resident rednecks harassed a black employee into quitting by putting uranium powder on his stocking cap. And another employee brought a pellet gun to work so that he could shoot uranium dioxide fuel pellets at his colleagues whenever he got bored.

In addition, Kerr-McGee management was troubled by rumors that many of its employees were smoking grass and that some were into popping downers like methaqualone. The prospect of stoned workers being required to stash plutonium in the vault during a tornado alert was hardly reassuring to management. Equally troubling to the officials was talk of bisexual, homosexual and lesbian employees populating the work force. The fear was that they might be especially vulnerable to blackmail by nuclear saboteurs hunting for fresh plutonium.

Plant security also troubled the AEC, particularly after March 1974, when a routine inventory showed more than 1.8 kilograms of plutonium unaccounted for. Since this exceeded the agency's limit of error, the plant was shut down for a week while employees resurveyed for this missing nuclear material—an amount sufficient to provide 36 billion lung cancer doses if dispersed and inhaled. In April, after Kerr-McGee succeeded in reducing its quantity of missing plutonium below the 1.8 kilogram standard, the company asked the AEC for a licensing amendment that would increase their allowable limit of error. The AEC agreed to some minor changes and promised to reconsider a higher limit in 1975 if the company could demonstrate that it had "made reasonable efforts and cannot meet the limits of error" specified by its license.

By now Karen Silkwood was openly challenging company production pressures that she felt were directly responsible for the missing plutonium, the contamination of her fellow employees and the deficient quality control standards. She watched nervously as one of her colleagues took a felt-point pen and deliberately touched up defects in photo negatives of fuel-pin weld-test samples. Karen pointed out these quality control problems to supervisory personnel, but management took no action.

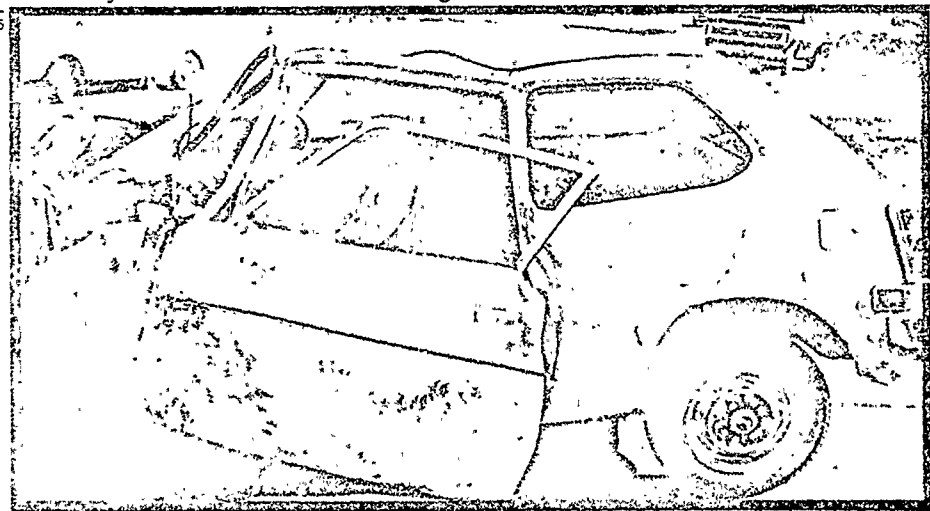
One of her former coworkers recalls, "They started hassling Karen over trivial matters, but she refused to stand for it. For example, when it was cold, Karen and some of the other employees took to wearing street clothes under their work clothes. One day supervision insisted that

they limit themselves to wearing only underwear beneath the coveralls. So Karen struck back the next day by showing up with nothing on beneath her work clothes. You could see everything right down to her nipples and pubic hair."

After Karen herself was accidentally exposed to airborne plutonium on July 31, she decided to take her case directly to the AEC. With the help of OCAW officials, Tony Mazzocchi and Steve Wodka, she was able to present a long list of alleged safety violations to agency officials at a Washington meeting in late September. The AEC promptly agreed to investigate Silkwood's charges, and Karen returned home to begin documenting her case for another meeting. Wodka was setting up with New York *Times* reporter David Burnham. Silkwood's determination to get the story out was redoubled on October 10, when two University of Minnesota scientists visiting

with rhesus monkeys and beagles who were also being monitored on the sophisticated radiation-counting equipment. When the three arrived home the following day, Karen was badly shaken. "She was convinced someone had poisoned her and that she was going to die," says Drew Stephens.

Shortly after seven the next night, Karen left a union session in Crescent and headed for an 8 p.m. Oklahoma City meeting with *Times* reporter, Burnham. According to an affidavit from one union member at the Crescent meeting, Silkwood walked out with a brown folder full of documents. These papers, which she had been taking from the plant, gave Karen the backup she needed to substantiate her allegations. At approximately 7:15 p.m., Karen's car went off the road and struck a cement culvert wingwall, killing her instantly. An OCAW accident analysis shows that the crash came after her



The death car. The license plate read "OKLAHOMA IS O.K."

the union corroborated rumors that plutonium was the most potent cancer-causing agent known. In between assembling documents for the New York *Times*, Karen, who was now a union committeewoman, worked overtime preparing for an upcoming round of contract talks with the company.

Plans for Silkwood's meeting with the New York *Times* were upset in early November after contamination was discovered in her apartment. Kerr-McGee decontamination crews, clad in space suits, began dumping Karen's belongings into 55-gallon drums that were carted off for disposal. Karen, her roommate Sherry Ellis (another Kerr-McGee employee) and boyfriend, Drew Stephens (who by now had quit the company), displayed enough plutonium exposure to qualify for an all-expense-paid trip to the AEC-funded Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. They arrived on November 11, and scientists promptly fit them into the schedule

Honda's rear bumper had been struck by a late-model car.

The wreck was discovered shortly before 7:30 p.m. by a trucker and two Kerr-McGee employees, Fred Sullivan and Law Godwin. While Godwin stayed with the wreck, Sullivan went to a nearby farmhouse where a call was made to the Guthrie police about 7:30 p.m. When the call came in, tow truck driver George Martin happened to be at the Guthrie police station; he was dispatched to the wreck immediately. Not until he was well on his way did the authorities turn Martin around and ask Ted Sebring, a Crescent Ford dealer, to tow the wreck instead.

When Sebring arrived at the accident scene, the Guthrie Fire Department ambulance crew was already prying Karen out of her Honda. According to Guthrie Police Patrolman William Clay, who reached the scene a little later: "There were papers scattered all around the wreck." For reasons still unclear, Sebring

the wreckage. His explanation for the delay seems thin indeed: "Her car was in a muddy creek," he says, "and I didn't want to get my hundred-dollar suit and fifty-dollar shoes dirty. So I asked the wrecker to radio my sales manager, Harold Smith, to come out so he could get in the creek and get her out." Smith says: "I arrived shortly after 8:00 p.m., about a half-hour after Ted. By that time they had gotten her out of the car and gone (to the hospital). We spent about 45 minutes digging out the car, towing it and locking it up in the garage."

After Karen was pronounced dead on arrival at a Guthrie hospital, authorities notified her parents in Nederland, Texas. Karen's father, Bill Silkwood, immediately phoned the Highway Patrol for details. "They kept asking me what was going on out there," says Mr. Silkwood. "They wanted to know what all the Kerr-McGee officials were doing out there around the wreck."

Late that night Drew Stephens and the OCAW's Steve Wodka (who had been in Oklahoma City with the *Times'* Burnham) learned of the crash, drove to Crescent and found the wrecked Honda out of reach in Sebring's garage. Peering through the locked door, all they could make out was the license plate on the rear of Karen's wrecked car, declaring "OKLAHOMA IS O.K." About 1 a.m. AEC officials got Ted Sebring out of bed, made him open his garage and found, after a careful survey, no radiation on the squashed vehicle.

The next morning, Stephens and Wodka picked up a boxful of Karen's belongings at Sebring's garage. Neither the brown folder nor any of the secret documents were inside.

The authorities, notified of the wreck by about 7:30 p.m., are claiming that they didn't learn about it until after 8:00—apparently to maintain a cover-up surrounding the disposal of Silkwood's documents. The fact that they turned around George Martin, the area's leading 24-hour wrecker, for a part-time wrecker driver who wasn't even willing to get his feet wet (thereby slowing down the towing process) makes sense only if someone didn't want Martin pulling out the wreck faster than the secret papers could be cleaned up.

Local police agencies, whose personnel include former Kerr-McGee employees, have done almost everything possible to shield the company from OCAW allegations of foul play. After the wreck, the spokesman for the local Highway Patrol, Kenneth Vanhoy, told the media that Karen might have crashed because she was tired from her recent "drive" to Los

sense until Vanhoy was reminded that Silkwood had flown to Los Alamos. The Highway Patrol also maintains that Martin's wrecker was turned around because Sebring was next up on a local wrecker rotation schedule. But Harold Smith, who helped Sebring tow the wreck, says: "We're not on the local wrecker rotation schedule. Sure we'll take occasional wrecks if it's in our neighborhood. But after 5:00 p.m. they are more apt to call Martin because we're home and he tows 24 hours." People in Logan County like George Martin and Harold Smith also suspect the official story that Silkwood's wreck lay undiscovered at the side of Highway 74 for roughly 45 minutes. Says Smith: "I know these roads pretty well, and I can't imagine someone going off Highway 74 at that point and remaining undiscovered for more than five minutes at the outside."

## One employee had a pellet gun so he could shoot uranium dioxide fuel pellets when he got bored

Almost immediately after the accident, state, federal and union investigators moved in to conduct an exhaustive investigation of what was left of Karen Silkwood and her Honda. Following Karen's autopsy on November 14, the state medical examiner shipped her viscera to Los Alamos for further radiological counting and returned the rest of the young woman's remains to her parents in Texas. Answers to crucial questions about Silkwood's contamination were contained in urine and fecal samples she had left behind. But this data was getting fouled up. Two of Karen's most seriously contaminated urine samples were undated. And one high sample was part of a mid-November shipment that was accidentally turned upside down. When this leaky urine cargo was discovered at the San Francisco airport (en route to a testing laboratory in Hanford), AEC officials were required to come out and supervise repacking of the leaking containers.

Union charges that Karen had been driven off the road immediately put the plant into the national media. The company security office began administering lie detector tests to determine which employees were talking with reporters. Nine suspect employees, including the

to warehouse duty, where even a trip to the bathroom required a security escort. In January, six of these people were fired for smoking marijuana and such other offenses as disloyalty to Kerr-McGee. Also canned was Karen's former roommate, Sherry Ellis, who had been caught dozing on employee time cards.

By this time AEC data was in, showing that Karen had definitely ingested some plutonium and that someone had deliberately contaminated her urine samples to make them read abnormally high. Although the identity of the person who contaminated Karen Silkwood's bologna and the rest of her apartment remains unknown, it is not difficult to fathom a motive for the act; a number of Kerr-McGee employees as well as company officials took a dim view of Karen's determination to turn them in. It is far from implausible that the contamination of her apartment was the work of someone trying to scare her out of talking to the *New York Times*. As a matter of fact, her exposure to plutonium did succeed in frightening Karen, disrupting her life and messing up her original plans for a meeting with the *Times*. And, regardless of whether the fatal car crash was, in fact, a case of murder, it is clear that people at Kerr-McGee were sufficiently knowledgeable about her activities to be on the scene and cleaning up the vital documents within minutes of her death.

Some officials have floated the theory that Karen poisoned herself in order to strengthen her case against the company. But people who knew her disagree. The OCAW's Steve Wodka says: "After she found out she had been contaminated, she saved everything right down to her Kleenex for fear that disposing of it might inadvertently contaminate someone else. She was having her period at the time and even went so far as asking officials if she should save her tampons for appropriate radioactive disposal. No one in that plant was more afraid of plutonium than Karen Silkwood. She would have never contaminated herself. Never."

Although multiple federal investigations have begun into the case, there is no telling when the public will learn who contaminated her bologna, why police officials have obscured the time they responded to her wreck and who disposed of the secret documents she was carrying that night. But even if the truth of this case is never fully established, Karen Silkwood's place as the patron saint of the anti-nuclear movement seems assured. As one of her closest friends observed, "Karen could end up being to the nuclear industry what John Dean was to Watergate." ●

F B I

Date: 3/11/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

A I R T E L

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)  
FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)  
RE: UNSUBS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau 6 copies of a LHM dated and captioned as above. Two copies LHM being furnished to USA, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Enclosed LHM sets forth self-explanatory article appearing in the 2/21/75 edition of New Times relative to the captioned case. LHM being submitted for completion of Bufiles.

2-Bureau (Enc. 6)  
2-Oklahoma City  
LJO/sal

(4)  
Deleted Copy Sent \_\_\_\_\_ b6  
by Letter Dated 5-10-76 b7C  
Per FOIPA Request Re K. Silkwood EX-110

REC-6

159-4005-24  
MAR 13 1975

1-LEA 2cc ROM CRIM. DIV., by 0-6D

1-NKC  
1-DOE/100 loc LABOR DEPT, TICKLER

3/13/75

222

MAR 24 1975

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 - 455-574



*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

March 11, 1975

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND  
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION  
OF JUSTICE

The Volume 4, Number 4 edition of the New Times,  
February 21, 1975, on Pages 26-31, contained an article  
entitled, "The Nuclear Martyr." The article is as follows:

This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

159-4605-24

- 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams  
 1 - Mr. R. E. Gebhardt  
 1 - (Attn:  )  
 1 - Legal Counsel  
 (Route through for review)

b6  
 b7C

March 13, 1975

- 1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall  
 1 - Mr. F. S. Putman  
 1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin

Mr. Victor L. Lowe  
 Director  
 General Government Division  
 United States General Accounting Office  
 Washington, D. C. 20543

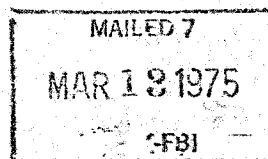
Dear Mr. Lowe:

Reference is made to your letter dated March 6, 1975, which advised that the Senate Committee on Government Operations had requested the General Accounting Office to inquire into certain aspects of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) investigations into the death of Karen G. Silkwood, an employee of the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Fuel Corporation, Crescent, Oklahoma, and her allegations relating to safety considerations and quality controls at Kerr-McGee.

This is to advise you the FBI presently has ongoing investigations involving certain allegations and occurrences involving Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, which have the potential for criminal prosecutions.

This Bureau has made it a practice in the past to refrain from discussing pending investigations and I intend to insure that this policy will continue in the future. Therefore, any request for information concerning these investigations should properly be addressed to Mr. John C. Keeney, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comp. Svcs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_



See NOTE Page Two.

51 APR 3 1975

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ORIGINAL FILED IN  
 117-2701-61

Mr. Victor L. Lowe

For your information, I have taken the liberty of referring referenced letter along with a copy of this letter to the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

NOTE:

See memorandum F. S. Putman to Mr. W. R. Wannall, dated 3/10/75, captioned "Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, Atomic Energy Act," prepared by AJD:mjg.

Mr. W. R. Wannall

A. B. Fulton

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams

1 - Mr. D. W. Moore

1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz (Attn: [REDACTED])

3/3/75

2 - Mr. R. E. Gebhardt

(1 - [REDACTED])

1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall

1 - Mr. H. A. Boynton, Jr.

INQUIRY FROM GENERAL ACCOUNTING 1 - Mr. A. B. Fulton

OFFICE (GAO) CONCERNING CASE OF 1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin

UNSUB; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED); 1 - Mr. R. P. Finzel

LMRDA; OOJ

b6  
b7C

10-1

On or about 2/17/75, GAO [REDACTED] telephonically contacted Supervisor [REDACTED] INTD. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are in frequent contact with respect to GAO's current audit of FBI operations. [REDACTED] advised that GAO [REDACTED] was conducting an inquiry at the request of the Senate Government Operations Committee into the case of Karen Silkwood, a deceased employee of the Kerr-McGee Corporation, Crescent, Oklahoma, who allegedly died under mysterious circumstances in a possible labor-management dispute. [REDACTED] further advised that [REDACTED] was anxious to speak to appropriate FBIHQ case supervisors concerning this case and to determine the adequacy of cooperation between the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and the FBI.

b6  
b7C

After ascertaining from Supervisor [REDACTED] General Investigative Division, that the FBI had an ongoing investigation in this case and that the case itself was the subject of press and congressional interest, SA [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] that any GAO inquiry or questions with respect to this case should be directed to [REDACTED] Attorney, Department of Justice, who was handling the case for the Department.

b6  
b7C

On 2/27/75, GAO Auditor [REDACTED] telephonically contacted FBI Liaison Section, INTD, to advise that he had interviewed [REDACTED] of the Department of Justice regarding this matter and still desired to interview FBI supervisory personnel concerning the Silkwood case. [REDACTED] further stated he desired to contact the FBI Special Agents who actually conducted the field investigation to ascertain their comments concerning cooperation of ERDA and NRC personnel with the FBI during the course of the investigation. [REDACTED] also wishes to discuss with appropriate FBIHQ personnel what action the FBI plans in response to a 2/20/75 letter from NRC requesting an investigation into possible harassment of Kerr-McGee employees by the officials of that company.

b6  
b7C

62-56866

1- 159-4005 Unsub; Karen Silkwood NOT RECORDED

51 MAR 24 1975

191 MAR 21 1975

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall

Re: Inquiry From General Accounting Office (GAO) Concerning Case of Unsub;

Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased); LMRDA; OOJ

62-56866

On the afternoon of 2/27/75, Supervisor [ ] personally telephoned GAO Auditor [ ] and advised him that any request for interviews such as the above should be directed in writing to FBI Director Clarence Kelley over the signature of a senior official of the General Accounting Office, preferably the Comptroller General. [ ] was also advised that the FBI did not customarily grant interviews of FBIHQ supervisory personnel or field Agents in matters under pending investigation.

b6  
b7C

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

*Director's Notation:*

*This is a very proper*

*ANSWER —*

*H*



1 - Mr. R. E. Gebhardt

(Attn: [redacted])

b6  
b7C

1 - Mr. D. W. Moore

1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall

March 4, 1975

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. F. S. Putman

1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin

159-4005-  
KERR-MC GEE NUCLEAR CORPORATION,  
CINARRON FACILITY,  
CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA  
ATOMIC ENERGY ACT

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter dated February 20, 1975, from Mr. L. V. Gossick, Acting Executive Director for Operations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Washington, D. C., along with the enclosures thereto.

As noted in enclosed letter, the NRC advised that the allegations made by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) had been discussed with representatives of the Department of Justice. NRC advised that based upon these discussions, it was concluded that the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation was in possible violation of Title 18, U. S. Code (USC), Sections 1505, 1510 and 10 CFR Section 19.16 (c). These possible violations should be investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) under the criminal provisions of Title 42, USC, Section 2273 (Atomic Energy Act).

By way of background, it is noted that by letter dated November 20, 1974, from the Assistant Attorney General (AAG), Criminal Division, captioned "Death of Ms. Karen C. Silkwood," the Department requested that the Bureau conduct a preliminary investigation into the matters alleged in a "New York Times" newspaper article of November 19, 1974, and in the telegram of [redacted], Legislative Director of the OCAW. Department noted that these allegations, if substantiated, may constitute violations of Title 29, USC, Sections 530 and 411 and Title 18, USC, Section 1505.

b6  
b7C

① 159-4005 (Unsub; Karen G. Silkwood, etc.)

1 - 117- (Unsubs; Unauthorized Possession of Plutonium, etc.)

1 - 117- (Unsub; Scattering of Uranium Fuel Pellets, etc.)

AJD:mjg  
(11)

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE

DUPLICATE YELLOW

57 MAR 19 1975

ORIGINAL FILED IN 159-4005-1

Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Justice

This Bureau presently has an ongoing investigation in this regard captioned "Unknown Subjects; Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased); Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act; Obstruction of Justice" and reports in this investigation have been furnished to your Division.

Additionally, by letter captioned "Scattering of Uranium Fuel Pellets, Kerr-McGee Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, Atomic Energy Act," dated February 14, 1975, the AAG, Criminal Division, noted that if it could be established that the person or persons who scattered uranium pellets around the plant grounds of this facility had unauthorized possession of these pellets, a violation of Title 42, USC, Section 2077 could have occurred. The Bureau was requested to continue an investigation with the view of identifying the individual or individuals responsible for this incident and this investigation is ongoing at this time.

In addition, by letter captioned "Plutonium Contamination of Kerr-McGee Employees. Karen G. Silkwood, now deceased, and [redacted] and [redacted] a Friend of Karen G. Silkwood, in November of 1974, Crescent, Oklahoma, Atomic Energy Act," dated February 21, 1975, the AAG, Criminal Division, advised that if it could be established that one or more persons involved in the contamination of these individuals had unauthorized possession of plutonium, a Special Nuclear Material, a violation of Title 42, USC, Section 2077 could have occurred. The Department requested that the Bureau conduct an investigation in this regard to determine whether such a violation is involved and this investigation is presently under way.

b6  
b7C

The Department is requested to review the enclosed letter from NRC and its enclosures and advise if the investigations currently under way by this Bureau, as outlined above, are a sufficient response to recent occurrences at the Kerr-McGee Corporation or if additional investigations should be instituted under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act or Title 18, USC, Sections 1505 and 1510.

Enclosures (9)

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

NOTE:

By letter dated 2/20/75, NRC requested FBI investigation concerning allegations made by OCAV under the criminal provisions of Title 42, USC, Section 2273. Bureau presently has three investigations under way concerning occurrences at Kerr-McGee facility and Department being requested to advise if present investigation sufficient or if additional investigation warranted.

3/7/75

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI                      ATTN: INTD  
FROM: SAC, WFO (174- ) (RUC)

THREAT TO BOMB PHILADELPHIA,  
PENNSYLVANIA, 3/6/75  
BT  
(OO:PH)

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of letter with envelope. Enclosed for Philadelphia, Oklahoma City, and Las Vegas are three copies each of letter with envelope. Original letter and envelope are being sent to FBI Laboratory by separate communication for appropriate examination.

On 3/7/75, [redacted] [redacted]  
[redacted] ex-FBI Agent and presently Security Officer, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. (WDC), provided WFO with original letter and its envelope allegedly from "the family Weather Underground."

ORIGINAL FILED IN

b6  
b7c

KAREN O. SILKWOOD, now deceased, is subject of WFO 159-369, Oklahoma City file 159-45, and Bufile 159-4005.

LEADS

Philadelphia, Oklahoma City and Las Vegas conduct appropriate investigation.

- 4- Bureau (Enc. 4)  
3- Las Vegas (Enc. 3)  
3- Oklahoma City (Enc. 3)  
2- Philadelphia (Enc. 3)

March 12, 1975

REC-35

159-41005-25

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted] Ohio 44128

b6  
b7C

Dear [Redacted]:

Your letter of March 6th has been received. The FBI has conducted an intensive investigation regarding the death of Karen Silkwood and the results of our inquiries have been furnished to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U. S. Department of Justice, for a determination as to what further action may be warranted.

Sincerely yours,  
C. M. Kelley  
C. M. Kelley  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

MAILED 7  
MAR 13 1975  
FBI

- 1 - Cleveland - Enclosure
- 1 - Oklahoma City - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt - Enclosure  
Attention [Redacted]

b6  
b7C

NOTE: Response coordinated with Division 6 which advised that an investigation has been conducted concerning the death of Karen Silkwood, a representative of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union. Miss Silkwood, at the time of her death in an automobile accident, was scheduled to testify during an Atomic Energy Commission investigation. Investigation conducted to date has been sent to the Department of Justice for consideration. Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. \_\_\_\_\_
- Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_
- Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_
- Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

WPH:nlm (6)

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

March 6, 1975

b6  
b7C

W

Ohio 44128

Dear Mr. Director,

KAREN Silkwood

Is the FBI investigating the death of  
KAREN Silkwood, who died November 13, 1974,  
in Oklahoma?

Please reply at your earliest convenience.

Thank you - EX-10/59-4005-25

REC-35

MAR 14 1975

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)  
Washington, D.C.  
% The Director

Sincerely  
great  
CORRESPONDENCE

b6  
b7C

4-15-75

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. R. Wannall *WRW/jml*

FROM : F. S. Putman

- 1 - Mr. J. E. Adams
- 1 - Mr. R. E. Gebhardt
- (Attn: [redacted])
- DATE: 3/28/75
- 1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. F. S. Putman
- 1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin

b6  
b7C

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: KERR-MC GEE NUCLEAR CORPORATION,  
CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

## SYNOPSIS:

This weekly memorandum sets forth results of investigation conducted concerning Bureau Specials currently under way at captioned facility.

## ACTION:

None. For information.

## DETAILS:

Concerning case entitled "Unsub; Scattering of Uranium Fuel Pellets, Kerr-McGee Corporation (KMC), Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, 12/16/74, AEA," Bufile 117-2696, Oklahoma City file 117-49, investigative report submitted under date 3/19/75, which has been disseminated by FBIHQ to Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Department. Instant report sets forth investigation conducted to date, much of which has previously been incorporated in prior memoranda. [redacted] white male, date of birth [redacted] a former employee of KMC developed as logical suspect. One week prior to scattering incident, [redacted] remarked in presence of other employees regarding stirring up excitement at uranium plant. [redacted] admitted making a pellet gun two and one half to three years ago at facility, but denied using gun in scattering incident.

AJD:mjg  
(6)

CONTINUED - OV [redacted]

Deleted Copy Sent [redacted]  
by Letter Dated 5-16-76 [redacted]  
Per FOIPA Request [redacted]

b6  
b7C

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall  
Re: Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation,  
Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma

Investigation outstanding, suspect interview with [REDACTED] being held in abeyance until additional detailed information developed regarding contamination incident which is the subject of separate current Bureau Special investigation, as [REDACTED] will be interviewed in this regard also.

b6  
b7C

✓ With regards to case entitled "Unsubs; Unauthorized Possession of Plutonium Resulting in the Contamination of Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased), [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; KMC, Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, AEA," Bufile 117-2702, Oklahoma City file 117-51, initial report typed and presently in transit to FBIHQ.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Investigation has determined that [REDACTED]



Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall  
Re: Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation,  
Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma

Reports submitted by NRC concerning their investigation into this matter analyzed by Oklahoma City and additional data requested of NRC presently being awaited.

Following compilation of all available detailed and scientific information, Oklahoma City anticipates suspect interview with [redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted].

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In connection with case entitled "Unsubs; Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased), LMRDA; OOJ," Bufile 159-4005, Oklahoma City file 159-45 (a GID matter in which all investigation completed), conference being held by Oklahoma City with United States Attorney (USA), Western District of Oklahoma, 3/28/75, and copies of investigative reports in Atomic Energy Act (AEA) related cases furnished to USA due to his interest in this case. On 3/26/75, National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Tulsa, Oklahoma, advised Oklahoma City regarding two cases of possible violations of National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) concerning [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom were active in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Union as committeemen at KMC. In recent past, [redacted] was reassigned to another job at facility and [redacted] discharged by KMC. NLRB advised that their investigation slanted toward civil action against KMC if violations substantiated. NLRB advised previously in contact with Departmental attorney, Criminal Division, General Crimes Section, who indicated that possible criminal violations present under Obstruction of Justice and/or AEA concerning [redacted] and [redacted].

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It is noted to date no receipt forthcoming from Department for Bureau to conduct Obstruction of Justice or AEA investigation regarding [redacted] or [redacted]. As previously set forth in memoranda, by letter 3/4/75, Assistant Attorney General (AAG), Criminal Division, was furnished all information available from NRC which had been received originally from OCAW pertaining to possible violations occurring at KMC. In this letter, Department

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Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall  
Re: Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation,  
Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma

was asked to determine if investigations currently under way by this Bureau were a sufficient response to occurrences at KMC or if additional investigation should be instituted under provisions of the AEA or Title 18, U. S. Code, Sections 1505 and 1510. To date, no response to this letter has been received.

A handwritten signature, likely "JMA", in cursive script.

March 5, 1975

FBI

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RECEIVED

MAR 10 12 58 PM '75

DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
MAIL ROOM  
OIGM

Ohio 44128

7/16

Dear Mr. Attorney General :

KAREN Silkwood

Please advise me as to the current status and findings regarding the death of Karen Silkwood, mentioned in the enclosed photo-copy of a New York Times article (Dec. 19, 1974) "A.E.C. studies 3 accidents at one plant"

Please do not ignore this letter as I do intend to pursue the matter.

REC-23

159-4005-26

3 MAR 13 1975

CORRESPONDENCE

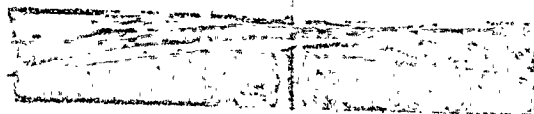
Thank you,

Sincerely,

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b7C

ENCLOSURE  
RECEIVED ATTORNEY  
NO ACK - PREVIOUS LETTER

MAR 28 1975  
RECEIVED 3/12/75



159-4005-26

ENCLOSURE

has begins at

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per strong, super light plastic aviator frames, with  
ound interchangeable lenses: yellow for grey days,  
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## A.E.C. Studies 3 Accidents at One Plant

By DAVID BURNHAM

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—The Atomic Energy Commission is investigating three incidents involving plutonium and uranium, that occurred at an Oklahoma nuclear facility on Monday.

As the commission dispatched a three-man team of investigators, the Kerr-McGee Corporation—operator of the nuclear facility near Crescent, Okla.—issued a brief statement saying it "has evidence that some of the incidents have been contrived."

The statement said further that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been informed of the allegations and that the plant in question would suspend operations "until corrective action has been taken."

The Kerr-McGee nuclear facility is already the subject of three earlier A.E.C. investigations. Two of them involve allegations that the corporation manufactured faulty fuel rods, falsified inspection records and failed to take necessary precautions to protect the health of plant employees.

The third A.E.C. investigation centers on the plutonium contamination of Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old laboratory technician who died in an automobile crash last month on her way to meet a reporter of The New York Times and a legislative assistant of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.

The union's Washington representative, Anthony Mazzocchi, said in a telegram sent to Attorney General William B.

Saxbe on Nov. 17 that a private investigator hired by the union had discovered evidence suggesting that Miss Silkwood's death might not have been an accident. The F.B.I. is looking into Miss Silkwood's death.

The latest series of incidents at the Kerr-McGee facility began early Monday when four employees were exposed to "airborne plutonium concentrations above the A.E.C.'s permissible limits," the commission said.

The A.E.C. said the contamination of the four workers occurred when a leak developed in the processing equipment permitting "about a gallon of a liquid containing plutonium to drain on the floor."

Plutonium is considered one of the most toxic substances known to man. Minute amounts of it have caused a high incidence of cancer in animals in a number of different experiments.

Shortly after the four workers were exposed to plutonium, another Kerr-McGee employee received plutonium contamination on the skin of her hand when she handled a package of scrap plutonium.

Sometime Monday evening, the A.E.C. said, about a dozen uranium pellets measuring three inches in diameter and an inch in length were found outside the uranium processing area but inside the fence surrounding the Kerr-McGee plant.

The commission said that because the pellets were only slightly enriched with uranium-239, they posed no threat to either employees or the public.

A spokesman for Kerr-McGee said the nuclear facility had about 300 employees and would take two or three days to close down in an orderly fashion. The spokesman declined to make any further comment or answer any question about why the company had decided to close the plant.

### Paris Oppositor Loses Heavily in Censure Move

PARIS, Dec. 18 (UPI) — The National Assembly early today rejected a motion of censure filed by the Socialist-led Opposition against the Government of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The motion denouncing the government's domestic, economic and social policies won only 183 of 490 votes, 63 short of the necessary majority.

The leftist Opposition controls only 180 votes in the 492-seat chamber. A censure

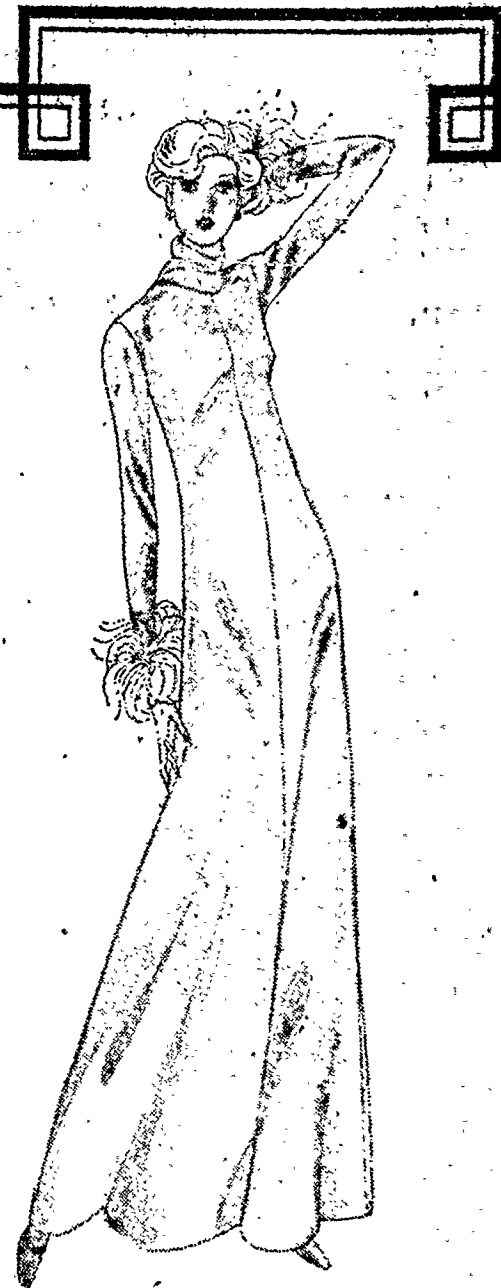
motion must be carried by an absolute majority to overthrow a cabinet.

The motion was introduced by the Socialist leader, François Mitterrand, who lost the presidential election to Mr. Giscard d'Estaing last May.

### More Babies Get 'Bashed'

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)

The annual number of reported cases of "baby bashing" by parents increased from four in 1970 to 30 as of September, 1974, says Dr. C. Irwin, a psychiatrist at the Johannesburg Children's Hospital.



159-4005-26



CULVERT FROM  
SOUTH BANK

159-4005-6

29  
12/3/74

View South (towards  
culvert) <sup>from</sup> SH 74

AND SECTION LINE  
ROAD

159-4005-6

28  
12/3/74



F B I

Date: 3/17/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)  
 FROM SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)  
 SUBJECT UNSUBS;  
 Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)  
 LMRDA; OOJ  
 OO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau, 3/11/75.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are six copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy LHM is being furnished USA, Oklahoma City.

USA, Oklahoma City, only being furnished one copy of enclosed LHM inasmuch as contents of LHM are limited to reproduction of newspaper article.

Enclosed LHM sets forth self-explanatory article appearing in 3/27/75 edition of the Rolling Stone relative to captioned case. LHM being submitted for completion of Bureau files.

Deleted Copy Sent

Letter Dated 5-10-76

per FOIPA Request

b6

b7C

REC-11

EX-110

2cc ROM CRIM. DIV., by 0-6D  
 1cc LABOR DESK, TICKLER  
 ELR:Mac

MAR 28 1975

MAR 20 1975

② - Bureau (Enc. 6)  
 2 - Oklahoma City  
 LJO:dah  
 (4)

ENCLOSURE

Approved: 5 APR 0 1 1975

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL AND COPY OF ENCL FILED IN



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125  
March 17, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 159-45

**Unknown Subjects;  
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE  
ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

The March 27, 1975, issue, number 183, of the Rolling Stone, a by-weekly newspaper published at San Francisco, California, contained an article entitled "The Nuclear Industry's Terrible Power and How ~~it~~ Silenced Karen Silkwood," author Howard Kohn. The article is as follows:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

151-45-77  
ENCLOSURE

Dear Gathman,

The U.S. Government set off  
an underground nuclear device testing on  
Mar. 1, 1975 in Yucca Flats, New. Shock  
waves from the blast destroyed one of our  
headquarters near your testing area. Now  
the U.S. Government must paid for the  
destruction, time, cost, and the lives we spent  
on this Project Fireball.

Project Fireball will  
begin on Mar. 6, 1975 at 1300 hrs. and it will be ann-  
ounced to the people. Target area will Phila. &  
Pennsylvania, we have weapon-grade material  
A-Bomb castings for the project. One will  
be used as an example, the other to sell.

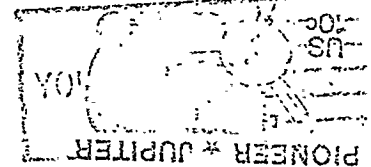
Yours Truly,

Ther. Fambin

Weather Underground

P.S. Karen G. Silkwood as, at Kerns-Wagner Corp. a  
Cincinnati River plant, ~~she~~ knows  
all about her work.

See  
info on tel  
to Dept. of State  
3/7/75  
1.59.405 (unrecorded)



United States Arms Control  
and Disarmament Agency  
Department of State Building  
Washington, D.C. 20451

# THE NEDERLAND INDUSTRY'S TERRIBLE POWER AND HOW IT CHANGED OKLAHOMA

By Howard Kohn  
Illustrations by [illegible]

She was 29, a slight woman, dark hair pushing past slender shoulders, haunting beauty nurtured in a small-child look. She was alone that chilly autumn night, driving her tiny three-door Honda through long stretches of prairie. The Oklahoma fields lay flattened under the crude brushworks of the wind, the grass unable to snap back to attention. Every few miles a big-boned rabbit, mangled and broken, littered the roadside. A couple years back she had fled on a round of angry letters when sheep ranchers staged rabbit roundups, calling to death the furry army that had sprung up on the prairie. She was like that, poking her opinions where they weren't welcome.

In the early evening darkness of Wednesday, November 13th, 1974, Karen Silkwood was on an environmental mission of another sort. On the seat beside her lay a manila folder with apparent proof that records were being falsified at the plutonium plant where she worked. Waiting at a Holiday Inn 30 miles away were a union official and a *New York Times* reporter who had just flown from Washington D.C. to Oklahoma City to meet with her.

They waited nearly an hour. Then they picked up the phone.

Karen Silkwood's body had already been found in a small rivulet along Highway 74 where rabbits often come to drink. Her car had swerved left across the highway, skittered about 170 feet along an embankment, smashed head-on into a culvert wingwall, lurching through the air and caromed off another culvert wall, coming to rest in the muddy stream.

Her death was ruled an accident: the police decided she was asleep at the wheel. But the union official was not satisfied. The manila folder was missing. And a private investigator discovered two fresh dents in the rear of her car: telltale marks of a hit-and-run.

\*\*\*

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Even in the dead of winter it can be a steamy 80° in Nederland, Texas, a bottom-line speck on the map best known as the hometown of the late Howard Kohn, a freelance writer, was raised on a farm outside of Auburn, Michigan, and was a reporter for the *Detroit Free Press*.

Tex ("Hill Country Heaven") Ritter. Nederland is tucked in the southeastern crook of the Longhorn State, a half-hour's drive from the Gulf of Mexico but within mosquito-flying distance of the bogs and bayous. It is a small town with a limited sense of local color. Its most exotic avenues are driveways paved with seashells from the Gulf. Lowing Herefords munch and ruminate in back yards until ready for the oven. A windmill-shaped museum pays tribute to turn-of-the-century Dutch ancestors.

But the most eye-watering landmarks of Nederland are the giant oil refineries obscuring the horizon, coughing out a gray, sinister fog. This corner of Texas produces 10% of the nation's oil supply; it is Texaco-Mobil-Gulf country, where there are seldom discouraging words about an energy crisis. When the wind is right, which is often, a thick, fetid odor settles over Nederland, clinging to food and clothes, gagging unwary strangers. The smell might explain why Tex Ritter skipped Nederland's golden anniversary shivaree or why young families leave good-paying jobs to go elsewhere. But the air also reeks of big money. As state Representative Billy Williamson remarked last year when someone suggested shutting down the stinking refineries: "I think we are all willing to have a little bit of crud in our lungs. . . I don't need some bunch of do-gooders telling me what's good to breathe."

Karen Silkwood never forget the dirty air and sweet stench. When her teachers talked of a new technology that would eliminate the stink and mess of oil, she was captivated. The clean purr of nuclear power: That was the hope of the future. On her own time Karen enrolled in a six-week course on radiation. In her senior year she was accepted into her high school's advanced chemistry class, and her father, the town's premier housepainter, dreamed of his daughter as a scientist. But when her mother, a gentle-faced housewife who moonlighted as a bank clerk, discovered Karen was the only girl in her chemistry class, there was a confrontation. "I thought she should be in something like home economics, and I told the chemistry teacher I wanted her out," she says. "But he finally made me change my mind. He said she was a better student than the boys."

Karen was an intense, serious girl who slanned the local teenage hot-spots for library reading and volunteer work at a hospital. Her acquaintances remember only one irritating characteristic: She talked back to her teachers, correcting them with an unceasing firmness when they slipped up, say, on the atomic weight of tritium. "She was," says one old friend, "a very nice person who always wanted to be right about everything."

She graduated in 1964 with a college scholarship and best wishes from everyone. At nearby Lamar College Karen pursued her science interests, settling on a career as a laboratory analyst, perhaps in nuclear physics.

But before her sophomore year ended, she was whisked away from her studies by a good-looking guy with a promising future as a pipeline supervisor at Mobil Oil. It was seven years, three kids, one bankruptcy and a divorce later before she returned to her earlier ambitions. In August 1972 she left her husband and children, resumed her maiden name and took a job away from the smelterstacks of Texas as a laboratory technician for one of the nuclear '60s, the Kerr-McGee Corporation of Oklahoma.

[Continued from p. 11]

Now, a month later, Christmas was at hand. In the Silkwood house a make-believe pine tree had been stuck in a dark corner; the most conspicuous spot in the living room was reserved for a photo collage of their three daughters: Linda, Rosemary and Karen.

"Karen was fixing to come home." Her mother dabbed softly at her eyes. "She wanted to get away. She was so scared. I wish now I had made her come home when she called that day."

Her expression turned steely. "We never did appreciate Karen as much as we should have. I don't think anyone did. Even now they don't. Look what she did. She gave her life to save others."

The Silkwoods were still trying to sort out what had happened, to find answers to ease their minds. They kept pondering the central mystery—how was Karen killed? Had the Quaalude rendered her in an "unconscious or hypnotic state," or had someone stolen out of the darkness, a mugger armed with power-drive, to dead-end her into the culvert? "I know that working for that company is what killed her," her father said. "But I would still like to know if it was an accident or if it was murder."

The Silkwoods are now considering filing a civil suit against the company. It may be one way, they have been advised, to flush out some answers. Kerr-McGee, according to one source, is already preparing for a suit.

So far the investigation is a stalemate.

In January the Oklahoma Highway Patrol reopened the case for six days, reexamining the evidence and reaching the same conclusion. Actually, it didn't reexamine all the evidence. It couldn't.

Along Highway 74 the Honda's tire tracks had been sloughed away by a tractor-grader—reportedly less than 24 hours after A.O. Pipkin had inspected the scene in his Day-Glo orange jumpsuit. The stretch of highway had then been repaved on one side, making it difficult to tell in which direction a sleepy driver might drift.

The Honda was still available. But the State Highway Patrol regarded it as unreliable evidence since it had been out of its possession.

At the request of OCAW International, however, three other auto-crash experts have now scrutinized the car. All three agree with Pipkin that the dents could not have been caused by the concrete culvert. Dr. E.L. Martin of Albuquerque, New Mexico, who put the Honda bumper under a microscope, said the bumper dent resulted from "contact between two metal surfaces." It is highly probable, accord-

ing to these experts, that another car slammed into the Honda as Silkwood drove toward the Holiday Inn Northwest.

Was the other driver a hired killer? Or a loose drunk? No investigator knows.

The three men who waited for Silkwood that night think someone was trying a scare tactic that got out of hand.

If Silkwood did have apodictic proof of fraud, then several people conceivably had motives for intimidating her: a plant supervisor afraid of going to prison for falsifying records; a company higher-up who feared a fraud scandal would mean multimillion-dollar losses; a plant worker who felt that Silkwood, in effect, was threatening his livelihood; or an AEC official who worried she would jeopardize the entire fast-breeder program.

Timesman David Burnham has spent several weeks dogging the Highway Patrol for answers; he is now hopeful that the Justice Department, which has now entered the case at the request of the OCAW, will pursue a more thorough investigation.

Drew Stephens, who now works in a Volkswagen bodyshop, bought a holster, a box of cartridges and a .38 revolver shortly after the crash. He suspected he was being followed and that his phone was tapped. He has stopped leaving his front door unlocked. In an 8"x11" notebook, he keeps a diary of every clue, any skittish rumor that might turn into a case cracker, then turns these over to the OCAW International. By spring, he says, he will be packing his van and heading cross-country. "There's nothing left for me here." His voice is muted. "Not unless they find who killed Karen."

At OCAW headquarters Steve Wodka has found it difficult to return to other chores. The Silkwood case keeps nagging him. There are too many unanswered questions. For instance, how did Silkwood become contaminated a week before her death? For weeks afterwards Wodka kept the results of her Los Alamos tests scribbled on an OCAW blackboard, trying to puzzle out the mystery. The most logical explanation, he decided, was that Silkwood had been contaminated at the plant and unknowingly carried the plutonium home with her. But then the AEC reported that this would have been virtually impossible, given her duties at the plant during the time immediately preceding her contamination.

So now Wodka has come reluctantly to believe she was poisoned. "Someone must have entered her apartment and placed the plutonium in her refrigerator. That's the only way it could have gotten

on the cheese and bologna. We've heard from several sources, including the AEC, that Karen had been seen going through the files, looking for records. Someone apparently figured out what she was up to. One sure way of preventing her from gathering any more evidence would have been to poison her, maybe scare her into leaving."

Wodka also cites another AEC finding: Extra plutonium apparently had been added to four of the urine samples Silkwood gave to Kerr-McGee for analysis in late October and early November. "I think someone tampered with these samples, hoping to get her out of the plant or at least confuse the issue."

Kerr-McGee officials have advanced a different conspiracy theory, passed along in off-the-record conversations with local reporters. Kerr-McGee suggests that Silkwood contaminated herself to embarrass the company. According to this theory, Silkwood smuggled a plutonium capsule out of the plant, either by swallowing it or slipping it up her vagina or anus—all suicidal maneuvers. Cited as evidence is the coincidence that Silkwood was first contaminated November 5th, the day before the company was to begin new contract negotiations with the OCAW. But, even assuming that Silkwood had become a frenzied zealot, this theory does not explain why she thought getting contaminated in her apartment would embarrass the company, or why the company would get red faced over any contamination after 73 cases in four years.

Nonetheless, Oklahoma City media has popularized this theory. One state representative, a liberal, shakes his head. "I can't understand that dame, shoving plutonium up her ass like that." And some townspeople have added their own twist, announcing with a wink that "I hear she was a drug-crazy hippie who put this plutonium junk in her mary jew anna."

The OCAW International has pledged not to give up until the case is solved.

"Karen was a very unusual person," Wodka says. "She stood up to the company. She was outspoken. She was very brave, now that we look back on it; in many ways she was a lone voice. She was willing to go ahead when other people were afraid."

"She died for a cause," agrees Ilene Younghein. "She will be remembered as a martyr."

At NRC, the regulatory division of the new AEC, she will be remembered, too. The commission has begun a file on her. It reads: "Silkwood, Karen . . . Former employee, Kerr-McGee."

mission (NRC). The change went into effect January 1st of this year.

Most ERDA officials are old AEC officials who are not likely to repudiate the AEC's longstanding commitment to nuclear power. But, charged with developing all varieties of energy, ERDA will take a new look at solar power, which the AEC virtually ignored. And it will reexamine the AEC's plans for 1000 nuclear reactors (including 150 fast-breeders) by the end of the century.

NRC officials, on the other hand, promise a new tenacity for stopping nuclear abuses. By the middle of February the NRC had ordered the temporary closing of 23 plants to look for cracks in the pipes of their emergency systems. If the NRC hangs tough, say environmentalists, the industry will either have to change radically—or there will be no industry at all.

*The more Peter Faulkner found out, the more convinced he became that nuclear plants need a new set of rules to assure quality control. In the five plants where he'd worked as a field engineer he had seen the same mistakes and the same sloppiness repeated over and over.*

*So Faulkner took his proposal to his employer, Nuclear Services Corporation of California, a top consulting firm that deals with nuclear plants before and after they are built. It was turned down.*

*But Faulkner, an ex-captain in the Strategic Air Command, an author, a 20-year engineer and at Yale a member of the same secret society as Senator John Tunney, decided to take his proposal to Congress. On March 12th, 1974, Faulkner told a congressional committee it needed to get tough with the nuclear industry. Three weeks later he was fired.*

*Now Faulkner is forming a society of nuclear critics who have lost their jobs. Among those eligible for the society are several former AEC scientists. "The industry already has several organizations that promote it," Faulkner says. "People need a professional group telling what is really going on."*

All her old clothes were under quarantine, suspected of plutonium contamination, so Karen Silkwood was buried in a new dress. No Kerr-McGee officials made the journey to Texas for the funeral, nor any AEC officials.

Afterwards Karen's parents returned to the green frame house where she grew up. An old high-school friend of Karen's came over to comfort the Silkwoods and spent the evening weeping in anger. Karen's youngest sister, a high-school junior, said that what happened to Karen had inspired her to become a career woman who would call her own shots. [Cont. on 62]

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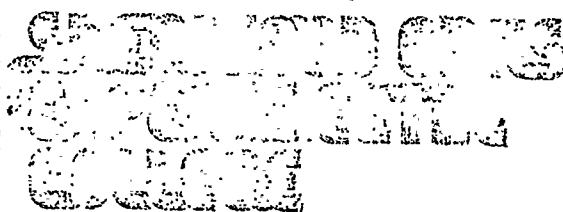
Also:  
SONGWRITING WORKSHOPS  
RECORD PRODUCING  
WORKSHOPS

"Managing a Band"

"How a Record Company  
Operates"

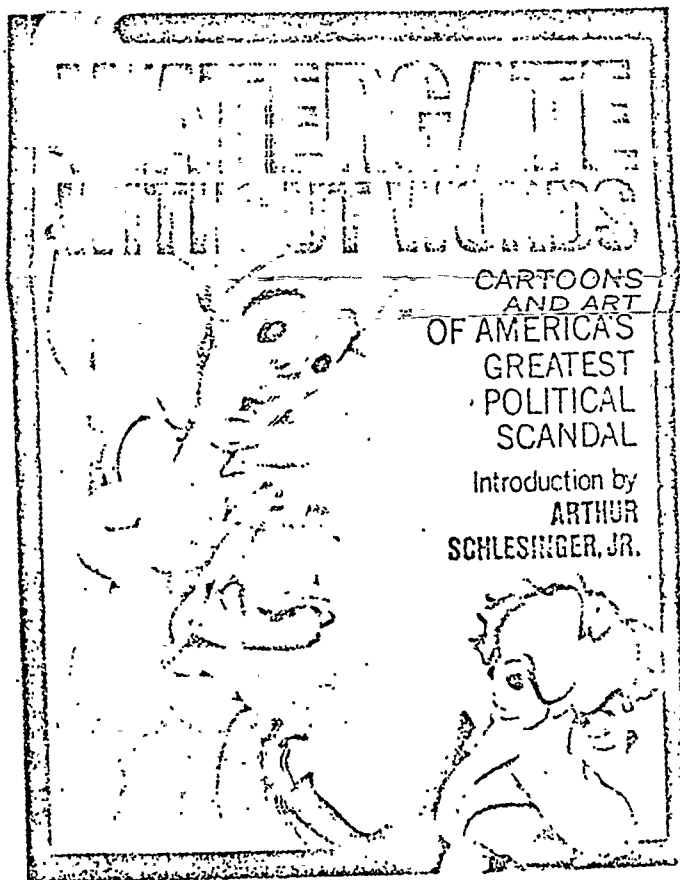
and others.

no prerequisites or age restrictions



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With drawings by Garry Trudeau,  
Ralph Steadman, Robert Grossman,  
Brad Holland, David Levine, Jack Davis,  
Pat Oliphant, Bill Mauldin, Jules Feiffer,  
Seymour Chwast, and many more

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A Special Project

[Cont. from 59] dents since the 1940s — including one leak that dribbled 115,000 gallons out of a tank unnoticed for 51 days.

Over the years the AEC had shrugged at multiple warnings that should have sounded sirens:

- A study by two AEC scientists in 1969 that predicted 32,000 more annual deaths from cancer if every American were exposed to the allowable radiation doses set by the AEC;

- An AEC laboratory test in 1970 in which the key emergency safety system for conventional nuclear reactors failed to work in six of six attempts;

- A 1974 AEC investigation that showed radiation levels in the lunchroom at a Tennessee nuclear plant were eight times too high;

- A *Science* magazine report revealing that a plant in Buffalo, New York, was recruiting beer-garden drones because conditions were too "hot" for regular employees;

- Accidents that spilled 1000 gallons of radioactive water into the Illinois River, leaked plutonium into Ohio's Erie Canal, sent radioactive dust out a chimney in a New York plant and increased the chances of cancer in hundreds of workers at dozens of plants;

- The 271 fires and 410 contamination cases at the AEC's only facility for mass production of plutonium parts used in atom bombs, eight miles upwind from Denver, Colorado. (In May 1969 this plant harbored the most expensive fire in industrial history: improperly stored cans of plutonium ignited and destroyed \$50 million of delicate equipment. Over a year later, General E.B. Giller, director of the AEC's division of military applications, admitted the fire had been a "near catastrophe." Had it burned through the roof—and it nearly did—"hundreds of square miles could [have been] involved in radiation exposure." The *Denver Post* has since reported that workers at the plant have a cancer rate seven times higher than the national average.)

In some cases the AEC has released data only after environmentalists filed lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act.

But the nuclear coverup seems to be coming unglued. And there is a new crisis of confidence in the nuclear industry. In January the *New York Times* reported that because of recent criticism the industry is nearly doubling its funds for lobbying with politicians, reporters and labor officials.

There is even a question now whether nuclear power at its best can be efficient. During January 1974, the worst period of the energy crisis, 22 of the nation's 31 commercial nuclear reactors were closed down for all or part of the

month. Even when they are operating they provide less than 10% of the country's energy needs. By contrast, science writer Isaac Asimov estimates that solar cells, say in the Mojave Desert, could supply the present energy needs of the entire world.

More crucial is the issue of safety. Several nuclear plants have actually piled up more AEC violations than Kerr-McGee's. And the Environmental Protection Agency has recently joined the growing queue of leading scientists and authorities who contend the AEC has greatly underestimated nuclear risks. It is not simply the past record that frightens them; it is the potential for future disaster. No fail-safe systems have been devised to meet problems like these:

**TRANSPORTATION.** In 1970 a shipping mixup sent a drum of uranium to Tijuana, Mexico, an error the AEC labeled "Inadvertent export of special nuclear materials." Even if such mistakes aren't repeated, what about plutonium-loaded trucks or trains that crack up?

**WASTE.** Eventually the fast-breeder will produce tons of plutonium that must be disposed of. Because burying it is risky experts have suggested firing it into space. But what about rocket-pad explosions or "short shots" that fall back to earth?

**IGNORANCE.** Last fall sailors aboard Japan's first nuclear-powered ship tried to plug a radioactive leak with boiled rice and old socks.

**TERRORISM.** Only 4.4 pounds of plutonium is needed for a bomb capable of flattening downtown Peoria. What about such grandiose leaders as the shah of Iran, who fancies himself another Alexander the Great and who just bought five nuclear reactors from France? Or just some stray kook who gets his hands on plutonium?

**THEFT.** In 1972 the General Accounting Office ran a security check and found that one man, equipped with an adjustable pocket wrench and a strong arm, could break into a nuclear plant and obtain fissionable material within minutes. What about saboteurs who infiltrate a plant's working force? What kind of police state tactics will become necessary to protect our nuclear industry?

**ACTS OF GOD.** A Virginia nuclear plant was unknowingly built on a geological fault. Can nuclear plants survive earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural catastrophes?

No one knows for certain—including the AEC, which, nevertheless, has always been willing to risk finding out.

Congress, apparently fearing the AEC's dotting optimism, has now replaced it with two agencies: the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Com-



asked questions like: "Have you ever talked to the media?" Although of questionable legality, the polygraphs were required of most plutonium workers as a "security precaution" before they could return to their jobs. A Kerr-McGee official described company strategy in a conversation with Jack Taylor, ace reporter for the *Daily Oklahoman*: "We're going to tool back up slowly and hire people who are trustworthy and are not involved [in the union]." As for undesirables—"You don't have to tell them [anything]. You can just say, 'You didn't clear security.'"

Along with Brewer, five other workers who snubbed or failed the polygraphs were handed pink slips. Jack Tice, the third union committeeman to make the trip to Washington, has been transferred to the most isolated part of the plant. "This action was taken in retaliation for union activities," the OCAW International has charged in a formal complaint to the National Labor Relations Board, "and to prevent [Tice] from discussing grievances or other union business with other employees." The OCAW also is challenging the six firings.

Among the six was Dusty Ellis, the cowgirl who shared the contaminated apartment with Silkwood. After her roommate's death Ellis initially cooperated with Kerr-McGee, refusing to talk to either the OCAW or the media. At one point she was seen, red-eyed and distraught, being escorted by two company detectives away from the Edmond Broadway Motor Inn where she had been staying, compliments of Kerr-McGee. Then Ellis—without explanation—aired a suggestion that Silkwood may have been pilfering plutonium from the plant. Shortly thereafter Kerr-McGee reportedly offered Ellis \$1000 as payment for any claims she might have against the company.

But Ellis turned down the offer. She began worrying that she had been more seriously contaminated than she had been told; her gums bothered her and she had trouble sleeping. In late December she hired a lawyer and threatened to sue the company for copies of all her health records. Three weeks later she was fired. (Two weeks after that, in early February, Ellis told friends that twice someone had tried, and failed, to break into her new apartment.)

During the month between the plant shutdown and the firings, the AEC had published the results of its investigation. (According to a *Daily Oklahoman* story, Kerr-McGee officials received a copy of the report well ahead of its official release, apparently in violation of AEC rules.) Company officials, who had been refusing comment since Karen Silkwood's death except to say,

"We will let the AEC speak for us," pronounced themselves pleased with the findings.

On the question of falsified records the AEC did locate one former worker who admitted using a felt-tip pen to touch up photo negatives that measured the welding on plutonium fuel rods. The worker, however, said he acted only to make his job easier and not under orders from Kerr-McGee. Without Silkwood's documents, the AEC reported, it could find no other hard proof. But the OCAW questioned whether the AEC was really looking. According to the OCAW, the AEC lied when it claimed to have interviewed a worker who disputed Silkwood's allegations of fraud. This worker, the OCAW says, has given the union a sworn affidavit that the AEC never interviewed him—and that he believes quality controls are not adequate.

Whether Kerr-McGee's plutonium fuel rods are safe and adequate for use is still unknown; they have yet to be tested at the AEC facility in Richland.

On the question of plant safety, the AEC reported that 20 of the 39 grievances it examined were true or partially true: Plutonium had been stored in a desk drawer instead of a prescribed vault; in various incidents, employees had been forced to work in areas not tested for contamination or where leaks remained; in another, the company failed to report a serious leak that had forced it to close the plant in May 1974; generally, respirators had not been checked regularly for deficiencies; few workers had been properly trained.

Such disregard for safety, the AEC decided, merited no censure beyond adding these new citations to the trove already in the Kerr-McGee files. Kerr-McGee was free to resume its role in the AEC's fast-breeder program, a program that might have been seriously compromised had Kerr-McGee been forced to close up shop permanently.

Younghein and other environmentalists professed no surprise at the AEC's lack of action. The AEC had never summoned the courage to penalize Kerr-McGee in the past. The AEC had managed to levy only eight penalties during a 12-month period in 1973-74, even though its inspectors had found 3333 violations. In 1972 during a hearing on nuclear safety, the AEC had given its scientists written instructions to "never disagree with established policy." And at a nuclear waste dumping grounds in Washington, the AEC has been in charge while half a million gallons of "hot" effluent, enough to fill four railroad cars, have been spilled onto the ground in numerous acci- [Cont. on 61]



# SILKWOOD

[Continued from 46]

"If the public knew what the facts are and if they had to choose between nuclear reactors and candles, they would choose candles."

—Ralph Nader

"When we think of having several thousand reactors as we are talking about having, [we could] have a serious accident once every three years, losing a city for example."

—Dr. John Gofman, former AEC associate lab director

"In the nuclear industry... no acts of God can be permitted."

—Dr. Hannes Alfvén, Nobel laureate in physics

"In spite of soothing reassurances the AEC gives to the uninformed, misled public, unresolved questions about nuclear power safety are so grave that the U.S. should consider a complete halt to nuclear power plant construction while we see if these serious questions can be resolved."

—Carl H. Hoevevar, former AEC safety expert

On December 20th, five weeks after Karen Silkwood's death, Kerr-McGee temporarily closed its plutonium plant. These were trying days for the company. Supporters of Kerr-McGee found it necessary to print ads reminding Oklahomans that Dun & Bradstreet had recently named it among the five best-managed corporations in the country. But headlines kept popping up all over, thanks to the *New York Times* wire service, telling of a mysterious death, falsified records and ill-trained workers at the world's most dangerous poisons.

Nuclear proponents were worried, especially those of the nuclear elite like Dean McGee, who had been helping babysit plans for a multibillion-dollar "nuclear park" near flag-waving Muskogee in northeastern Oklahoma — it would be a carnie midway of over 20 facilities, the boldest assortment of nuclear props ever assembled. Even Muskogee's proud-to-be-Okies were beginning to flinch. "The bad publicity," complained Senator Henry Bellmon, a big McGee booster, "is making it more difficult to get what we want in the Muskogee area."

But the controversy around Kerr-McGee would not quit. Hints of strange goings-on salted the news. Robert G. Bathe, a plutonium worker, reported to police that a motorist had "harassed" him as he drove home from the plant a few nights after Silkwood's death; when Bathe's statement leaked to the press, he and the police suddenly refused to discuss the incident. Shortly afterwards, however, *Timesman* David Burnham reported that

security at the plant was so atrophied that 60 pounds of plutonium — enough for five Nagasaki bombs — were unaccounted for and possibly missing, an allegation Kerr-McGee heatedly denied.

The most prickly burr in the wind, though, was the AEC investigation, which promised a full report on Kerr-McGee.

On December 17th, at the height of the AEC investigation, Kerr-McGee was forced to announce that five more employees had been contaminated at its plutonium plant. The company claimed it had evidence the accidents were contrived, a modest slander suggesting that workers sniffed poison to embarrass their bosses. Though Kerr-McGee said it had given its evidence to the FBI, the FBI denied receiving it. Nonetheless, three days later, Kerr-McGee handed out lay-off slips, announcing the plant would not reopen until the payroll was checked for security.

Closing the plant five days before Christmas effectively reminded the workers how close they were, in hard times, to standing in line for unemployment checks; some feared talking to AEC investigators might further jeopardize their jobs. (Earlier in December, rather than risk losing their jobs to a gang of strikebreakers, the workers of Local 5-283 had ratified a new contract that again fell far short of their demands.)

Predictably, the plant shutdown ruptured the tentative alliance between the plutonium workers and local environmentalists. To Ilene Younghein, the shutdown was a first step to victory; to Frank Murch, a middle-aged man with seven years in the plant, it was a setback. In the pocketbook: "You're damn right I'm bitter about this. I'm bitter at the environmentalists. It's a hell of a thing, putting this many people out of work." Some took to blaming the dead — one worker who earlier had talked about honoring Karen Silkwood with a special grave marker now spat at the mention of her name.

"Attitudes changed," says Gerald Brewer. "People started to blame Karen for getting thrown out of work right before the holidays." Brewer was one of the two union committee members who accompanied Silkwood to Washington in September. He had worked at the plant three years.

In early January, after plutonium production resumed, Brewer was demoted from his job and transferred to an isolated warehouse. Two weeks later he was fired. There was no official explanation; a company spokesman was still denying the firing five days later. Brewer's apparent sin, besides his role in compiling the grievances, was his refusal to submit to a polygraph test that

him to pick up Wodka and Burnham at the airport and to expect her at the motor hotel about 8 p.m. She sounded normal, Stephens remembers, perhaps a bit excited about having an audience with the *New York Times*. At 7:15 p.m. Silkwood left the Hub Cafe and headed for Highway 74 and the Holiday Inn Northwest. A fellow union member would later swear in an affidavit that Silkwood, minutes before she left the restaurant, was carrying a manila folder an inch thick with papers. The folder, Silkwood told the union member, contained proof that quality-control records were being falsified.

Thirty miles away, Wodka, Burnham and Stephens waited for that proof until 8:45. Then they picked up the phone; but for some reason the Holiday Inn lines were out of order, and another hour passed before the three could get through.

Meanwhile, at 8:05 p.m., a truck driver, sitting high up in his cab and rolling along the two-lane highway, spotted the white Honda, almost hidden in the muddy culvert. Silkwood had traveled about seven miles from the Hub Cafe, a ten-minute drive.

By the time Stephens, Wodka and Burnham learned the news from a local union member, the 1638-pound Civic Hatchback already had been towed to Ted Sebring's garage in Crescent. And Silkwood had been pronounced dead on arrival at the Guthrie Hospital, the victim of multiple and compound fractures.

The three men raced to the culvert, only a mile from the plutonium plant, and prowled about, stepping gingerly through the mud, which in Oklahoma is the color of dry blood. All they could find were shards of aluminum trim, the orange roadside reflectors that had been trampled by the bouncing car and Silkwood's uncashed paycheck.

Later they found the wreck locked up in Sebring's garage and peered at it through the window. They stopped at the home of union committeeman Jack Tice, one of the last to see Silkwood alive; Stephens called Silkwood's parents. Then they returned to the culvert, searching for an explanation in the tire tracks and the scraps of metal.

The explanation the State Highway Patrol offered was that Karen Silkwood, exhausted after driving 600 miles from Los Alamos to Oklahoma City, had fallen asleep and drifted off the road to an accidental death. Almost immediately the police had to alter their official version when they were told Silkwood had flown from Los Alamos and had gotten a full night's sleep only 12 hours before the crash.

The second official version was somewhat more convincing. Sometime during the afternoon of November 13th Silkwood had gulped down at least one of the pasty white Quaaludes from the vial in her coat pocket. Oklahoma City's chief forensic toxicologist, Richard W. Prouty, discovered .35 milligrams of methaqualone in her bloodstream, conceivably enough to lull her to sleep on the highway.

But that was not sufficient for Steve Wodka.

Silkwood had swallowed several Quaaludes in the past week without nodding out. Why would she fall into a trance on her way to an extremely crucial meeting? And the proof of fraud she was supposedly carrying had disappeared. Her personal effects, listed by the medical examiner, included an ID badge, an electronic security key (for the plant), two marijuana cigarettes, a Kotex pad, two used Kleen-

exes, a Bradley Mickey Mouse pocket watch, a small notebook, her clothes; \$7 in bills and \$1.69 in change. But there was no manila folder heavy with Kerr-McGee documents.

Trooper Rick Fagan, however, had mentioned finding dozens of loose papers blowing about the accident scene when he first arrived. Fagan had plucked up the papers, he told his superiors, and shoved them into the Honda. According to the highway patrol's information officer, Lieutenant Kenneth Vanhoy, the papers were in the Honda when Ted Sebring hauled the car away.

Presumably they were still there at 12:30 a.m.—five hours after the accident—when Sebring unlocked his garage for a group of Kerr-McGee and AEC representatives who said they wanted to check out Silkwood's car for plutonium contamination.

But by the next afternoon when Stephens, Wodka and Burnham claimed Silkwood's car from Sebring, no papers were inside.

Wodka called Tony Mazzocchi at OCAW International. Mazzocchi agreed: An outside expert was needed to investigate the crash.

Three days after Silkwood's death an auto-crash expert arrived in Oklahoma City from the Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas. A.O. Pipkin, an ex-cop, is a veteran of 2000 accidents and 300 court trials, a no-nonsense pro considered the best man around for piecing together an accident scenario.

Dressed in a Day-Glo orange jumpsuit, Pipkin examined the Honda and found two curious dents, one in the rear bumper, another in the rear fender. They were fresh; there was no road dirt in them. And they appeared to have been made by a car bumper.

At the scene Pipkin noted that the Honda had crossed over the yellow lines and hit the culvert on the left side of the highway. If Silkwood had nodded into a stupor, he reasoned, she would have drifted to the right. In the red clay, Pipkin found something else the police apparently disregarded: tire tracks indicating the car had been out of control before it left the highway.

Pipkin's disconcerting conclusion: Karen Silkwood's Honda had been hit from the rear by another vehicle.

*Larry Bogart's last job was special assistant to the chairman of the board at Allied Chemical. But in 1966 he decided to take time off to oppose the construction of a nuclear plant near his home in Allendale, New Jersey. He has been fighting nuclear companies ever since; he is now coordinator of a 40-state coalition of antinuclear groups.*

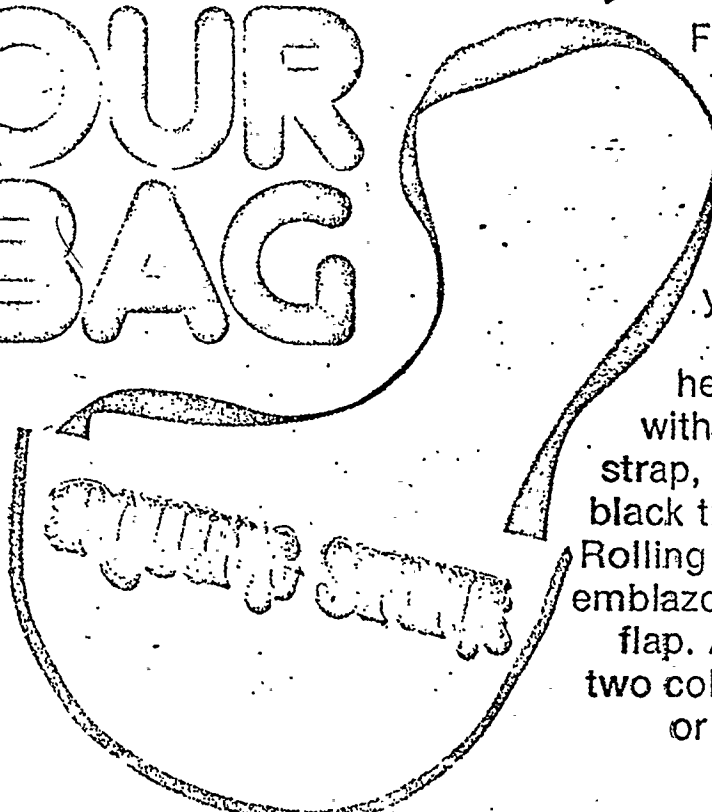
*On a wintry evening in 1971 Bogart was driving his Volkswagen on the New Jersey Turnpike, heading for a meeting where he was scheduled to speak against nuclear power. Another car, he says, zoomed up alongside and forced him off the highway. His Volkswagen bounced off a guardrail, skidded wildly but did not roll over. He was shook up but unhurt.*

*On two other occasions, Bogart says, his car has been tampered with; once the accelerator rod had been sawed through. Visitors to his office, he says, run the risk of being photographed by lurking private eyes.*

*"Environmentalists tend to be naive," Bogart says. "They think that if they prove nuclear power is dangerous it will automatically follow that change will come. They don't realize that big money is controlling the business."*

[Continued on 58]

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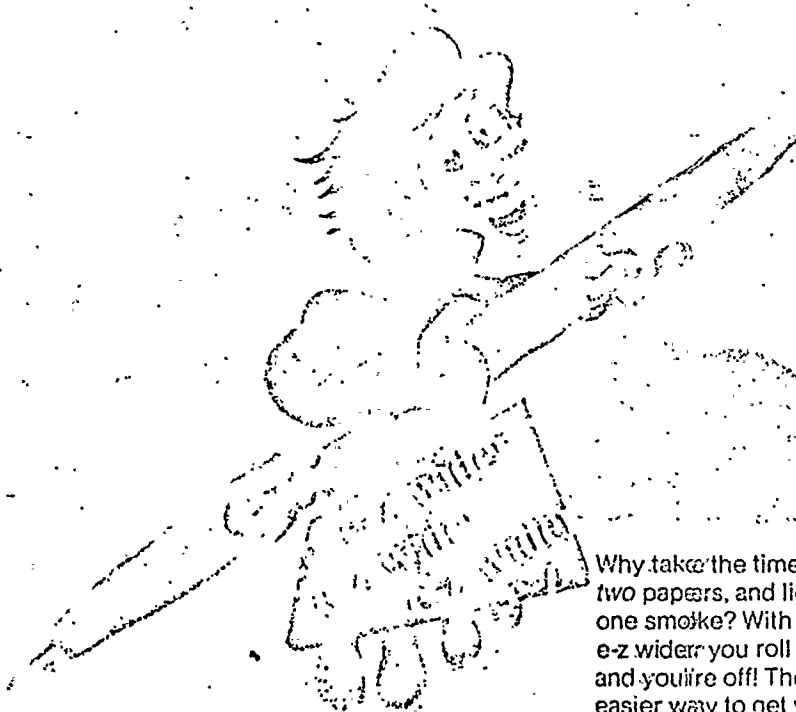
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On the day the mystery repeated itself—and a nasal smear indicated she also was contaminated internally.

How much plutonium, she wanted to know, could a person ingest before it burned out her insides?

Wodka tried to reassure her and promised to fly in. Silkwood hung up and sought out her old lover. "She was damn near incoherent," says Stephens. "She was crying and shaking like a leaf; she kept saying she was going to die."

Again she picked up the phone and called long distance. Minneapolis. Dr. Dean Abrahamson. She wanted medical advice from a physician. She told him that somehow, somewhere, she had gotten plutonium all over her, inside and out. "She knew what the medical implications were," recalls Dr. Abrahamson, "and she was worried."

A team of Kerr-McGee inspectors, armed with alpha counters, full-face respirators, special galoshes, taped up gloves and white coveralls, were meanwhile hunting the source of the plutonium. There had been no recent accident at the plant to account for her contamination. So, at Silkwood's request, they had trekked to her apartment. There the alpha counters commenced eerie gibberings. Plutonium, in small quantities, was everywhere. Outside on the lawn the inspectors filed a 55-gallon drum with alarm clocks, cosmetics, record albums, drapes, pots and pans, shampoo, bedsheets. Alongside they stacked chairs, bed, stove, refrigerator, television, items to be trucked to the Kerr-McGee plant for later burial in an AEC-approved site.

The plutonium trail turned hottest in the kitchen, inside the refrigerator. A package of bologna and a package of cheese were the two most contaminated items in the apartment. Apparently, the plutonium had been tracked around the apartment from the refrigerator. But no one could explain how two sandwich foods had become the source of contamination.

The apartment was sealed off and the AEC called in.

Silkwood, however, was more worried about the plutonium inside her than on the cheese and bologna. She kept popping the Quaaludes that had been prescribed a few weeks before. "The Quaaludes were just supposed to be taken for sleeping at nights," Stephens says. "But she was using them during the day, just to calm down. I'd never seen her so scared."

Wodka had jetted in from Washington and, after talking to Kerr-McGee and AEC officials, had helped arrange for Silkwood to fly to an AEC laboratory in New Mexico to be checked out for poisoning. On Sunday November 10th, five days after her first contamination, she boarded a Braniff airliner.

That same morning a front-page *New York Times* story reported that, according to the AEC's own internal documents, the AEC had "repeatedly sought to suppress studies by its own scientists that found nuclear reactors were more dangerous than officially acknowledged or that raised questions about reactor safety devices." One AEC study, kept confidential for seven years, predicted that a major nuclear accident could kill up to 45,000 persons and pollute an area the size of Pennsylvania. *Times* reporter David Burnham, who in 1970 interviewed Frank Serpico and broke open the New York police corruption scandal, had sifted through hundreds of memos and letters and learned the AEC had a ten-year record of blue-penciling alarming data, soft-soaping test failures and

glad-handing industry that increasingly appeared not to know what it was doing.

The report gave scant comfort to Silkwood as she flew to Los Alamos, New Mexico, site of the world's first plutonium explosion during the A-bomb tests of World War II. With her were Stephens and Sherri "Dusty" Ellis, her roommate of the past few months, a blonde, rawboned, 21-year-old rodeo champ. Ellis also worked at the plant but had refused to get involved in Silkwood's efforts to unmask the company.

Now the three shared the same fears; all had been contaminated in the apartment.

For two days they underwent a "whole body count," a meticulous probing of skin, orifices, intestines and lungs, urinating at intervals into plastic bottles and defecating into Freezette box containers.

After the first day, the three had cause for relief. Dr. George Voelz, the health division leader, assured them they had suffered no immediate damage. Even Silkwood, by far the most infected, was told she was in no danger of dying from plutonium poisoning.

On Tuesday November 12th, Silkwood called her mother to announce the good news about the tests, but added, "I'm still a little scared. I still don't know how I got contaminated. I feel like someone's using me for a guinea pig."

"I told her to come home," her mother recalled. "And she said she would. She said she was ready for a vacation . . . she just had to do a couple things first."

After more body-prying tests at Los Alamos, the three travelers flew back to Oklahoma City, landing about 10:30 Tuesday night. Because the women's apartment had been gutted of furniture, they checked in at Stephens's bungalow, now a bachelor's pad papered with four-color profiles of racing cars clipped from hotrod magazines. Silkwood wandered over to her favorite radiator vent, squatting and rubbing to warm up, then went to bed early. She had a busy day ahead. She had told Wodka she would give him the evidence she was collecting as soon as she returned from Los Alamos, and Wodka had set up a meeting with her and David Burnham, the *Times* reporter, who was winging in from the East Coast. The meeting was scheduled for Wednesday night at the Holiday Inn Northwest in Oklahoma City.

Wednesday morning Silkwood drove to work. Contract negotiations between Local 5-283 and Kerr-McGee had begun the week before and, as a committeewoman, she was supposed to take part in the bargaining. She spent the morning in negotiations, arguing the union demands for better safety training and higher injury benefits. In the afternoon she met for several hours with AEC inspectors, who were trying to unravel the mystery of her contamination.

At 5:15 p.m. she drove to Crescent, about five miles from the plant, and stopped at the Hub Cafe for a supper meeting, sans supper, to discuss negotiations strategy with Local 5-283. Jack Tice, who headed the negotiating team, told the assembled union members that, as expected, Kerr-McGee was not budging off its hard line.

Silkwood excused herself about 6 p.m. to telephone Stephens, reminding

"I told her to calm down, to forget about it," Stephens remembers.

Six days before Silkwood's Washington trip, Stephens had abruptly quit, riled by a sudden transfer. "When I first went to work there I wanted to be the world's greatest laboratory technician. Now I never wanted to see the place again.

"But Karen felt differently. She wanted to reform the place. She had tried to go through channels and she'd gotten very frustrated. But when she came back from Washington she was really excited. This was her chance to do something. She figured things were really going to change."

On October 10th, two of the nation's leading plutonium experts arrived in Oklahoma City from the University of

fuel rods was too . . . . "They [company supervisors] are still passing bad welds no matter what the pictures look like," she said in a telephone conversation that Wodka taped. "I have a weld I would love for you to see, just how far they ground it down to relax the weld trying to get rid of the voids, the occlusions and the cracks." (Unsafe fuel rods, according to MIT physicist Dr. Henry Kendall, could lead to "an accident that would result in the release of huge amounts of radioactivity.")

Silkwood spent the weeks of October staying after hours, poring over files, recording every questionable procedure, building a dossier in a dog-eared manila folder. She did not know then that other employees had noticed her spying, and that the plant rumormongers were abuzz with suspicions about what she was up to.

"I have guilt feelings about those weeks," Stephens says. "I should have talked to her more, been with her more, helped her out. . . . But I just wanted to forget about the place."

On Tuesday, November 5th, 1974, Silkwood discovered she had been contaminated with plutonium again.

*Sometimes Robert Rowen found the radiation levels so high that the radioactive film in his dosimeter was extremely overexposed. Then one day, he says, a superior asked him to falsify test records. After six years of trying to help PG&E's Northern California nuclear plant run safely, Rowen went to the AEC, charging PG&E with repeatedly violating federal rules on the handling of radioactive material.*

*Shortly thereafter, in the spring of 1970, Rowen was fired. But when he went job hunting, he discovered he was considered a dangerous radical. The local police even had a file accusing Rowen of living in a commune which read Eldridge Cleaver and advocated revolutionary violence. The police chief said he had received this information, unsolicited, from a PG&E security official. (The official admits talking to the police about Rowen but denies making any accusations.)*

*A state labor referee looked into Rowen's firing and found "the principal cause was his extreme safety consciousness." The AEC investigated PG&E, corroborated some of Rowen's charges and scolded the company for "discouraging" at least one employee from talking to the AEC about safety at the plant.*

*Rowen, a former Pathfinder in the Marine Corps, has filed a huge damage suit against PG&E and finally landed a job as a high-school civics teacher and football coach near Eureka, California.*

Minnesota, summoned by the OCAW International to conduct crash courses for Kerr-McGee's plutonium workers. Their credentials were impressive: Dr. Donald Geesaman, a top AEC scientist for 13 years, had crusaded for stiffer plutonium standards until he was fired; Dr. Dean Abrahamson was both a physicist and a physician.

The two professors were told that 73 workers had been internally contaminated by plutonium during the previous four years. (Dozens more workers had accidentally brushed plutonium or been sprinkled with it, but had washed it off their skin.) The 73 had been exposed to airborne plutonium; any inhaled into their lungs could not be washed out. The probability of cancer in such cases, Dr. Abrahamson warned, "is disturbingly high." Because it takes 10 or 15 years after exposure to detect cancer, no cases have yet been reported at Kerr-McGee. But those workers with internal contamination must live with the threat of cancer for years to come.

Karen Silkwood was one of those 73, and she was shocked by Abrahamson's news. She had assumed she would stay clear of cancer if she did not breathe in more plutonium than allowed under AEC guidelines. But Abrahamson was saying, "If you can measure plutonium in the air at all, it's too high." The AEC guidelines, he said, were meaningless.

Silkwood grew moody and restless, working nights and unable to sleep during the days. She got a prescription for some sleeping pills. And she began to hunt for another job.

But first, she vowed to Stephens, she was going to get proof that Kerr-McGee was sustaining its plutonium plant through false and perjurious records. She had already collected some evidence, she said, and was certain she could get more.

At one point Silkwood reported to Wodka that she had obtained photographs proving the welding on some

Rapidly, as if no time were left on the clock, Silkwood jammed the dime in its slot and dialed long distance. Washington. Steve Wodka. "Hello." An uncertain trickle started down her face. Her voice tottered. "Please come to Oklahoma," she said. "Something very weird is happening here."

Three times in the past three days Karen Silkwood had been contaminated with plutonium, and no one knew where it was coming from. A monitoring device had first discovered flecks of plutonium on her skin and clothing shortly after she reported for work November 5th. She had quickly stepped under a brisk shower. But the next day the monitor flashed on again. More plutonium on her skin. Another shower.

the plant, she figured, were living in the shadow of Armageddon. "I felt betrayed by Kerr-McGee. They built that plant without telling anyone—I guess they thought no one would find out."

A few short notices had appeared in the local papers in 1970 when Kerr-McGee first began hotfooting with plutonium—quotes of welcome for the plant from then governor Dewey Bartlett. But there was no mention of the menace in plutonium.

In the fall of 1973 Younghein had begun a one-woman campaign to shut the plant down. Angry workers simply wanted the company to improve training procedures and apply safety precautions rather than lock its doors. But they supplied inside scuttlebutt to Younghein and other environmentalists, hoping the outside pressure would prod Kerr-McGee to clean up its act. Younghein did her best, collecting 500 signatures on a petition for stricter federal controls and penciling two lengthy doomsday articles for the *Oklahoma Observer*, a maverick semiweekly unimpressed by Kerr-McGee.

Meanwhile, Kerr-McGee was preoccupied with a breakwater federal court ruling in New Jersey that ordered all nuclear companies to submit statements describing the dangers of nuclear plants. Among other things, Kerr-McGee was required to show the AEC that neighbors of the plutonium plant understood the risks and were willing to live with them. Kerr-McGee balked; Executive Vice President George B. Parks argued in a letter to the AEC that such questions were not "proper subjects of inquiry in a [public] environmental study."

Then Kerr-McGee relented. In August 1974 the AEC received three letters, one each from the city councils of Guthrie and Crescent and one from the commissioners of Logan County, representing the citizenries closest to the plant. The letter from the Guthrie City Council reported that it had surveyed the populace and found that "in general, their reaction has shown no animosity and . . . that the presence of the Kerr-McGee facility is welcome due to its favorable benefit." The letter from the Crescent City Council said the same thing—exactly the same thing, word for word. So did the letter from the Logan County Commission. In the finest tradition of spoon-fed corporate blurb, all three letters were identical. Confronted later with this embarrassment, Guthrie City Manager R. E. Anderson mumbled, "The company did give us a letter to look at so we knew what they had in mind. I didn't realize we'd sent it off without changing a few words."

The same month that Kerr-McGee was trying to impress the AEC with letters in triplicate, Karen Silkwood and the other two Local 5-283 steering committee members were preparing a declaration of war against the company. New contract negotiations were due in a few months, and for the first time Local 5-283 was going to confront Kerr-McGee squarely on the issue of safety. The chronicle of accidents, safety abuses and other allegations was to be compiled into a formal list of grievances.

Silkwood helped interview workers in the dangerous production areas of the plant. Most were young, average age about 25, coming from nearby farms and small towns and, Silkwood learned, several had no idea plutonium could cause cancer.

They spun out a grim tale of corporate callousness: New employees often were sent directly into production with-

out safety training (one such worker had been badly contaminated and had quit the next day before receiving medical attention); production schedules sometimes forced workers to stay on the job even when the air wasn't safe to breathe—supervisors ordering them to wear respirators rather than hunting the source of contamination; and plutonium was sometimes stored in such casual containers as desk drawers.

With their grievances in hand, and with the quickening hopes of the union membership, Silkwood and her fellow committee members, Gerald Brewer and Jack Tice, flew to Washington D.C. for a meeting with the OCAW International. They arrived on September 26th and met Steve Wodka, an OCAW legislative assistant, a hard-

nosed, stiff-talking man given to curt skepticism and impatient waves of the hand. Though only 25, he is among the OCAW's best troubleshooters. Wodka and his boss, Tony Mazzocchi, had devoted much of the previous year to hassling do-nothing regulatory agencies and exposing health hazards in the asbestos industry, a crusade that had won them praise from Senator Walter Mondale on the floor of Congress.

Wodka and Mazzocchi pumped Silkwood and the others for details, then the next day marched them over to the only place in town that could put the clamps on Kerr-McGee—the AEC. The AEC copied it all down and promised an investigation.

But Wodka was already considering another investigation. Silkwood had confided to him that for months she had suspected that tests on the plutonium fuel rods destined for Richland, Washington, were being fudged. And, she said, she had recently heard about records being doctored, X-ray photos being black-penciled and other tests being manipulated. Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant might be defrauding the AEC, she had concluded, shipping inadequate or unsafe fuel rods to Richland.

"Both Tony Mazzocchi and I felt this was a very serious situation," Wodka says. "But we felt it was premature to bring it to the attention of the AEC. We had to have proof before we could make any accusations. So we asked Karen to go back to the plant, to find out who was falsifying the records, who was ordering it and to document everything in specific detail."

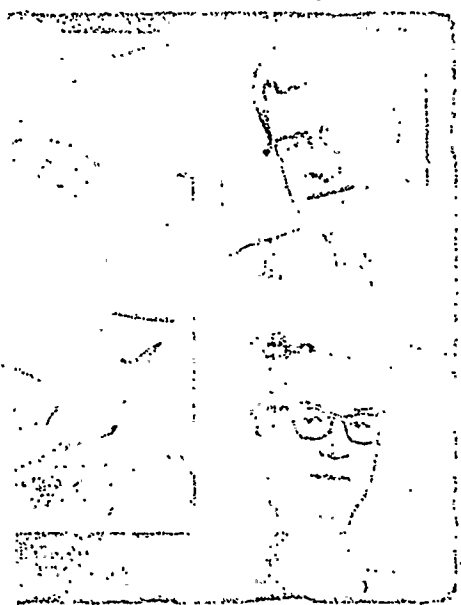
Silkwood agreed to go undercover.

Back in Oklahoma she revealed her new role to Stephens. She stood in his living room, crouching over the radiator vent to shake off the autumn chill, and jabbed a delicate brown finger into the air: "We're really gonna get those motherfuckers this time."



Stephens, a short-haired, brainy lab analyst with an easy smile. When he first came to work three years before, Stephens had expected to earn his 40-year gold watch from Kerr-McGee. But he had grown disenchanted after the rash of accidents and now lived for weekends when he turned sports-car racer, a hotdog kid on the local auto-cross circuit.

The strike lasted ten weeks. Those picketers whose jobs had not been lost to scabs returned to work in January 1973, reluctantly signing a new contract that stripped away many of their previous rights, including certain protections against arbitrary firings and re-assignments. A few weeks later a plant employe was emptying a bag of plutonium wastes when a fire spontaneously



erupted, shooting radioactive dust into the air. Seven workers sucked in the junk. But Kerr-McGee supervisors waited a day before calling in a physician. Four days later the seven workers still had not been tested for contamination in their lungs.

Silkwood and Stephens shared in the outrage building in the plant. But they were now deeply in love, Stephens divorcing his wife of four years to live with Silkwood. They were enjoying the good times, tooling around in Stephens's tomato red Austin-Healy Sprite, country-rock blaring on the radio.

Then, in July 1974, Karen Silkwood became contaminated with plutonium.

Actor Jack Lemmon, serving as narrator, introduced the documentary: "One thing is certain. The nuclear power plants . . . have everybody connected just a trifle jumpy."

Entitled 'Powers that Be,' the television film was produced in 1971 by Don Widener, an Emmy winner then working for the NBC-owned station in Los Angeles. The film, a powerful critique of nuclear dangers, was shown once in Los Angeles but never repeated nationally.

NBC decided to let it die after Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E), the nation's second largest private power company and a heavy nuclear investor, raised a fuss on Capitol Hill about Widener's credibility. No charges were ever substantiated (although some are still in litigation). But, in an internal memo later subpoenaed in a lawsuit, a PG&E official confessed: "The fact that NBC is upset at our aggressive approach [with Congress] is just what we wanted."

Award-winner Widener, who is suing PG&E for libel, was let go by the network soon after the documentary and has found little television work since.

Oklahoma City still listens to Rosemary Clooney, votes Republican and plays host to all the cowboy conventions it can corral. Adolescents favor mail-order miniskirts and the Burt Reynolds look. A popular radio station provides "full-time Christian broadcasting." Okie country is not the kind of place that fathers worry their daughters will run off to.

But for Karen Silkwood, Oklahoma City was full of bright lights and good-time chances to catch up on what she missed as a teenager. She hung out at bars and rock concerts and learned how to get gently stoned. She was happy. Coming home one night she told Stephens: "I feel like I'm in love with the whole world."

But after several months she moved out, jealous for her freedom, unwilling to risk another marriage. She wanted her own place and, after a money-poor marriage, indulged in a color TV, a \$600 stereo, a Suzuki cycle and a Honda Civic Hatchback. Silkwood and Stephens remained friends and part-time lovers, but her career was her first love. She retreated from the night scene to work overtime. And she got involved in the union, OCAW Local 5-283.

Silkwood looked to the union as the only outlet for her growing frustration with management. When suddenly exposed to a swirl of airborne plutonium in July 1974, she was not wearing a respirator. For over a year she had been bugging the company to buy a special respirator to fit over her tiny, narrow face; it hadn't arrived.

When union elections came up the next month, Silkwood ran and won one of the three seats on the Local 5-283 steering committee. Fellow workers knew her as the spunky chick who talked back to her bosses. "Goddamnit, I am right and you are wrong," she once raged at a supervisor. "If you want to tell me what to do, you oughta learn how to do the job right."

Despite growing anticompany jabber at the plant, most workers did not want a fight. Many simply quit; the annual turnover rate among the 115 hourly workers, according to the union, hovered around 60%. Some complained of being harassed out of their jobs; three workers who griped to AEC officials about safety conditions early in 1974 were reportedly tracked down and transferred to "shit details" in the chilly warehouse.

Other plutonium workers took their feelings outside the plant, anonymously phoning tips to environmental groups like the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth. Several calls also went to Ilene Youngheim, an Oklahoma City housewife, mother of two grown kids, a hefty woman with a wonderful roccoco laugh who had read about the dangers of plutonium in *Intellectual Digest* and had written to a local newspaper about it. "You can imagine how stunned I was when some workers called to tell me there was a plutonium plant under our very noses," she recalls. "It was a short drive upwind from my house and I hadn't known it. What would happen if there was a big explosion at the plant? We'd have dead people all over the place." In addition, Youngheim learned, the plant had been built on a flood plain and in the center of a tornado alley, a situation that required stowing all plutonium in a vault whenever there was a flood or tornado alert. And there was no guarantee the vault would not crack. All 900,000 people within 50 miles of

lab animals, and some experts say that a softball-sized bag of plutonium, if properly dispersed, could visit cancer on every home on earth.

For years plutonium was used exclusively for bombs. The nonmilitary inventory wasn't enough to fill a pair of size ten shoes. But at the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in Washington D.C., visionaries saw an incipient bonanza. So the AEC, encouraged by money and kind words from Capitol Hill, set out to make plutonium practical and profitable. A special nuclear reactor to breed plutonium, nicknamed the "fast-breeder," was built in Michigan. It proved a \$135-million flop. In 1972, after dozens of false starts, it was abandoned, a vast leprous hulk on the outskirts of Detroit. (Early last year the Soviet Union's only fast-breeder closed down after a serious explosion.)

The AEC was undeterred. It decided more tests were needed. Near Richland, Washington, construction was begun on a facility to test "fuel rods," the plutonium-filled tubes used in a fast-breeder. The Richland facility won't be ready for tests until 1978 and a new fast-breeder, scheduled for Tennessee, won't be finished until the Eighties. But for the past four years fuel rods have been trucked into Richland to await the tests.

Most of the fuel rods come from Kerr-McGee's prized plutonium plant 26 miles outside Oklahoma City. It was Kerr-McGee, on good terms with the AEC since Robert Kerr's congressional days, which was awarded a \$1.4-million AEC contract to process the plutonium into pellets and pour them into the fuel rods.

Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant, built next to one of its uranium plants (and within five miles of 92 gas and oil wells, two popular resort lakes and the churning Cimarron River), opened in 1970 shortly before 8583 fish turned belly-up in the river following a big ammonia spill at the facility. Raised against the flat harshness of rural Oklahoma, the barnlike plant is unimposing; only a chain-link fence and armed guards hint at the devil's brew within.

Kerr-McGee had assured the AEC it could deal safely and circumspectly with the plutonium. But the AEC, a government agency in the curious role of both promoting and policing the nuclear industry, soon received numerous reports of irregularities and accidents at the Kerr-McGee plant. In a situation that left no margin for error, things kept getting bungled.

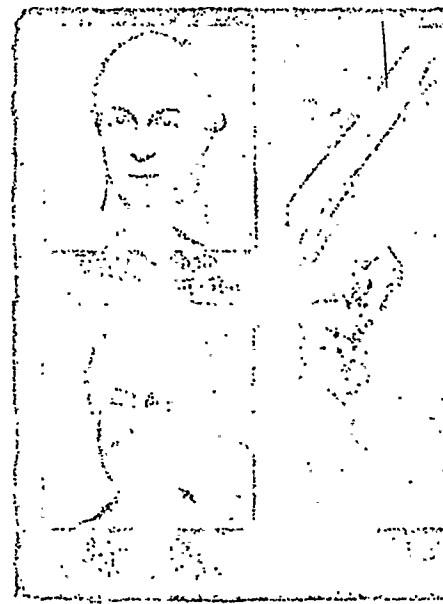
In October 1970, soon after the plant opened, two workers were contaminated when a radioactive storage container was left in the open for three days. Twenty-two more workers were exposed to plutonium in January 1971 when defective equipment allowed plutonium oxide to escape into the air. Less serious incidents were common. The protective "glove boxes" the workers used often had holes. Sometimes the "Super Tiger" and "Poly Panther" drums, specially designed to store the volatile liquid, unaccountably leaked. Improperly designed pipes once sent plutonium sloshing to wrong parts of the plant.

One day a worker bent to adjust a compressor unit; it exploded, ripping through his hand and tearing off the top of his face, spitting tissue over the ceiling. He died instantly. "When I got there," remembers a former lab technician, "they were washing the goo down the drain." Kerr-McGee, he feels, "didn't give a damn about the people

who worked there—it didn't care whether its safety program was effective or not."

In April 1972 two maintenance men repairing a pump at the plant were splashed with a rain of plutonium particles, which settled on their hands, faces, hair and clothes. At noon they left the plant for lunch in a nearby town, not discovering their contamination until they returned. They were scrubbed clean, along with their car. But Kerr-McGee neglected to check out the restaurant where the men had eaten.

Nor did Kerr-McGee inform the AEC of the incident, a clear violation of the federal nuclear code. The AEC was finally alerted to the affair a month



later, tipped off by an environmentalist who had learned of it from a plant worker. By then there was nothing to be done for the restaurant patrons, short of an all-out search for any who might have gulped down plutonium with their egg salad.

Beyond adding another bulge to the file of violations already logged against Kerr-McGee, the matter was forgotten.

When Karen Silkwood arrived at the Kerr-McGee plant in late summer 1972, she was just divorced and eager to begin a career as a nuclear laboratory technician. But after only three months testing the plutonium fuel rods, Silkwood was outside the chain-link fence, marching with an on-strike placard.

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW), representing the plutonium workers, was at loggerheads with Kerr-McGee. The company, a veteran of the wildcat oil rig, had managed to keep the unions out until 1966, three years after Senator Kerr's death. Now the OCAW was demanding a new contract with higher wages, safer conditions and better training. Kerr-McGee had replied with an offer worse than the old contract. Then, as soon as workers went on strike, the company rushed scabs onto the job, barely missing a beat in fuel-rod production.

Even Kerr-McGee officials later conceded, in a letter to the Sierra Club, that thrusting untrained strikebreakers into the plant led to more plutonium spills and leaks. ("Some scabs got only four hours of training when they should have gotten five days," fumed one striker.) Among the inexperienced substitutes hired during the strike was the plant's safety officer.

On the picket lines, meanwhile, 26-year-old Karen Silkwood was spending a lot of time with 22-year-old Drew



The Texas State Police had Robert Pomeroy under investigation. He was a suspected subversive. A dossier was being compiled.

Pomeroy had formed a 40-member citizens' group early in 1974 to protest the building of a nuclear plant near his home outside Dallas. An undercover agent who had been tailing him reported back that Pomeroy might be using the group as a front, "possibly for a Ralph Nader action."

What that meant was not clear. But the undercover agent gave the dossier to Continental Airlines, where Pomeroy had worked as a pilot for seven years. When Pomeroy, an ex-Marine with no police record and an impeccable civil image, found out about the dossier, he went to court, suing for libel, slander and a trampling of his civil rights. A state senator looked into the case and guessed that the Texas police had been put up to the job by the forces Pomeroy had opposed, the nuclear industry.

The police, while refusing to say who asked for the investigation, now claim they have destroyed their files on Pomeroy and all other nuclear critics.

Living with the memory of bombs over Japan and the threat of war with Russia, Americans in the late Forties and Fifties distrusted the malevolent caprice of nuclear power. So when the U.S. energy moguls decided to invest their future in nuclear reactors, they had to educate the public to the "peaceful" side of atom splitting. An industry forum crafted a 160-page guide for promoting nuclear energy; typical advertisements glamorized its development as "one of the most revolutionary events of the 20th century." General Electric handed eight million school children like Karen Silkwood a free comic book entitled "Inside the Atom." By the Sixties, the sales job seemed a success. Oil and coal would someday be replaced by the bold and bright promise of uranium.

It was uranium, an unpretentious metal buried mostly in isolated pockets under western deserts, that was going to fuel tomorrow's generators—and the oil companies were in on the ground floor. Kerr-McGee Corporation, for instance, which flies its K-M trademark topmast at hundreds of service stations in the Southwest, grabbed up all the uranium fields it could sink a shaft in. On a Navajo reservation near Shiprock, New Mexico, Kerr-McGee discovered a cache of uranium under the parched turf. The Navajos were paid as little as \$1.40 an hour to exhume the metal, hauling it out in wheelbarrows from the stifling, scratchy air below.

After 16 years of plunder, the Navajo mines were exhausted in 1969. Only then did the miners learn that uranium dust had infected many of them with a rare lung cancer that resists early diagnosis. By June of last year the cancer had killed 18 of the 109 Navajo miners, and 21 more were feared dying. But Kerr-McGee refused to take responsibility or pay medical expenses. "I couldn't possibly tell you what happened at some small mines on an Indian reservation," Kerr-McGee spokesman Bill Phillips told a Washington reporter. "We have uranium interests all over the world."

By the Seventies, Kerr-McGee had mined and milled tons of yellow-oxide uranium and had acquired 800,000 acres of uranium leases and a corner on

the market. With assets approaching a billion dollars, it is the nation's largest uranium producer.

In downtown Oklahoma City, where Kerr-McGee's square-block headquarters towers 30 stories above the modest skyline, the Kerr-McGee name is as imposing as its building. The late Robert Kerr, the company's cofounder, claimed to have been born in a log cabin and to have worked his way through college selling magazines. As company president he prided himself on staying at cheap motels and eating baked beans in self-service cafeterias—while fighting to keep unions at bay and workers at minimum wage. As Oklahoma governor in the Forties he ran the state with the same frugality and didn't relax his tight fist until moving to the U.S. Senate in 1948. There Kerr became the most powerful man in the Senate, next to Lyndon Johnson; with Kerr's unflagging zeal, the energy industry won millions of dollars in tax subsidies. And nuclear research benefited from fat bags of public dollars, to the exclusion of solar and geothermal research, in which Kerr-McGee had no interest.

Dean McGee, Kerr's successor as company board chairman, holds office and influence in such diverse interests as banks, power companies and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. McGee has yet to run for public office, but few doubt he could sit comfortably in the governor's chair. "People in Oklahoma look at Dean McGee the same way people in New York look at Nelson Rockefeller—they look up," one politician has observed. When Richard Nixon came to Oklahoma State University last spring in one of his last public appearances, he had to climb the podium with McGee, who received an honorary doctorate.

Recently McGee was named to a federal commission studying America's long-range energy needs, and he presumably will push for nuclear power. But McGee is already looking ahead to the day when nuclear reactors will no longer use uranium. Future reactors will feed on a far more potent fuel, plutonium.

Uranium, like fossil fuels, is limited in supply; in 40 or 50 years we will be able to run out. But plutonium—the love child of an ultimate alchemist—can reproduce itself. An industry brochure puts it like this: "Question—How many pounds of plutonium will you have left after you use three pounds in a nuclear reactor? Answer—Four pounds!"

Plutonium barely exists in nature; our present supply is entirely man-made. It was first discovered in the Forties among the waste products of fissioned uranium. Plutonium can take several forms—but it is usually a gray, soft metal, a slushy liquid nitrate, or a fluffy yellow-green oxide powder fine enough to be inhaled. In any form it is "fiercely toxic," according to one of its discoverers, Dr. Glenn Seaborg.

Plutonium is much more dangerous than uranium. It is incredibly combustible, readily convertible into nuclear weapons and, once let loose in the atmosphere, it stays deadly for a quarter-million years; it cannot be sequestered or destroyed. Swallowing it in a quantity that can be seen would set the digestive tract, killing quickly and painfully. Plutonium is also a carcinogen, but, fear a only a few hundred people have ever been exposed. Scientists disagree as to what amount can cause cancer. As little as a millionth of a gram has induced cancer in

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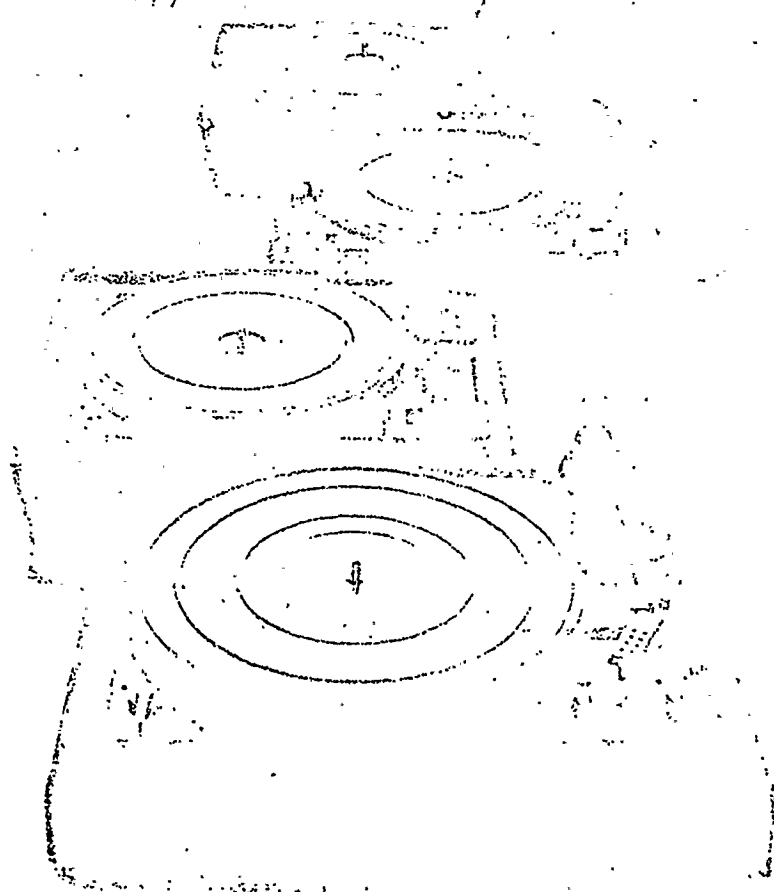
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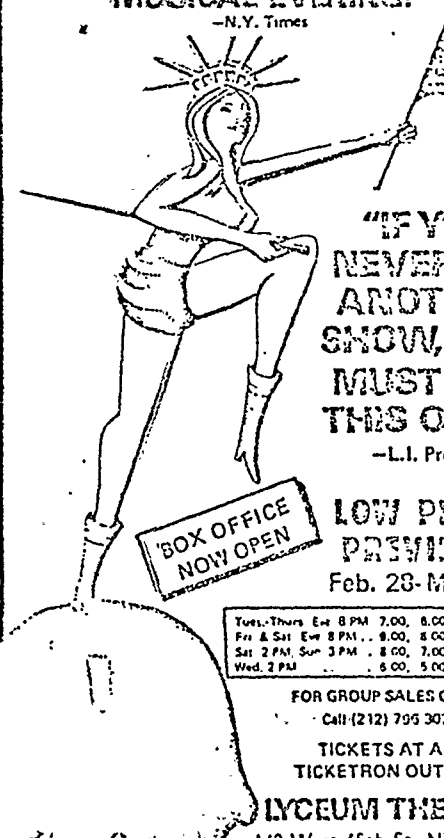
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[Continued from 61]

Now, a month later, Christ-mas was at hand. In the Silk-wood house a make-believe pine tree had been stuck in a dark corner; the most conspicu-ous spot in the living room was reserved for a photo col-lage of their three daughters: Linda, Rosemary and Karen.

"Karen was fixing to come home." Her mother dabbed softly at her eyes. "She want-ed to get away. She was so scared. I wish now I had made her come home when she called that day."

Her expression turned steely. "We never did appre-ciate Karen as much as we should have. I don't think any-one did. Even now they don't. Look what she did. She gave her life to save others."

The Silkwoods were still trying to sort out what had happened, to find answers to ease their minds. They kept pondering the central mystery — how was Karen killed? Had the Quaalude rendered her in an "unconscious or hyp-notic state," or had someone stolen out of the darkness, a mugger armed with power-drive, to dead-end her into the culvert? "I know that working for that company is what killed her," her father said. "But I would still like to know if it was an accident or if it was murder."

The Silkwoods are now considering filing a civil suit against the company. It may be one way, they have been advised, to flush out some an-swers. Kerr-McGee, accord-ing to one source, is already preparing for a suit.

So far the investigation is a stalemate.

In January the Oklahoma Highway Patrol reopened the case for six days, reexamining the evidence and reaching the same conclusion. Actual-ly, it didn't reexamine all the evidence. It couldn't.

Along Highway 74 the Honda's tire tracks had been sloughed away by a tractor-grader—reportedly less than 24 hours after A.O. Pipkin had inspected the scene in his Day-Glo orange jumpsuit. The stretch of highway had then been repaved on one side, making it difficult to tell in which direction a sleepy driver might drift.

The Honda was still avail-able. But the State Highway Patrol regarded it as unreli-able evidence since it had been out of its possession.

At the request of OCAW International, however, three other auto-crash experts have now scrutinized the car. All three agree with Pipkin that the dents could not have been caused by the concrete cul-vert. Dr. E.L. Martin of Al-buquerque, New Mexico, who put the Honda bumper under a microscope, said the bumper dent resulted from "contact between two metal surfaces." It is highly probable, accord-

ing to these experts, that an-other car slammed into the Honda as Silkwood drove to-ward the Holiday Inn North-west.

Was the other driver a hired killer? Or a loose drunk? No investigator knows.

The three men who waited for Silkwood that night think someone was trying a scare tactic that got out of hand.

If Silkwood did have apo-dictic proof of fraud, then sev-eral people conceivably had motives for intimidating her: a plant supervisor afraid of going to prison for falsifying records; a company higher-up who feared a fraud scandal would mean multimillion-dollar losses; a plant worker who felt that Silkwood, in ef-fect, was threatening his liveli-hood; or an AEC official who worried she would jeopardize the entire fast-breeder pro-gram.

Timesman David Burnham has spent several weeks dog-ging the Highway Patrol for answers; he is now hopeful that the Justice Department, which has now entered the case at the request of the OCAW, will pursue a more thorough investigation.

Drew Stephens, who now works in a Volkswagen body-shop, bought a holster, a box of cartridges and a .38 revolver shortly after the crash. He suspected he was being fol-lowed and that his phone was tapped. He has stopped leav-ing his front door unlocked. In an 8"x 11" notebook, he keeps a diary of every clue, any skittish rumor that might turn into a case cracker, then turns these over to the OCAW International. By spring, he says, he will be packing his van and heading cross-country. "There's nothing left for me here." His voice is muted. "Not unless they find who killed Karen."

At OCAW headquarters Steve Wodka has found it dif-ficult to return to other chores. The Silkwood case keeps nagging him. There are too many unanswered ques-tions. For instance, how did Silkwood become contaminat-ed a week before her death? For weeks afterwards Wodka kept the results of her Los Al-amos tests scribbled on an OCAW blackboard, trying to puzzle out the mystery. The most logical explanation, he decided, was that Silkwood had been contaminated at the plant and unknowingly car-ried the plutonium home with her. But then the AEC report-ed that this would have been virtually impossible, given her duties at the plant during the time immediately preceding her contamination.

So now Wodka has come reluctantly to believe she was poisoned. "Someone must have entered her apartment and placed the plutonium in her refrigerator. That's the only way it could have gotten

the cheese and bologna. We've heard from several sources, including the AEC, that Karen had been seen go-ing through the files, looking for records. Someone appar-ently figured out what she was up to. One sure way of pre-venting her from gathering any more evidence would have been to poison her, may-be scare her into leaving."

Wodka also cites another AEC finding: Extra plutoni-um apparently had been add-ed to four of the urine samples Silkwood gave to Kerr-Mc-Gee for analysis in late Octo-ber and early November. "I think someone tampered with these samples, hoping to get her out of the plant or at least confuse the issue."

Kerr-McGee officials have advanced a different conspir-acy theory, passed along in off-the-record conversations with local reporters. Kerr-Mc-Gee suggests that Silkwood contaminated herself to em-barrass the company. Accord-ing to this theory, Silkwood smuggled a plutonium capsule out of the plant, either by swallowing it or slipping it up her vagina or anus—all suici-dal maneuvers. Cited as evi-dence is the coincidence that Silkwood was first contaminat-ed November 5th, the day before the company was to begin new contract negotia-tions with the OCAW. But, even assuming that Silkwood had become a frenzied zealot, this theory does not explain why she thought getting con-taminated in her apartment would embarrass the compa-ny, or why the company would get red faced over any con-tamination after 73 cases in four years.

Nonetheless, Oklahoma City media has popularized this theory. One state repre-sentative, a liberal, shakes his head. "I can't understand that dame, shoving plutonium up her ass like that." And some townspeople have added their own twist, announcing with a wink that "I hear she was a drug-crazy hippie who put this plutonium junk in her mary jew anna."

The OCAW International has pledged not to give up un-till the case is solved.

"Karen was a very unusual person," Wodka says. "She stood up to the company. She was outspoken. She was very brave, now that we look back on it; in many ways she was a lone voice. She was willing to go ahead when other people were afraid."

"She died for a cause," agrees Ilene Younghein. "She will be remembered as a martyr."

At NRC, the regulatory di- vision of the new AEC, she will be remembered, too. The commission has begun a file on her. It reads: "Silkwood, Karen . . . Former employe, Kerr-McGee."

mission (NRC). The change went into effect January 1st of this year.

Most ERDA officials are old AEC officials who are not likely to repudiate the AEC's longstanding commitment to nuclear power. But, charged with developing all varieties of energy, ERDA will take a new look at solar power, which the AEC virtually ignored. And it will reexamine the AEC's plans for 1000 nuclear reactors (including 150 fast-breeders) by the end of the century.

NRC officials, on the other hand, promise a new tenacity for stopping nuclear abuses. By the middle of February the NRC had ordered the temporary closing of 23 plants to look for cracks in the pipes of their emergency systems. If the NRC hangs tough, say environmentalists, the industry will either have to change radically—or there will be no industry at all.

*The more Peter Faulkner found out, the more convinced he became that nuclear plants need a new set of rules to assure quality control. In the five plants where he'd worked as a field engineer he had seen the same mistakes and the same sloppiness repeated over and over.*

So Faulkner took his proposal to his employer, Nuclear Services Corporation of California, a top consulting firm that deals with nuclear plants before and after they are built. It was turned down.

But Faulkner, an ex-captain in the Strategic Air Command, an author, a 20-year engineer and at Yale a member of the same secret society as Senator John Tunney, decided to take his proposal to Congress. On March 12th, 1974, Faulkner told a congressional committee it needed to get tough with the nuclear industry. Three weeks later he was fired.

Now Faulkner is forming a society of nuclear critics who have lost their jobs. Among those eligible for the society are several former AEC scientists. "The industry already has several organizations that promote it," Faulkner says. "People need a professional group telling what is really going on."

All her old clothes were under quarantine, suspected of plutonium contamination, so Karen Silkwood was buried in a new dress. No Kerr-McGee officials made the journey to Texas for the funeral, nor any AEC officials.

Afterwards Karen's parents returned to the green frame house where she grew up. An old high-school friend of Karen's came over to comfort the Silkwoods and spent the evening weeping in anger. Karen's youngest sister, a high-school junior, said that what happened to Karen had inspired her to become a career woman who would call her own shots. [Cont. on 62]

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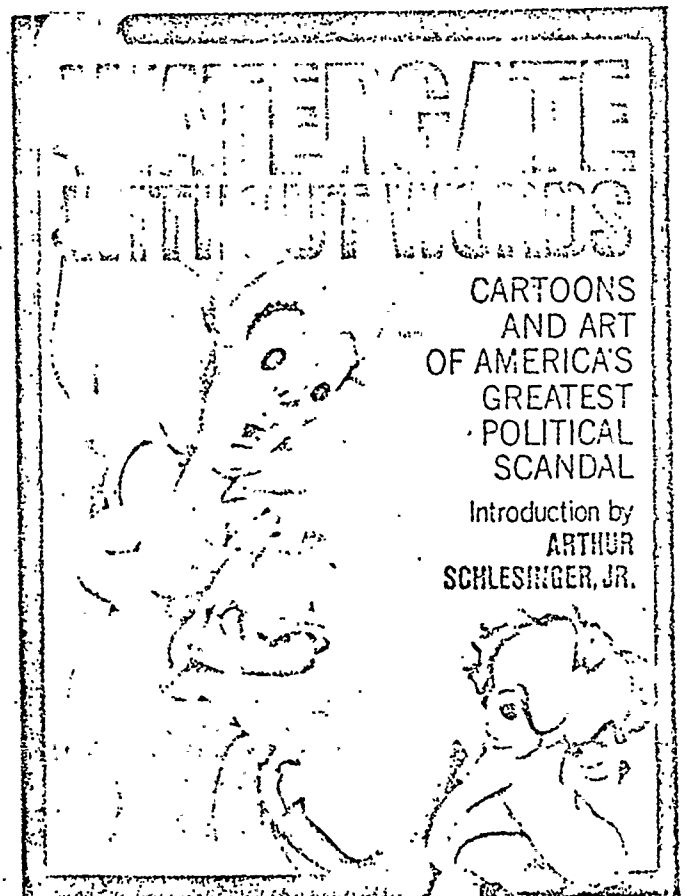
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Seymour Chwast, and many more  
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A Special Project

159-4005-27

[Cont. from 59] dents since the 1940s — including one leak that dribbled 115,000 gallons out of a tank unnoticed for 51 days.

Over the years the AEC had shrugged at multiple warnings that should have sounded sirens:

- A study by two AEC scientists in 1969 that predicted 32,000 more annual deaths from cancer if every American were exposed to the allowable radiation doses set by the AEC;

- An AEC laboratory test in 1970 in which the key emergency safety system for conventional nuclear reactors failed to work in six of six attempts;

- A 1974 AEC investigation that showed radiation levels in the lunchroom at a Tennessee nuclear plant were eight times too high;

- A *Science* magazine report revealing that a plant in Buffalo, New York, was recruiting beer-garden drones because conditions were too "hot" for regular employees;

- Accidents that spilled 1000 gallons of radioactive water into the Illinois River, leaked plutonium into Ohio's Erie Canal, sent radioactive dust out a chimney in a New York plant and increased the chances of cancer in hundreds of workers at dozens of plants;

- The 271 fires and 410 contamination cases at the AEC's only facility for mass production of plutonium parts used in atom bombs, eight miles upwind from Denver, Colorado. (In May 1969 this plant harbored the most expensive fire in industrial history: improperly stored cans of plutonium ignited and destroyed \$50 million of delicate equipment. Over a year later, General E.B. Giller, director of the AEC's division of military applications, admitted the fire had been a "near catastrophe." Had it burned through the roof—and it nearly did—"hundreds of square miles could [have been] involved in radiation exposure." The *Denver Post* has since reported that workers at the plant have a cancer rate seven times higher than the national average.)

In some cases the AEC has released data only after environmentalists filed lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act.

But the nuclear coverup seems to be coming unglued. And there is a new crisis of confidence in the nuclear industry. In January the *New York Times* reported that because of recent criticism the industry is nearly doubling its funds for lobbying with politicians, reporters and labor officials.

There is even a question now whether nuclear power at its best can be efficient. During January 1974, the worst period of the energy crisis, 22 of the nation's 31 commercial nuclear reactors were closed down for all or part of the

month. Even when they are operating they provide less than 10% of the country's energy needs. By contrast, science writer Isaac Asimov estimates that solar cells, say in the Mojave Desert, could supply the present energy needs of the entire world.

More crucial is the issue of safety. Several nuclear plants have actually piled up more AEC violations than Kerr-McGee's. And the Environmental Protection Agency has recently joined the growing queue of leading scientists and authorities who contend the AEC has greatly underestimated nuclear risks. It is not simply the past record that frightens them; it is the potential for future disaster. No fail-safe systems have been devised to meet problems like these:

**TRANSPORTATION.** In 1970 a shipping mixup sent a drum of uranium to Tijuana, Mexico, an error the AEC labeled "Inadvertent export of special nuclear materials." Even if such mistakes aren't repeated, what about plutonium-loaded trucks or trains that crack up?

**WASTE.** Eventually the fast-breeder will produce tons of plutonium that must be disposed of. Because burying it is risky experts have suggested firing it into space. But what about rocket-pad explosions or "short shots" that fall back to earth?

**IGNORANCE.** Last fall sailors aboard Japan's first nuclear-powered ship tried to plug a radioactive leak with boiled rice and old socks.

**TERRORISM.** Only 4.4 pounds of plutonium is needed for a bomb capable of flattening downtown Peoria. What about such grandiose leaders as the shah of Iran, who fancies himself another Alexander the Great and who just bought five nuclear reactors from France? Or just some stray kook who gets his hands on plutonium?

**THEFT.** In 1972 the General Accounting Office ran a security check and found that one man, equipped with an adjustable pocket wrench and a strong arm, could break into a nuclear plant and obtain fissionable material within minutes. What about saboteurs who infiltrate a plant's working force? What kind of police state tactics will become necessary to protect our nuclear industry?

**ACTS OF GOD.** A Virginia nuclear plant was unknowingly built on a geological fault. Can nuclear plants survive earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural catastrophes?

No one knows for certain—including the AEC, which, nevertheless, has always been willing to risk finding out.

Congress, apparently fearing the AEC's dotting optimism, has now replaced it with two agencies: the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Com-

asked questions like: "Have you ever talked to the media?" Although of questionable legality, the polygraphs were required of most plutonium workers as a "security precaution" before they could return to their jobs. A Kerr-McGee official described company strategy in a conversation with Jack Taylor, ace reporter for the *Daily Oklahoman*: "We're going to tool back up slowly and hire people who are trustworthy and are not involved [in the union]." As for undesirables—"You don't have to tell them [anything]. You can just say, 'You didn't clear security.'"

Along with Brewer, five other workers who snubbed or failed the polygraphs were handed pink slips. Jack Tice, the third union committeeman to make the trip to Washington, has been transferred to the most isolated part of the plant. "This action was taken in retaliation for union activities," the OCAW International has charged in a formal complaint to the National Labor Relations Board, "and to prevent [Tice] from discussing grievances or other union business with other employees." The OCAW also is challenging the six firings.

Among the six was Dusty Ellis, the cowgirl who shared the contaminated apartment with Silkwood. After her roommate's death Ellis initially cooperated with Kerr-McGee, refusing to talk to either the OCAW or the media. At one point she was seen, red-eyed and distraught, being escorted by two company detectives away from the Edmond Broadway Motor Inn where she had been staying, compliments of Kerr-McGee. Then Ellis—without explanation—aired a suggestion that Silkwood may have been pilfering plutonium from the plant. Shortly thereafter Kerr-McGee reportedly offered Ellis \$1000 as payment for any claims she might have against the company.

But Ellis turned down the offer. She began worrying that she had been more seriously contaminated than she had been told; her gums bothered her and she had trouble sleeping. In late December she hired a lawyer and threatened to sue the company for copies of all her health records. Three weeks later she was fired. (Two weeks after that, in early February, Ellis told friends that twice someone had tried, and failed, to break into her new apartment.)

During the month between the plant shutdown and the firings, the AEC had published the results of its investigation. (According to a *Daily Oklahoman* story, Kerr-McGee officials received a copy of the report well ahead of its official release, apparently in violation of AEC rules.) Company officials, who had been refusing comment since Karen Silkwood's death except to say,

"We will let the AEC speak for us," pronounced themselves pleased with the findings.

On the question of falsified records the AEC did locate one former worker who admitted using a felt-tip pen to touch up photo negatives that measured the welding on plutonium fuel rods. The worker, however, said he acted only to make his job easier and not under orders from Kerr-McGee. Without Silkwood's documents, the AEC reported, it could find no other hard proof. But the OCAW questioned whether the AEC was really looking. According to the OCAW, the AEC lied when it claimed to have interviewed a worker who disputed Silkwood's allegations of fraud. This worker, the OCAW says, has given the union a sworn affidavit that the AEC never interviewed him—and that he believes quality controls are not adequate.

Whether Kerr-McGee's plutonium fuel rods are safe and adequate for use is still unknown; they have yet to be tested at the AEC facility in Richland.

On the question of plant safety, the AEC reported that 20 of the 39 grievances it examined were true or partially true: Plutonium had been stored in a desk drawer instead of a prescribed vault; in various incidents, employees had been forced to work in areas not tested for contamination or where leaks remained; in another, the company failed to report a serious leak that had forced it to close the plant in May 1974; generally, respirators had not been checked regularly for deficiencies; few workers had been properly trained.

Such disregard for safety, the AEC decided, merited no censure beyond adding these new citations to the trove already in the Kerr-McGee files. Kerr-McGee was free to resume its role in the AEC's fast-breeder program, a program that might have been seriously compromised had Kerr-McGee been forced to close up shop permanently.

Younghein and other environmentalists professed no surprise at the AEC's lack of action. The AEC had never summoned the courage to penalize Kerr-McGee in the past. The AEC had managed to levy only eight penalties during a 12-month period in 1973-74, even though its inspectors had found 3333 violations. In 1972 during a hearing on nuclear safety, the AEC had given its scientists written instructions to "never disagree with established policy." And at a nuclear waste dumping grounds in Washington, the AEC has been in charge while half a million gallons of "hot" effluent, enough to fill four railroad cars, have been spilled onto the ground in numerous acci- [Cont. on 61]

159-4000



# SILKWOOD

[Continued from 46]

"If the public knew what the facts are and if they had to choose between nuclear reactors and candles, they would choose candles."

—Ralph Nader

"When we think of having several thousand reactors as we are talking about having, [we could] have a serious accident once every three years, losing a city for example."

—Dr. John Gofman,  
former AEC associate  
lab director

"In the nuclear industry... no acts of God can be permitted."

—Dr. Hannes Alfven,  
Nobel laureate  
in physics

"In spite of soothing reassurances the AEC gives to the uninformed, misled public, unresolved questions about nuclear power safety are so grave that the U.S. should consider a complete halt to nuclear power plant construction while we see if these serious questions can be resolved."

—Carl H. Hoevar,  
former AEC  
safety expert

On December 20th, five weeks after Karen Silkwood's death, Kerr-McGee temporarily closed its plutonium plant. These were trying days for the company. Supporters of Kerr-McGee found it necessary to print ads reminding Oklahomans that Dun & Bradstreet had recently named it among the five best-managed corporations in the country. But headlines kept popping up all over, thanks to the *New York Times* wire service, telling of a mysterious death, falsified records and ill-trained workers sent in to handle one of the world's most dangerous poisons.

Nuclear proponents were worried, especially those of the nuclear elite like Dean McGee, who had been helping babysit plans for a multibillion-dollar "nuclear park" near flag-waving Muskogee in northeastern Oklahoma — it would be a carnie midway of over 20 facilities, the boldest assortment of nuclear props ever assembled. Even Muskogee's proud-to-be-Okies were beginning to flinch. "The bad publicity," complained Senator Henry Bellmon, a big McGee booster, "is making it more difficult to get what we want in the Muskogee area."

But the controversy around Kerr-McGee would not quit. Hints of strange goings-on salted the news. Robert G. Bathe, a plutonium worker, reported to police that a motorist had "harassed" him as he drove home from the plant a few nights after Silkwood's death; when Bathe's statement leaked to the press, he and the police suddenly refused to discuss the incident. Shortly afterwards, however, *Times*man David Burnham reported that

security at the plant was so atrocious that 60 pounds of plutonium — enough for five Nagasaki bombs — were unaccounted for and possibly missing, an allegation Kerr-McGee heatedly denied.

The most prickly burr in the wind, though, was the AEC investigation, which promised a full report on Kerr-McGee.

On December 17th, at the height of the AEC investigation, Kerr-McGee was forced to announce that five more employees had been contaminated at its plutonium plant. The company claimed it had evidence the accidents were contrived, a modest slander suggesting that workers sniffed poison to embarrass their bosses. Though Kerr-McGee said it had given its evidence to the FBI, the FBI denied receiving it. Nonetheless, three days later, Kerr-McGee handed out lay-off slips, announcing the plant would not reopen until the payroll was checked for security.

Closing the plant five days before Christmas effectively reminded the workers how close they were, in hard times, to standing in line for unemployment checks; some feared talking to AEC investigators might further jeopardize their jobs. (Earlier in December, rather than risk losing their jobs to a gang of strikebreakers, the workers of Local 5-283 had ratified a new contract that again fell far short of their demands.)

Predictably, the plant shutdown ruptured the tentative alliance between the plutonium workers and local environmentalists. To Ilene Younghein, the shutdown was a first step to victory; to Frank Murch, a middle-aged man with seven years invested in Kerr-McGee, it was a slap in the pocketbook: "You're damn right I'm bitter about this. I'm bitter at the environmentalists. It's a hell of a thing, putting this many people out of work." Some took to blaming the dead — one worker who earlier had talked about honoring Karen Silkwood with a special grave marker now spat at the mention of her name.

"Attitudes changed," says Gerald Brewer. "People started to blame Karen for getting thrown out of work right before the holidays." Brewer was one of the two union committee members who accompanied Silkwood to Washington in September. He had worked at the plant three years.

In early January, after plutonium production resumed, Brewer was demoted from his job and transferred to an isolated warehouse. Two weeks later he was fired. There was no official explanation; a company spokesman was still denying the firing five days later.

Brewer's apparent sin, besides his role in compiling the grievances, was his refusal to submit to a polygraph test that



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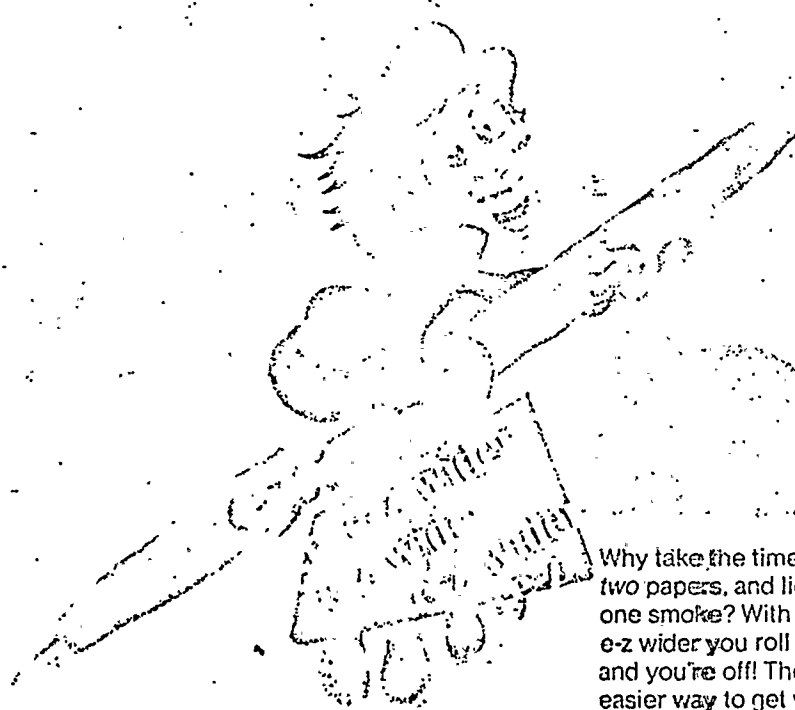
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him to pick up Wodka and Burnham at the airport and to expect her at the motor hotel about 8 p.m. She sounded normal, Stephens remembers, perhaps a bit excited about having an audience with the *New York Times*. At 7:15 p.m. Silkwood left the Hub Cafe and headed for Highway 74 and the Holiday Inn Northwest. A fellow union member would later swear in an affidavit that Silkwood, minutes before she left the restaurant, was carrying a manila folder an inch thick with papers. The folder, Silkwood told the union member, contained proof that quality-control records were being falsified.

Thirty miles away, Wodka, Burnham and Stephens waited for that proof until 8:45. Then they picked up the phone; but for some reason the Holiday Inn lines were out of order, and another hour passed before the three could get through.

Meanwhile, at 8:05 p.m., a truck driver, sitting high up in his cab and rolling along the two-lane highway, spotted the white Honda, almost hidden in the muddy culvert. Silkwood had traveled about seven miles from the Hub Cafe, a ten-minute drive.

By the time Stephens, Wodka and Burnham learned the news from a local union member, the 1638-pound Civic Hatchback already had been towed to Ted Sebring's garage in Crescent. And Silkwood had been pronounced dead on arrival at the Guthrie Hospital, the victim of multiple and compound fractures.

The three men raced to the culvert, only a mile from the plutonium plant, and prowled about, stepping gingerly through the mud, which in Oklahoma is the color of dry blood. All they could find were shards of aluminum trim, the orange roadside reflectors that had been trampled by the bouncing car and Silkwood's uncashed paycheck.

Later they found the wreck locked up in Sebring's garage and peered at it through the window. They stopped at the home of union committeeman Jack Tice, one of the last to see Silkwood alive; Stephens called Silkwood's parents. Then they returned to the culvert, searching for an explanation in the tire tracks and the scraps of metal.

The explanation the State Highway Patrol offered was that Karen Silkwood, exhausted after driving 600 miles from Los Alamos to Oklahoma City, had fallen asleep and drifted off the road to an accidental death. Almost immediately the police had to alter their official version when they were told Silkwood had flown from Los Alamos and had gotten a full night's sleep only 12 hours before the crash.

The second official version was somewhat more convincing. Sometime during the afternoon of November 13th Silkwood had gulped down at least one of the pasty white Quaaludes from the vial in her coat pocket. Oklahoma City's chief forensic toxicologist, Richard W. Prouty, discovered .35 milligrams of methaqualone in her bloodstream, conceivably enough to lull her to sleep on the highway.

But that was not sufficient for Steve Wodka.

Silkwood had swallowed several Quaaludes in the past week without nodding out. Why would she fall into a trance on her way to an extremely crucial meeting? And the proof of fraud she was supposedly carrying had disappeared. Her personal effects, listed by the medical examiner, included an ID badge, an electronic security key (for the plant), two marijuana cigarettes, a Kotex pad, two used Kleen-

exes, a Bradley Mickey Mouse pocket watch, a small notebook, her clothes, \$7 in bills and \$1.69 in change. But there was no manila folder heavy with Kerr-McGee documents.

Trooper Rick Fagan, however, had mentioned finding dozens of loose papers blowing about the accident scene when he first arrived. Fagan had plucked up the papers, he told his superiors, and shoved them into the Honda. According to the highway patrol's information officer, Lieutenant Kenneth Vanhoy, the papers were in the Honda when Ted Sebring hauled the car away.

Presumably they were still there at 12:30 a.m.—five hours after the accident—when Sebring unlocked his garage for a group of Kerr-McGee and AEC representatives who said they wanted to check out Silkwood's car for plutonium contamination.

But by the next afternoon when Stephens, Wodka and Burnham claimed Silkwood's car from Sebring, no papers were inside.

Wodka called Tony Mazzocchi at OCAW International. Mazzocchi agreed: An outside expert was needed to investigate the crash.

Three days after Silkwood's death an auto-crash expert arrived in Oklahoma City from the Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas. A.O. Pipkin, an ex-cop, is a veteran of 2000 accidents and 300 court trials, a no-nonsense pro considered the best man around for piecing together an accident scenario.

Dressed in a Day-Glo orange jumpsuit, Pipkin examined the Honda and found two curious dents, one in the rear bumper, another in the rear fender. They were fresh; there was no road dirt in them. And they appeared to have been made by a car bumper.

At the scene Pipkin noted that the Honda had crossed over the yellow lines and hit the culvert on the left side of the highway. If Silkwood had nodded into a stupor, he reasoned, she would have drifted to the right. In the red clay, Pipkin found something else the police apparently disregarded: tire tracks indicating the car had been out of control before it left the highway.

Pipkin's disconcerting conclusion: Karen Silkwood's Honda had been hit from the rear by another vehicle.

*Larry Bogart's last job was special assistant to the chairman of the board at Allied Chemical. But in 1966 he decided to take time off to oppose the construction of a nuclear plant near his home in Allendale, New Jersey. He has been fighting nuclear companies ever since; he is now coordinator of a 40-state coalition of antinuclear groups.*

*On a wintry evening in 1971 Bogart was driving his Volkswagen on the New Jersey Turnpike, heading for a meeting where he was scheduled to speak against nuclear power. Another car, he says, zoomed up alongside and forced him off the highway. His Volkswagen bounced off a guardrail, skidded wildly but did not roll over. He was shook up but unhurt.*

*On two other occasions, Bogart says, his car has been tampered with; once the accelerator rod had been sawed through. Visitors to his office, he says, run the risk of being photographed by lurking private eyes.*

*"Environmentalists tend to be naive," Bogart says. "They think that if they prove nuclear power is dangerous it will automatically follow that change will come. They don't realize that big money is controlling the business."*

[Continued on 58]

On the third day the mystery repeated itself—and a nasal smear indicated she also was contaminated internally.

How much plutonium, she wanted to know, could a person ingest before it burned out her insides?

Wodka tried to reassure her and promised to fly in. Silkwood hung up and sought out her old lover. "She was damn near incoherent," says Stephens. "She was crying and shaking like a leaf; she kept saying she was going to die."

Again she picked up the phone and called long distance. Minneapolis. Dr. Dean Abrahamson. She wanted medical advice from a physician. She told him that somehow, somewhere, she had gotten plutonium all over her, inside and out. "She knew what the medical implications were," recalls Dr. Abrahamson, "and she was worried."

A team of Kerr-McGee inspectors, armed with alpha counters, full-face respirators, special galoshes, taped up gloves and white coveralls, were meanwhile hunting the source of the plutonium. There had been no recent accident at the plant to account for her contamination. So, at Silkwood's request, they had trekked to her apartment. There the alpha counters commenced eerie gibberings. Plutonium, in small quantities, was everywhere. Outside on the lawn the inspectors filled a 55-gallon drum with alarm clocks, cosmetics, record albums, drapes, pots and pans, shampoo, bedsheets. Alongside they stacked chairs, bed, stove, refrigerator, television, items to be trucked to the Kerr-McGee plant for later burial in an AEC-approved site.

The plutonium trail turned hottest in the kitchen, inside the refrigerator. A package of bologna and a package of cheese were the two most contaminated items in the apartment. Apparently, the plutonium had been tracked around the apartment from the refrigerator. But no one could explain how two sandwich foods had become the source of contamination.

The apartment was sealed off and the AEC called in.

Silkwood, however, was more worried about the plutonium inside her than on the cheese and bologna. She kept popping the Quaaludes that had been prescribed a few weeks before. "The Quaaludes were just supposed to be taken for sleeping at nights," Stephens says. "But she was using them during the day, just to calm down. I'd never seen her so scared."

Wodka had jetted in from Washington and, after talking to Kerr-McGee and AEC officials, had helped arrange for Silkwood to fly to an AEC laboratory in New Mexico to be checked out for poisoning. On Sunday November 10th, five days after her first contamination, she boarded a Braniff airliner.

That same morning a front-page *New York Times* story reported that, according to the AEC's own internal documents, the AEC had "repeatedly sought to suppress studies by its own scientists that found nuclear reactors were more dangerous than officially acknowledged or that raised questions about reactor safety devices." One AEC study, kept confidential for seven years, predicted that a major nuclear accident could kill up to 45,000 persons and pollute an area the size of Pennsylvania. *Times* reporter David Burnham, who in 1970 interviewed Frank Serpico and broke open the New York police corruption scandal, had sifted through hundreds of memos and letters and learned the AEC had a ten-year record of blue-penciling alarming data, soft-soaping test failures and

glad-handing an industry that increasingly appeared not to know what it was doing.

The report gave scant comfort to Silkwood as she flew to Los Alamos, New Mexico, site of the world's first plutonium explosion during the A-bomb tests of World War II. With her were Stephens and Sherri "Dusty" Ellis, her roommate of the past few months, a blonde, rawboned, 21-year-old rodeo champ. Ellis also worked at the plant but had refused to get involved in Silkwood's efforts to unmask the company.

Now the three shared the same fears; all had been contaminated in the apartment.

For two days they underwent a "whole body count," a meticulous probing of skin, orifices, intestines and lungs, urinating at intervals into plastic bottles and defecating into Freezette box containers.

After the first day, the three had cause for relief. Dr. George Voelz, the health division leader, assured them they had suffered no immediate damage. Even Silkwood, by far the most infected, was told she was in no danger of dying from plutonium poisoning.

On Tuesday November 12th, Silkwood called her mother to announce the good news about the tests, but added, "I'm still a little scared. I still don't know how I got contaminated. I feel like someone's using me for a guinea pig."

"I told her to come home," her mother recalled. "And she said she would. She said she was ready for a vacation . . . she just had to do a couple things first."

After more body-prying tests at Los Alamos, the three travelers flew back to Oklahoma City, landing about 10:30 Tuesday night. Because the women's apartment had been gutted of furniture, they checked in at Stephens's bungalow, now a bachelor's pad papered with four-color profiles of racing cars clipped from hotrod magazines. Silkwood wandered over to her favorite radiator vent, squatting and rubbing to warm up, then went to bed early. She had a busy day ahead. She had told Wodka she would give him the evidence she was collecting as soon as she returned from Los Alamos, and Wodka had set up a meeting with her and David Burnham, the *Times* reporter, who was winging in from the East Coast. The meeting was scheduled for Wednesday night at the Holiday Inn Northwest in Oklahoma City.

Wednesday morning Silkwood drove to work. Contract negotiations between Local 5-283 and Kerr-McGee had begun the week before and, as a committeewoman, she was supposed to take part in the bargaining. She spent the morning in negotiations, arguing the union demands for better safety training and higher injury benefits. In the afternoon she met for several hours with AEC inspectors, who were trying to unravel the mystery of her contamination.

At 5:15 p.m. she drove to Crescent, about five miles from the plant, and stopped at the Hub Cafe for a supper meeting, sans supper, to discuss negotiations strategy with Local 5-283. Jack Tice, who headed the negotiating team, told the assembled union members that, as expected, Kerr-McGee was not budging off its hard line.

Silkwood excused herself about 6 p.m. to telephone Stephens, reminding

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"I told her to calm down, to forget about it," Stephens remembers.

Six days before Silkwood's Washington trip, Stephens had abruptly quit, riled by a sudden transfer. "When I first went to work there I wanted to be the world's greatest laboratory technician. Now I never wanted to see the place again.

"But Karen felt differently. She wanted to reform the place. She had tried to go through channels and she'd gotten very frustrated. But when she came back from Washington she was really excited. This was her chance to do something. She figured things were really going to change."

On October 10th, two of the nation's leading plutonium experts arrived in Oklahoma City from the University of

fuel rods was too weak. "They [company supervisors] are still passing bad welds no matter what the pictures look like," she said in a telephone conversation that Wodka taped. "I have a weld I would love for you to see, just how far they ground it down to relax the weld trying to get rid of the voids, the occlusions and the cracks." (Unsafe fuel rods, according to MIT physicist Dr. Henry Kendall, could lead to "an accident that would result in the release of huge amounts of radioactivity.")

Silkwood spent the weeks of October staying after hours, poring over files, recording every questionable procedure, building a dossier in a dog-eared manila folder. She did not know then that other employees had noticed her spying, and that the plant rumormongers were abuzz with suspicions about what she was up to.

"I have guilt feelings about those weeks," Stephens says. "I should have talked to her more, been with her more, helped her out. . . . But I just wanted to forget about the place."

On Tuesday, November 5th, 1974, Silkwood discovered she had been contaminated with plutonium again.

*Sometimes Robert Rowen found the radiation levels so high that the radioactive film in his dosimeter was extremely overexposed. Then one day, he says, a superior asked him to falsify test records. After six years of trying to help PG&E's Northern California nuclear plant run safely, Rowen went to the AEC, charging PG&E with repeatedly violating federal rules on the handling of radioactive material.*

*Shortly thereafter, in the spring of 1970, Rowen was fired. But when he went job hunting, he discovered he was considered a dangerous radical. The local police even had a file accusing Rowen of living in a commune, which read Eldridge Cleaver and advocated revolutionary violence. The police chief said he had received this information, unsolicited, from a PG&E security official. (The official admits talking to the police about Rowen but denies making any accusations.)*

*A state labor referee looked into Rowen's firing and found "the principal cause was his extreme safety consciousness." The AEC investigated PG&E, corroborated some of Rowen's charges and scolded the company for "discouraging" at least one employee from talking to the AEC about safety at the plant.*

*Rowen, a former Pathfinder in the Marine Corps, has filed a huge damage suit against PG&E and finally landed a job as a high-school civics teacher and football coach near Eureka, California.*

Minnesota, summoned by the OCAW International to conduct crash courses for Kerr-McGee's plutonium workers. Their credentials were impressive: Dr. Donald Geesaman, a top AEC scientist for 13 years, had crusaded for stiffer plutonium standards until he was fired; Dr. Dean Abrahamson was both a physicist and a physician.

The two professors were told that 73 workers had been internally contaminated by plutonium during the previous four years. (Dozens more workers had accidentally brushed plutonium or been sprinkled with it, but had washed it off their skin.) The 73 had been exposed to airborne plutonium; any inhaled into their lungs could not be washed out. The probability of cancer in such cases, Dr. Abrahamson warned, "is disturbingly high." Because it takes 10 or 15 years after exposure to detect cancer, no cases have yet been reported at Kerr-McGee. But those workers with internal contamination must live with the threat of cancer for years to come.

Karen Silkwood was one of those 73, and she was shocked by Abrahamson's news. She had assumed she would stay clear of cancer if she did not breathe in more plutonium than allowed under AEC guidelines. But Abrahamson was saying, "If you can measure plutonium in the air at all, it's too high." The AEC guidelines, he said, were meaningless.

Silkwood grew moody and restless, working nights and unable to sleep during the days. She got a prescription for some sleeping pills. And she began to hunt for another job.

But first, she vowed to Stephens, she was going to get proof that Kerr-McGee was sustaining its plutonium plant through false and perjurious records. She had already collected some evidence, she said, and was certain she could get more.

At one point Silkwood reported to Wodka that she had obtained photographs proving the welding on some

Rapidly, as if no time were left on the clock, Silkwood jammed the dime in its slot and dialed long distance. Washington. Steve Wodka. "Hello." An uncertain trickle started down her face. Her voice tottered. "Please come to Oklahoma," she said. "Something very weird is happening here."

Three times in the past three days Karen Silkwood had been contaminated with plutonium, and no one knew where it was coming from. A monitoring device had first discovered flecks of plutonium on her skin and clothing shortly after she reported for work November 5th. She had quickly stepped under a brisk shower. But the next day the monitor flashed on again. More plutonium on her skin. Another shower.

the plant, she figured, were living in the shadow of Armageddon. "I felt betrayed by Kerr-McGee. They built that plant without telling anyone—I guess they thought no one would find out."

A few short notices had appeared in the local papers in 1970 when Kerr-McGee first began hotfooting with plutonium—quotes of welcome for the plant from then governor Dewey Bartlett. But there was no mention of the menace in plutonium.

In the fall of 1973 Younghein had begun a one-woman campaign to shut the plant down. Angry workers simply wanted the company to improve training procedures and apply safety precautions rather than lock its doors. But they supplied inside scuttlebutt to Younghein and other environmentalists, hoping the outside pressure would prod Kerr-McGee to clean up its act. Younghein did her best, collecting 500 signatures on a petition for stricter federal controls and penciling two lengthy doomsday articles for the *Oklahoma Observer*, a maverick semiweekly un-intimidated by Kerr-McGee.

Meanwhile, Kerr-McGee was preoccupied with a breakwater federal court ruling in New Jersey that ordered all nuclear companies to submit statements describing the dangers of nuclear plants. Among other things, Kerr-McGee was required to show the AEC that neighbors of the plutonium plant understood the risks and were willing to live with them. Kerr-McGee balked; Executive Vice President George B. Parks argued in a letter to the AEC that such questions were not "proper subjects of inquiry in a [public] environmental study."

Then Kerr-McGee relented. In August 1974 the AEC received three letters, one each from the city councils of Guthrie and Crescent and one from the commissioners of Logan County, representing the citizenries closest to the plant. The letter from the Guthrie City Council reported that it had surveyed the populace and found that "in general, their reaction has shown no animosity and . . . that the presence of the Kerr-McGee facility is welcome due to its favorable benefit." The letter from the Crescent City Council said the same thing—exactly the same thing, word for word. So did the letter from the Logan County Commission. In the finest tradition of spoon-fed corporate blurb, all three letters were identical. Confronted later with this embarrassment, Guthrie City Manager R. E. Anderson mumbled, "The company did give us a letter to look at so we knew what they had in mind. I didn't realize we'd sent it off without changing a few words."

The same month that Kerr-McGee was trying to impress the AEC with letters in triplicate, Karen Silkwood and the other two Local 5-283 steering committee members were preparing a declaration of war against the company. New contract negotiations were due in a few months, and for the first time Local 5-283 was going to confront Kerr-McGee squarely on the issue of safety. The chronicle of accidents, safety abuses and other allegations was to be compiled into a formal list of grievances.

Silkwood helped interview workers in the dangerous production areas of the plant. Most were young, average age about 25, coming from nearby farms and small towns and, Silkwood learned, several had no idea plutonium could cause cancer.

They spun out a grim tale of corporate callousness: New employees often were sent directly into production with-

out safety training (one such worker had been badly contaminated and had quit the next day before receiving medical attention); production schedules sometimes forced workers to stay on the job even when the air wasn't safe to breathe—supervisors ordering them to wear respirators rather than hunting the source of contamination; and plutonium was sometimes stored in such casual containers as desk drawers.

With their grievances in hand, and with the quickening hopes of the union membership, Silkwood and her fellow committee members, Gerald Brewer and Jack Tice, flew to Washington D.C. for a meeting with the OCAW International. They arrived on September 26th and met Steve Wodka, an OCAW legislative assistant, a hard-

nosed, stiff-talking man given to curt skepticism and impatient waves of the hand. Though only 25, he is among the OCAW's best troubleshooters. Wodka and his boss, Tony Mazzocchi, had devoted much of the previous year to hassling do-nothing regulatory agencies and exposing health hazards in the asbestos industry, a crusade that had won them praise from Senator Walter Mondale on the floor of Congress.

Wodka and Mazzocchi pumped Silkwood and the others for details, then the next day marched them over to the only place in town that could put the clamps on Kerr-McGee—the AEC. The AEC copied it all down and promised an investigation.

But Wodka was already considering another investigation. Silkwood had confided to him that for months she had suspected that tests on the plutonium fuel rods destined for Richland, Washington, were being fudged. And, she said, she had recently heard about records being doctored, X-ray photos being black-penciled and other tests being manipulated. Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant might be defrauding the AEC, she had concluded, shipping inadequate or unsafe fuel rods to Richland.

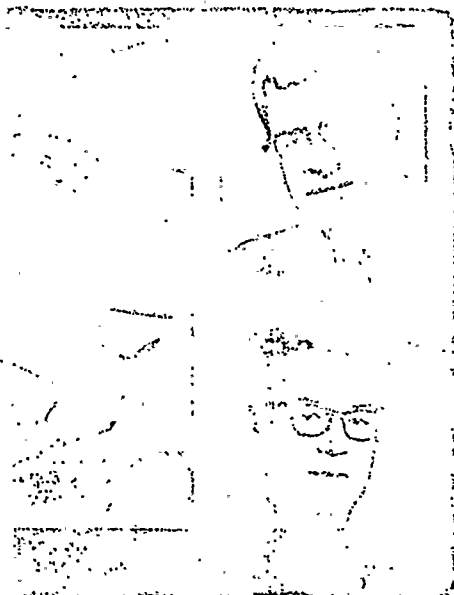
"Both Tony Mazzocchi and I felt this was a very serious situation," Wodka says. "But we felt it was premature to bring it to the attention of the AEC. We had to have proof before we could make any accusations. So we asked Karen to go back to the plant, to find out who was falsifying the records, who was ordering it and to document everything in specific detail."

Silkwood agreed to go undercover.

Back in Oklahoma she revealed her new role to Stephens. She stood in his living room, crouching over the radiator vent to shake off the autumn chill, and jabbed a delicate brown finger into the air: "We're really gonna get those motherfuckers this time."

Stephens, a short-haired, brainy lab analyst with an easy smile. When he first came to work three years before, Stephens had expected to earn his 40-year gold watch from Kerr-McGee. But he had grown disenchanted after the rash of accidents and now lived for weekends when he turned sports-car racer, a hotdog kid on the local auto-cross circuit.

The strike lasted ten weeks. Those picketers whose jobs had not been lost to scabs returned to work in January 1973, reluctantly signing a new contract that stripped away many of their previous rights, including certain protections against arbitrary firings and reassignments. A few weeks later a plant employee was emptying a bag of plutonium wastes when a fire spontaneously



erupted, shooting radioactive dust into the air. Seven workers sucked in the junk. But Kerr-McGee supervisors waited a day before calling in a physician. Four days later the seven workers still had not been tested for contamination in their lungs.

Silkwood and Stephens shared in the outrage building in the plant. But they were now deeply in love, Stephens divorcing his wife of four years to live with Silkwood. They were enjoying the good times, tooling around in Stephens's tomato red Austin-Healy Sprite, country-rock blaring on the radio.

Then, in July 1974, Karen Silkwood became contaminated with plutonium.

Actor Jack Lemmon, serving as narrator, introduced the documentary: "One thing is certain. The nuclear power plants . . . have everybody connected just a trifle jumpy."

Entitled 'Powers that Be,' the television film was produced in 1971 by Don Widener, an Emmy winner then working for the NBC-owned station in Los Angeles. The film, a powerful critique of nuclear dangers, was shown once in Los Angeles but never repeated nationally.

NBC decided to let it die after Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E), the nation's second largest private power company and a heavy nuclear investor, raised a fuss on Capitol Hill about Widener's credibility. No charges were ever substantiated (although some are still in litigation). But, in an internal memo later subpoenaed in a lawsuit, a PG&E official confided: "The fact that NBC is upset at our aggressive approach [with Congress] is just what we wanted."

Award-winner Widener, who is suing PG&E for libel, was let go by the network soon after the documentary and has found little television work since.

1

Oklahoma City still listens to Rosemary Clooney, votes Republican and plays host to all the cowboy conventions it can corral. Adolescents favor mail-order miniskirts and the Burt Reynolds look. A popular radio station provides "full-time Christian broadcasting." Okie country is not the kind of place that fathers worry their daughters will run off to.

But for Karen Silkwood, Oklahoma City was full of bright lights and good-time chances to catch up on what she missed as a teenager. She hung out at bars and rock concerts and learned how to get gently stoned. She was happy. Coming home one night she told Stephens: "I feel like I'm in love with the whole world."

But after several months she moved out, jealous for her freedom, unwilling to risk another marriage. She wanted her own place and, after a money-poor marriage, indulged in a color TV, a \$600 stereo, a Suzuki cycle and a Honda Civic Hatchback. Silkwood and Stephens remained friends and part-time lovers, but her career was her first love. She retreated from the night scene to work overtime. And she got involved in the union, OCAW Local 5-283.

Silkwood looked to the union as the only outlet for her growing frustration with management. When suddenly exposed to a swirl of airborne plutonium in July 1974, she was not wearing a respirator. For over a year she had been bugging the company to buy a special respirator to fit over her tiny, narrow face; it hadn't arrived.

When union elections came up the next month, Silkwood ran and won one of the three seats on the Local 5-283 steering committee. Fellow workers knew her as the spunky chick who talked back to her bosses. "God damn it, I am right and you are wrong," she once raged at a supervisor. "If you want to tell me what to do, you oughta learn how to do the job right."

Despite growing anticcompany jabber at the plant, most workers did not want a fight. Many simply quit; the annual turnover rate among the 115 hourly workers, according to the union, hovered around 60%. Some complained of being harassed out of their jobs; three workers who griped to AEC officials about safety conditions early in 1974 were reportedly tracked down and transferred to "shit details" in the chilly warehouse.

Other plutonium workers took their feelings outside the plant, anonymously phoning tips to environmental groups like the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth. Several calls also went to Ilene Younghein, an Oklahoma City housewife, mother of two grown kids, a hefty woman with a wonderful rococo laugh who had read about the dangers of plutonium in *Intellectual Digest* and had written to a local newspaper about it. "You can imagine how stunned I was when some workers called to tell me there was a plutonium plant under our very noses," she recalls. "It was a short drive upwind from my house and I hadn't known it. What would happen if there was a big explosion at the plant? We'd have dead people all over the place." In addition, Younghein learned, the plant had been built on a flood plain and in the center of a tornado alley, a situation that required stowing all plutonium in a vault whenever there was a flood or tornado alert. And there was no guarantee the vault would not crack. All 900,000 people within 50 miles of



lab animals and some experts say that a softball-sized bag of plutonium, if properly dispersed, could visit cancer on every home on earth.

For years plutonium was used exclusively for bombs. The nonmilitary inventory wasn't enough to fill a pair of size ten shoes. But at the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in Washington D.C., visionaries saw an incipient bonanza. So the AEC, encouraged by money and kind words from Capitol Hill, set out to make plutonium practical and profitable. A special nuclear reactor to breed plutonium, nicknamed the "fast-breeder," was built in Michigan. It proved a \$135-million flop. In 1972, after dozens of false starts, it was abandoned, a vast leprous hulk on the outskirts of Detroit. (Early last year the Soviet Union's only fast-breeder closed down after a serious explosion.)

The AEC was undeterred. It decided more tests were needed. Near Richland, Washington, construction was begun on a facility to test "fuel rods," the plutonium-filled tubes used in a fast-breeder. The Richland facility won't be ready for tests until 1978 and a new fast-breeder, scheduled for Tennessee, won't be finished until the Eighties. But for the past four years fuel rods have been trucked into Richland to await the tests.

Most of the fuel rods come from Kerr-McGee's prized plutonium plant 26 miles outside Oklahoma City. It was Kerr-McGee, on good terms with the AEC since Robert Kerr's congressional days, which was awarded a \$1.4-million AEC contract to process the plutonium into pellets and pour them into the fuel rods.

Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant, built next to one of its uranium plants (and within five miles of 92 gas and oil wells, two popular resort lakes and the churning Cimarron River), opened in 1970 shortly before 8583 fish turned belly-up in the river following a big ammonia spill at the facility. Raised against the flat harshness of rural Oklahoma, the barnlike plant is unimposing; only a chain-link fence and armed guards hint at the devil's brew within.

Kerr-McGee had assured the AEC it could deal safely and circumspectly with the plutonium. But the AEC, a government agency in the curious role of both promoting and policing the nuclear industry, soon received numerous reports of irregularities and accidents at the Kerr-McGee plant. In a situation that left no margin for error, things kept getting bungled.

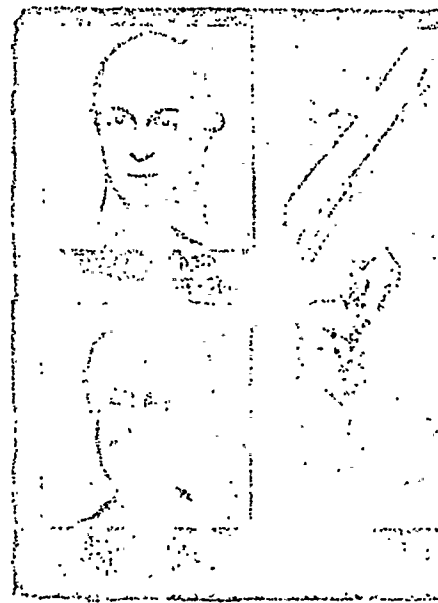
In October 1970, soon after the plant opened, two workers were contaminated when a radioactive storage container was left in the open for three days. Twenty-two more workers were exposed to plutonium in January 1971 when defective equipment allowed plutonium oxide to escape into the air. Less serious incidents were common. The protective "glove boxes" the workers used often had holes. Sometimes the "Super Tiger" and "Poly Panther" drums, specially designed to store the volatile liquid, unaccountably leaked. Improperly designed pipes once sent plutonium sloshing to wrong parts of the plant.

One day a worker bent to adjust a compressor unit; it exploded, ripping through his hand and tearing off the top of his face, spitting tissue over the ceiling. He died instantly. "When I got there," remembers a former lab technician, "they were washing the goo down the drain." Kerr-McGee, he feels, "didn't give a damn about the people

who worked there—it didn't care whether its safety program was effective or not."

In April 1972 two maintenance men repairing a pump at the plant were splashed with a rain of plutonium particles, which settled on their hands, faces, hair and clothes. At noon they left the plant for lunch in a nearby town, not discovering their contamination until they returned. They were scrubbed clean, along with their car. But Kerr-McGee neglected to check out the restaurant where the men had eaten.

Nor did Kerr-McGee inform the AEC of the incident, a clear violation of the federal nuclear code. The AEC was finally alerted to the affair a month



later, tipped off by an environmentalist who had learned of it from a plant worker. By then there was nothing to be done for the restaurant patrons, short of an all-out search for any who might have gulped down plutonium with their egg salad.

Beyond adding another bulge to the file of violations already logged against Kerr-McGee, the matter was forgotten.

When Karen Silkwood arrived at the Kerr-McGee plant in late summer 1972, she was just divorced and eager to begin a career as a nuclear laboratory technician. But after only three months testing the plutonium fuel rods, Silkwood was outside the chain-link fence, marching with an on-strike placard.

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW), representing the plutonium workers, was at loggerheads with Kerr-McGee. The company, a veteran of the wildcat oil rig, had managed to keep the unions out until 1966, three years after Senator Kerr's death. Now the OCAW was demanding a new contract with higher wages, safer conditions and better training. Kerr-McGee had replied with an offer worse than the old contract. Then, as soon as workers went on strike, the company rushed scabs onto the job, barely missing a beat in fuel-rod production.

Even Kerr-McGee officials later conceded, in a letter to the Sierra Club, that thrusting untrained strikebreakers into the plant led to more plutonium spills and leaks. ("Some scabs got only four hours of training when they should have gotten five days," fumed one striker.) Among the inexperienced substitutes hired during the strike was the plant's safety officer.

On the picket lines, meanwhile, 26-year-old Karen Silkwood was spending a lot of time with 22-year-old Drew

The Texas State Police had Robert Pomeroy under investigation. He was a suspected subversive. A dossier was being compiled.

Pomeroy had formed a 40-member citizens' group early in 1974 to protest the building of a nuclear plant near his home outside Dallas. An undercover agent who had been tailing him reported back that Pomeroy might be using the group as a front, "possibly for a Ralph Nader action."

What that meant was not clear. But the undercover agent gave the dossier to Continental Airlines, where Pomeroy had worked as a pilot for seven years. When Pomeroy, an ex-Marine with no police record and an impeccable civil image, found out about the dossier, he went to court, suing for libel, slander and a trampling of his civil rights. A state senator looked into the case and guessed that the Texas police had been put up to the job by the forces Pomeroy had opposed, the nuclear industry.

The police, while refusing to say who asked for the investigation, now claim they have destroyed their files on Pomeroy and all other nuclear critics.

Living with the memory of bombs over Japan and the threat of war with Russia, Americans in the late Forties and Fifties distrusted the malevolent caprice of nuclear power. So when the U.S. energy moguls decided to invest their future in nuclear reactors, they had to educate the public to the "peaceful" side of atom splitting. An industry forum crafted a 160-page guide for promoting nuclear energy; typical advertisements glamorized its development as "one of the most revolutionary events of the 20th century." General Electric handed eight million school children like Karen Silkwood a free comic book entitled "Inside the Atom." By the Sixties, the sales job seemed a success. Oil and coal would someday be replaced by the bold and bright promise of uranium.

It was uranium, an unpretentious metal buried mostly in isolated pockets under western deserts, that was going to fuel tomorrow's generators—and the oil companies were in on the ground floor. Kerr-McGee Corporation, for instance, which flies its K-M trademark topmast at hundreds of service stations in the Southwest, grabbed up all the uranium fields it could sink a shaft in. On a Navajo reservation near Shiprock, New Mexico, Kerr-McGee discovered a cache of uranium under the parched turf. The Navajos were paid as little as \$1.50 an hour to exhume the metal, heeling it out in wheelbarrows from the stifling, scratchy air below.

After 16 years of plunder, the Navajo mines were exhausted in 1969. Only then did the miners learn that uranium dust had infected many of them with a rare lung cancer that resists early diagnosis. By June of last year the cancer had killed 18 of the 160 Navajo miners, and 21 more were feared dying. But Kerr-McGee refused to take responsibility or pay medical expenses. "I couldn't possibly tell you what happened at some small mines on an Indian reservation," Kerr-McGee spokesman Bill Phillips told a Washington reporter. "We have uranium interests all over the world."

By the Seventies, Kerr-McGee had mined and milled tons of yellow-cake uranium and had acquired 800,000 acres of uranium leases and a corner on

the market. With assets approaching a billion dollars, it is the nation's largest uranium producer.

In downtown Oklahoma City, where Kerr-McGee's square-block headquarters towers 30 stories above the modest skyline, the Kerr-McGee name is as imposing as its building. The late Robert Kerr, the company's cofounder, claimed to have been born in a log cabin and to have worked his way through college selling magazines. As company president he prided himself on staying at cheap motels and eating baked beans in self-service cafeterias—while fighting to keep unions at bay and workers at minimum wage. As Oklahoma governor in the Forties he ran the state with the same frugality and didn't relax his tight fist until moving to the U.S. Senate in 1948. There Kerr became the most powerful man in the Senate, next to Lyndon Johnson; with Kerr's unlagging zeal, the energy industry won millions of dollars in tax subsidies. And nuclear research benefited from fat bags of public dollars, to the exclusion of solar and geothermal research, in which Kerr-McGee had no interest.

Dean McGee, Kerr's successor as company board chairman, holds office and influence in such diverse interests as banks, power companies and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. McGee has yet to run for public office, but few doubt he could fit comfortably in the governor's chair. "People in Oklahoma look at Dean McGee the same way people in New York look at Nelson Rockefeller—they look up," one local politician has observed. When Richard Nixon came to Oklahoma State University last spring in one of his final public appearances, he had to take the podium with McGee, who received an honorary doctorate.

Recently McGee was named to a federal commission studying America's long-range energy needs, and he presumably will push for nuclear power. But McGee is already looking ahead to the day when nuclear reactors will no longer use uranium. Future reactors will feed on a far more potent fuel, plutonium.

Uranium, like fossil fuels, is limited in supply; in 40 or 50 years we will be able to run out. But plutonium—the love child of an ultimate alchemist—can reproduce itself. An industry brochure puts it like this: "Question—How many pounds of plutonium will you have left after you use three pounds in a nuclear reactor? Answer—Four pounds!"

Plutonium barely exists in nature; our present supply is entirely man-made. It was first discovered in the Forties among the waste products of fissioned uranium. Plutonium can take several forms—but it is usually a gray, soft metal, a slushy liquid metal, or a fluffy yellow-green oxide powder fine enough to be inhaled. In any form it is "fiendishly toxic," according to one of its discoverers, Dr. Glenn Seaborg.

Plutonium is much more dangerous than uranium. It is incredibly combustible, readily convertible into nuclear weapons and, once let loose in the atmosphere, it stays deadly for a quarter-million years; it cannot be recaptured or destroyed. Swallowing it in a quantity that can be seen would sear the digestive tract, killing quickly and painfully. Plutonium is also a lung cancer trigger but, because only a few hundred people have ever handled it, scientists disagree as to what amount can cause cancer. As little as a one-hundredth of a gram has induced cancer in

159 4005



# NUCLEAR POWER AND HOW IT CHANGED OKLAHOMA

She was 29, a slight woman, dark hair pushing past slender shoulders, haunting beauty nurtured in a small-child look. She was alone that chilly autumn night, driving her tiny three-door Honda through long stretches of prairie. The Oklahoma fields lay flattened under the crude brushworks of the wind, the grass unable to snap back to attention. Every few miles a big-boned rabbit mangle had broken, littered the roadside. A couple years back she had filed out a round of angry letters when sheep ranchers staged rabbit roundups, ending to death the furry army that had sprung up on the prairie. She was like that, poking her opinions where they weren't welcome.

In the early evening darkness of Wednesday, November 13th, 1974, Karen Silkwood was on an environmental mission of another sort. On the seat beside her lay a manila folder with apparent proof that records were being falsified at the plutonium plant where she worked. Waiting at a Holiday Inn 30 miles away were a union official and a *New York Times* reporter who had just flown from Washington D.C. to Oklahoma City to meet with her.

They waited nearly an hour. Then they picked up the phone.

Karen Silkwood's body had already been found in a small rivulet along Highway 74 where rabbits often come to drink. Her car had swerved left across the highway, skittered about 170 feet along an embankment, smashed head-on into a culvert wingwall, lurched through the air and caromed off another culvert wall, coming to rest in the muddy stream.

Her death was ruled an accident: the police decided she was asleep at the wheel. But the union official was not satisfied. The manila folder was missing. And a private investigator discovered two fresh dents in the rear of her car: telltale marks of a hit-and-run.

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Even in the dead of winter it can be a steamy 80° in Nederland, Texas, a bottom-line speck on the map best known as the hometown of the late Howard Kohn, a freelance writer, was raised on a farm outside of Auburn, Michigan and was a reporter for the *Detroit Free Press*.

Tex ("Hillbilly Heaven") Ritter. Nederland is tucked in the southeastern crook of the Longhorn State, a half-hour's drive from the Gulf of Mexico but within mosquito-flying distance of the bogs and bayous. It is a small town with a limited sense of local color. Its most exotic avenues are driveways paved with seashells from the Gulf. Lowing Herefords munch and ruminate in back yards until ready for the oven. A windmill-shaped museum pays tribute to turn-of-the-century Dutch ancestors.

But the most eye-watering landmarks of Nederland are the giant oil refineries obscuring the horizon, coughing out a gray, sinister fog. This corner of Texas produces 10% of the nation's oil supply; it is Texaco-Mobil-Gulf country, where there are seldom discouraging words about an energy crisis. When the wind is right, which is often, a thick, fetid odor settles over Nederland, clinging to food and clothes, gagging unwary strangers. The smell might explain why Tex Ritter skipped Nederland's golden anniversary shivaree or why young families leave good-paying jobs to go elsewhere. But the air also reeks of big money. As state Representative Billy Williamson remarked last year when someone suggested shutting down the stinking refineries: "I think we are all willing to have a little bit of crud in our lungs... I don't need some bunch of do-gooders telling me what's good to breathe."

Karen Silkwood never forget the dirty air and sweet stench. When her teachers talked of a new technology that would eliminate the stink and mess of oil, she was captivated. The clean purr of nuclear power: That was the hope of the future. On her own time Karen enrolled in a six-week course on radiation. In her senior year she was accepted into her high school's advanced chemistry class, and her father, the town's premier housepainter, dreamed of his daughter as a scientist. But when her mother, a gentle-faced housewife who was ionlighted as a bank clerk, discovered Karen was the only girl in her chemistry class, there was a confrontation. "I thought she should be in something like home economics, and I told the chemistry teacher I wanted her out," she says. "But he finally made me change my mind. He said she was a better student than the boys."

Karen was an intense, serious girl who slanned the local teenage hot-spots for library lending and volunteer work at a hospital. Her acquaintances remember only one irritating characteristic: She talked back to her teachers, correcting them with an uncanny firmness when they slipped up, say, on the atomic weight of tritium. "She was," says one old friend, "a very nice person who always wanted to be right about everything."

She graduated in 1964 with a college scholarship and best wishes from everyone. At nearby Lamar College Karen pursued her science interests, settling on a career as a laboratory analyst, perhaps in nuclear physics.

But before her sophomore year ended, she was whisked away from her studies by a good-looking guy with a promising future as a pipeline supervisor at Mobil Oil. It was seven years, three kids, one bankruptcy and a divorce later before she returned to her earlier ambitions. In August 1972 she left her husband and children, resumed her maiden name, and took a job away from the smokestacks of Texas as a laboratory technician for one of the nuclear sites, Kerr-McCree Corporation of Oklahoma.

# May not distort records, but it can harm them into categories that harm any other component.

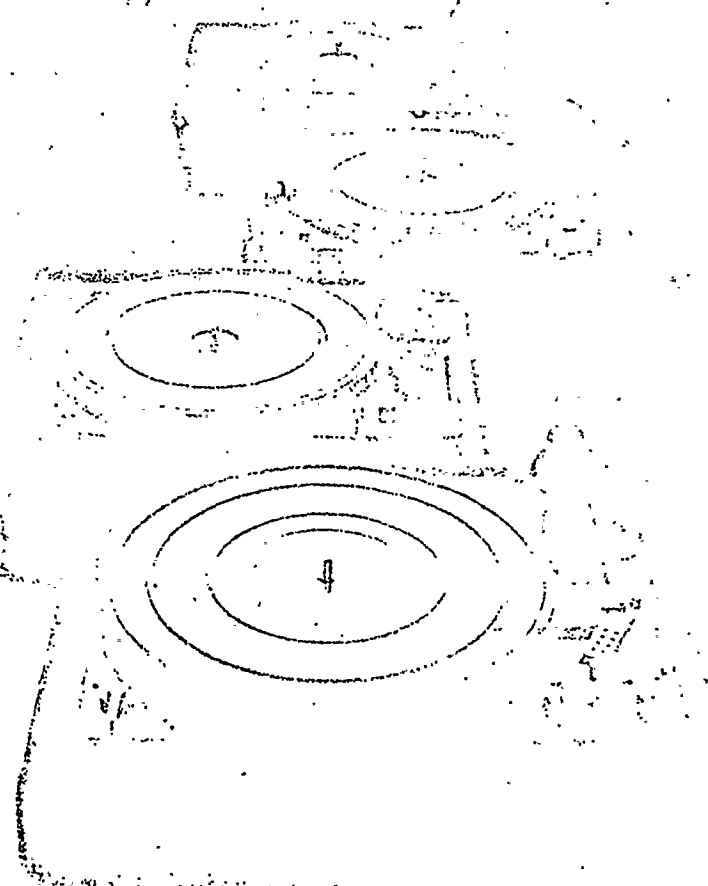
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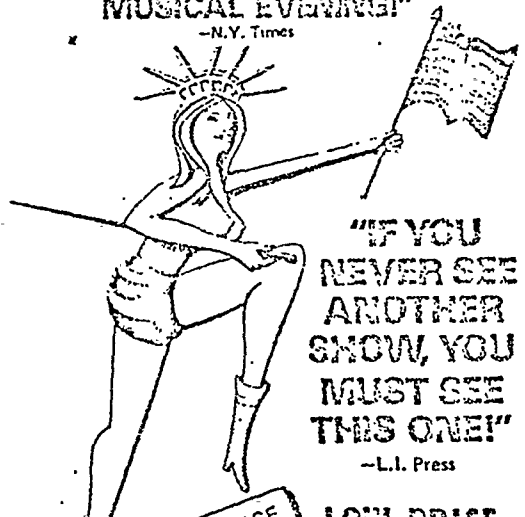
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TO DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)  
FROM SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)  
SUBJECT UNSUBS;  
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)  
LMRDA;OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Bureau telephone call to Oklahoma City, 3/13/75.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are six copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. Two copies of LHM being furnished USA, Oklahoma City.

Attached LHM sets forth results of interview with [redacted] who resides [redacted] of Kerr McGee Cimarron Facility. It would appear that the unknown reporter with whom [redacted] had contact with is likely identical with New York Times reporter [redacted]. It is noted that the [redacted] referred to in [redacted] interview is identical with [redacted] who was interviewed 1/9/75 in referenced captioned matter, results of which interview are set forth in Oklahoma City report by SA [redacted] dated 1/21/75.

b6  
b7C

Oklahoma City has previously been in contact with USA [redacted] WDO, in reference to captioned case. [redacted] has just completed a lengthy trial at Oklahoma City in which he successfully prosecuted [redacted]. Inquiry with [redacted] office determined that he is out of town the week of 3/17 - 21/75 and will not return to work until 3/24/75. [redacted] has previously expressed a personal interest in regard to captioned case and requested he be kept informed.

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ENCLOSURE 30 159-4005-28  
② - Bureau (Enc. - 6) 2cc ROM CRIM. DIV., by [redacted]  
2 - Oklahoma City 3 MAR 20 1975  
LJO:dah  
(4) 1cc LABOR DESK, TICKLER  
3/21/75

Approved: [redacted]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

OC 159-45

LEAD:

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will recontact  
USA, [REDACTED] and discuss prosecutive  
aspects of captioned case.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

March 17, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 159-45

**Unknown Subjects;  
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORT AND DISCLOSURE ACT  
OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

Set forth below are the results of inter-  
view with [REDACTED].

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This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/14/75

[redacted] Rural Route, Crescent, Oklahoma,  
furnished the following information:

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[redacted] located at [redacted]  
[redacted] of the Kerr McGee Cimarron  
Facility (CF).

Some four or five weeks ago, CF employee started coming into the station. Many CF employees do business with him but he cannot recall having had this particular individual as a previous customer. He learned that this individual was a widow woman by the name of [redacted] who apparently lives somewhere between [redacted] and [redacted] Oklahoma. On her initial visit, [redacted] and he talked about the fatal car accident in which KAREN SILKWOOD, a CF employee died. He had no personal knowledge about this SILKWOOD accident but had read a lot about it in the newspaper and seen a lot about the accident on television. He also heard various CF employees who were customers of his talk about the accident. [redacted]

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[redacted]. The accident and the related publicity were the biggest thing to happen in the area in quite some time and were naturally the topic of much conversation.

As he said he had no personal knowledge of the SILKWOOD accident but the understanding that he did have of the accident led him to think that there were some rather peculiar aspects concerning the accident. As he recalls, he discussed his opinions concerning the peculiar aspects with [redacted] when she first appeared at the station. His opinions seemed to excite [redacted] and she came back several times thereafter ostensibly to buy gas but apparently to talk about the accident. Shortly after the accident had occurred, he recalls hearing some Kerr McGee employees commenting that a fellow by the name [redacted] who worked with KAREN, was the first person to discover the accident. As he understood the story, [redacted] was with KAREN either at

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Interviewed on 3/11/75 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] Date 3/14/75

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CC 159-45

2

CF or at a Union meeting immediately prior to the accident. For some reason [ ] was going to take KAREN home but did not do so. [ ] was suppose to have followed along after KAREN to see her home safely and apparently came upon the accident just after it occurred. It is his understanding that [ ] did not actually witness the accident. This is what he thinks is so very peculiar as there would have been several places between the accident and Crescent where [ ] could have used the phone to report the accident without going clear back to Crescent. There is a residence ¼ mile south of where he is located with a phone. There is a public pay station located on a post out in front of the gas pumps at his station. Everyone in the entire country site is well acquainted with the location of this telephone and it is heavily used. The Kerr McGee plant is also just north of his station and they have phones there.

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Just which CF employee it was who related this story to him he cannot recall nor can he recall when he first heard the story. He cannot recall having discussed this story in any detail with anyone other than [ ]. As he recalls, he was unaware of the fact that the accident had taken place until approximately two or three days after the accident had occurred and then he started reading about it in the newspaper and hearing people talk about it. He is aware that the interest in this accident has continued because there have been a lot of strange things going on in the area which appear to relate to the accident. Recently he saw helicopters and airplanes flying around for considerable periods of time. Apparently aerial photographs were being taken of the accident scene and the CF itself. He also understands that some television company was conducting a series of driving tests where the accident occurred.

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Earlier on March 11, 1975, something very strange occurred. A white male in his 40s, who was slightly balding, dressed in a blue work shirt and blue jeans appeared at his station and started asking him detailed questions about the SILKWOOD accident. This individual was driving a new Plymouth with 1975 Oklahoma plates ZR 8106. This individual

first asked him to put gas in the car. He has not had the occasion to service many new Plymouths and so he was not familiar with where the gas cap was on the car. The thing that first aroused his suspicion about this person was the fact that the driver himself did not know where gas went in the car. However, he later found out that this apparently was a rental car. This individual never did identify himself by name or display any kind of credentials or identification. The individual did indicate he was a reporter but did not say who he worked for. The reporter said he was from Washington, D.C. They were talking about the SILKWOOD wreck when all of a sudden the reporter asked what he knew about [redacted]. This made him very suspicious of the reporter because the only person with whom he recalled talking with about [redacted] was [redacted]. He did not tell the reporter hardly anything at all about [redacted] because at this point he became very suspicious of the reporter. He does not know for a fact that this person was really a reporter and for all he knows the reporter may have actually been some type of Communist.

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The reporter made some mention of the fact that some television company had made road tests at the SILKWOOD accident site. The reporter also took great notice of the fact that the Highway had been resurfaced in the vicinity of the accident after the accident occurred. The reporter indicated he thought this was most unusual.

He told the reporter that this was not at all unusual because Highway 74 about a year ago had been repaved from the Oklahoma - Logan County Line north to a point four miles south of the station. He told the reporter that this past fall an additional contract had been let to continue the paving project and the highway was repaved now to a point two miles north of the station. He considered his contact with the reporter so unusual that he felt he should report this contact to the FBI. He assumes that [redacted] in some way "put the reporter on him". As he has previously indicated, he does not really know anything about the accident and does not even know just who [redacted] is.

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OC 159-45

4

He still cannot recall who it was that first told him the story about [REDACTED] He does not know who the first person was on the scene of the SILKWOOD accident and does not know who reported the accident to the police. He does not recall anything which occurred on the evening of November 13, 1974, which would seem to relate to the SILKWOOD accident.

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OC 159-45

**UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)**

In regard to the [ ] mentioned in above [ ] interview, this individual is more than likely identical with [ ] a former Kerr McGee Cimarron Facility employee who is a former committeeman of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW). Investigation has determined that [ ] was closely associated with Silkwood in regard to some of the allegations made by Silkwood against the Kerr McGee Corporation.

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Results of interview with [ ] conducted December 3, 1974, have been set forth in report previously submitted under above captioned report of SA [ ], December 13, 1974. It is noted that no information has been developed indicating that [ ] was on the scene of the Silkwood fatal accident, November 13, 1974, as believed by [ ]. In regard to the [ ] mentioned in the [ ] interview, she had previously been interviewed in reference to this case on January 9, 1975, as reported in Oklahoma City report of [ ] January 21, 1975.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. R. Wannall *WRW*

FROM : F. S. Putman, Jr. *FSP*

SUBJECT: KERR-MC GEE NUCLEAR CORPORATION,  
CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams  
1 - Mr. R. E. Gebhardt  
(Attn: )  
1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall  
DATE: 3/13/75  
1 - Mr. F. S. Putman  
1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

## SYNOPSIS:

Following are background of incidents which have occurred at captioned facility as well as an up-to-date summarization of ongoing investigations concerning same.

On 11/21/74, a Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA)-Obstruction of Justice (OOJ) investigation was instituted by our Oklahoma City Office upon receipt of a request dated 11/20/74, from the Assistant Attorney General (AAG), Criminal Division, Department of Justice. This request was based on an article appearing in the "New York Times" on 11/19/74, and a telegram received by the Attorney General (AG) from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) on the same date suggesting that the death of Karen G. Silkwood, who died in a one-car accident on 11/13/74, was caused by Silkwood's automobile being hit from behind by another vehicle causing it to run off the road. The Department advised that if these allegations were substantiated, a possible violation of Section 530, Title 29, U. S. Code (USC) (through the impairment of Silkwood's rights as a union member guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, USC) and Section 1505, Title 18, USC (in that Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)) would exist.

A thorough investigation was conducted in this matter and no information was developed indicating the death of Silkwood was other than accidental. An autopsy, which was performed on Silkwood, indicated she was under the influence of a drug (methaqualone) at the time of her death. The Chief Medical Examiner, Board of Medicolegal, Oklahoma City, advised this drug is a sleep inducing drug. The amount found in Silkwood's system subsequent to her death would indicate that she was under the influence of the drug at the time of her death and was drowsy or sleepy.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

CONTINUED - OVER

DATE 7-1-85 BY 9145-01-JC

#251-957

AJD:mjg  
(6)

88 APR 1 1975

Deleted Copy Sent  
by Letter Dated 5-10-76  
Per FOIPA Request *Re K. Silkwood*

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Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall  
Re: Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation,  
Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma

The results of all investigation conducted relative to the LMRDA-OOJ violation have been furnished to the Management and Labor Section, Criminal Division, Department of Justice.

X  
117-2698 On 12/17/74, Security Officer, Kerr-McGee Corporation (KMC), advised that it was discovered on 12/16/74, at the Cimarron Facility of KMC, that enriched uranium 235 fuel pellets had been scattered around plant grounds. Search recovered some 15 pellets, weighing 11 grams each which are considered to be Special Nuclear Material (SNM). Security Officer advised it was not known if pellets were scattered as a prank or for some malicious purpose and KMC had no suspects.

This information was furnished to AEC and AAG, Criminal Division under caption "Unsubs; Scattering of Uranium Fuel Pellets, Kerr-McGee Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, December 16, 1974, Atomic Energy Act (AEA)."

On 12/18/74, AEC, Chicago, Illinois, telephonically advised the Oklahoma City Office that a representative would be in Oklahoma City area 12/18-20/74, investigating recent plutonium spills and contaminations at KMC and that other AEC representatives would investigate the scattering of uranium pellets at KMC 12/16/74.

On 1/21/75, Department advised that prior to requesting additional FBI investigation concerning this matter, it was desired to have results of any Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) (formerly AEC) investigation. Results of NRC investigation obtained and subsequently furnished to Department 1/27/75.

By letter dated 2/14/75, the AAG, Criminal Division, advised that a discussion was held with NRC which suggested that the scattering of these pellets be viewed in the context of the recent labor-management problems at KMC. It was noted that Title 42, USC, Section 2077 makes it an offense for one not authorized under license of the NRC to possess SNM and,

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall  
Re: Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation,  
Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma

accordingly, if it could be established that the person or persons who scattered the pellets had unauthorized possession at the time of the commission of this act, a violation could have occurred. It was requested that the FBI continue investigation with the view of identifying the individual or individuals responsible for this incident.

By airtel dated 2/26/75, Oklahoma City was advised to immediately institute investigation at KMC in an effort to identify unsub this matter and, further, that investigation should be closely coordinated with LMRDA investigation currently under way.

Results of the LMRDA investigation, Supra, in addition to normal dissemination were furnished to the Internal Security Section of the Department due to the possible AEA aspects of allegations and incidents at KMC.

X  
By letter dated 2/21/75, AAG, Criminal Division  
advised that the Department had reviewed NRC's investigation into the report that an employee, Karen G. Silkwood, was found to be contaminated with plutonium on 11/7/74. NRC's investigation disclosed that Silkwood was found to be contaminated with plutonium on several occasions in early November, 1974. Further, her apartment, her automobile, her roommate and a friend were also found to be contaminated with plutonium. NRC investigators were unable to determine how the contamination occurred; however, they concluded that the contamination probably did not result from an accident or incident within the plant. Based on this, the Department requested the Bureau to conduct an investigation to determine if one or more persons involved in this incident had, in fact, unauthorized possession of plutonium, a SNM, as a violation of Title 42, USC, Section 2077 may be involved.

117-26875

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall  
Re: Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation,  
Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma

X  
By airtel 2/27/75, captioned "Unsubs; Unauthorized Possession of Plutonium Resulting in the Contamination of Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased), [redacted] and [redacted] Kerr-McGee Corporation, Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, AEA," Oklahoma City was instructed to immediately institute AEA investigation in line with Departmental instructions and closely coordinate inquiries with LMRDA case. Oklahoma City was instructed to surep promptly.

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X By letter dated 2/20/75, Director of Operations, NRC, furnished a copy of a letter dated 1/21/75, received from OCAW alleging a violation of a NRC regulation. In addition to the allegation, NRC was informed that other nonunion employees have lost their jobs at KMC which could also represent a violation. NRC advised that based upon discussions with the Department of Justice, "we" have concluded that KMC is in possible violation of Title 18, USC, Sections 1505 and 1510, and 10 CFR Section 19.16 (c) and these possible violations should be investigated by the FBI under the criminal provisions of the AEA. By letter 3/4/75, AAG, Criminal Division, was furnished a copy of the 2/20/75, NRC letter along with its enclosures. In this letter, the Department was furnished a summary of the cases currently under investigation at KMC based on Departmental instructions and requested the Department to review the NRC letter and its enclosures to determine if the investigations currently under way by the Bureau are a sufficient response to recent occurrences at KMC, or if additional investigation should be instituted under the provisions of the AEA or Title 18, USC, Sections 1505 and 1510. To date, no response to this letter has been received.

ACTION:

None. For information.

*Handwritten:* HJ, WLT, ELL, Tully, Con

*Handwritten:* RE 6/7/75, Jma, wew



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NR 007 OC PLAIN

836 PM NITEL MAR 26, 1975 **MAR 26 1975**

TO DIRECTOR 159-4005

**TELETYPE**

FROM OKLAHOMA CITY 159-45 P

UNSLBS; KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED), LMRDA; OOJ, OO:  
OKLAHOMA CITY.

FOR INFORMATION BUREAU, MARCH 26, 1975, [REDACTED]  
RESIDENT OFFICER, NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD (NLRB),  
TULSA, OKLA., PERSONALLY CONTACTED OKLA CITY DIVISION TO  
ADVISE HIS OFFICE HAS HAD REFERRED TO THEM TWO CASES OF  
POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT (NLRA),  
SECTION 8(A), SEE SECTIONS 1 & 3, CONCERNING [REDACTED]  
AND [REDACTED] BOTH OF WHOM WERE ACTIVE IN THE OIL,  
CHEMICAL AND ATOMIC WORKER'S UNION AS COMMITTEEMEN, KERR  
MC GEE CORPORATION (KMC), CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLA.  
IN RECENT PAST [REDACTED] WAS REASSIGNED TO ANOTHER JOB AT FACILITY  
AND [REDACTED] FIRED BY KMC. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HIS INVESTIGATION  
IS SLANTED TOWARD CIVIL ACTION AGAINST KMC IF VIOLATION  
SUBSTANTIATED.

6-112 159-4005-30  
[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HIS AGENCY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT

**MAR 27 1975**

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
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Int. Aff.	_____
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Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

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b7C

37 APR 1 1975

159-45 PAGE TWO

WITH DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY, GENERAL CRIMES DIVISION, [REDACTED]

✓ 1.6

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b7C

[REDACTED] WHO HAD INDICATED THAT THERE WERE APPARENTLY POSSIBLE CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS CONCERNING [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] UNDER O.O.J., T.18, SECTION 1505 & 1510, AND/OR POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY ACT (AEA) T.10, CFR, PART 19.16C.

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[REDACTED] INDICATED THAT HIS AGENCY WAS HOLDING IN ABEYANCE INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE CIVIL VIOLATIONS PENDING DETERMINATION WHETHER OR NOT THEIR INVESTIGATION CONCERNING CRIMINAL VIOLATION RE O.O.J. OR AEA.

[REDACTED] WAS ADVISED THAT OKLAHOMA CITY FBI HAD NO INFORMATION RE ANY CURRENT REQUESTS CONCERNING INVESTIGATION OF O.O.J. OR AEA VIOLATIONS RELATED TO [REDACTED] OR [REDACTED]. HE WAS ADVISED THAT INQUIRIES WOULD BE MADE WITH FBI HQ IN THIS REGARD TO DETERMINE IF ANY REQUESTS HAD BEEN MADE. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT [REDACTED] THROUGH NLRB WASHINGTON, CONTACT USDJ RE STATUS OF REQUEST FOR ANY ADDITIONAL FBI INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINE IF HIS AGENCY SHOULD PROCEED WITH THEIR CIVIL INVESTIGATION.

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REQUEST OF THE BUREAU.

159-45 PAGE THREE

IT IS REQUESTED THAT OKLA CITY BE ADVISED WHETHER OR NOT  
ANY OOJ OR AEA INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN REQUESTED RE [ ] &  
[ ] AND TRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ANY SUCH  
REQUESTS WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING.

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END

MAH FBIHQ ACKOR FOR ONE

WA CLR

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FBIHQ

Airtel

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1- FOF

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b7C

3/27/75

TO: SAC, Oklahoma City (159-45)

From: Director, FBI (159-4005)

UNSUBS:  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED),  
LMRDA; COJ  
OO: OC

ReCCtel 3/26/75, and Butolcal 3/27/75.

This will confirm reButelcal wherein you were advised that no request for investigation by the FBI relative to  and  has been received from the Department of Justice to date. General Crimes Section of the Department has advised no such request is anticipated at this time.

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Since it has already been suggested to  National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Tulsa, that NLRB headquarters contact the Department concerning the status of any request for additional investigation by the FBI, Oklahoma City should inform  only that no request has been received at FBIHQ to date.

ELR: *may* (5)

REC-43 / 159-45-5-3

5 MAR 31 1975

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 10

MAR 26 1975

FBI

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

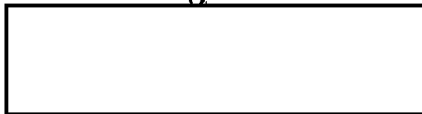
GPO 27-549

March 31, 1975

REC-23

159-4005-37

EX 104



Ohio 44128

b6  
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Dear [redacted]:

Your letter of March 23rd has been received.

I regret to inform you that we do not have any additional information concerning the death of Karen Silkwood which can be furnished to you at this time and as I advised you in my letter of March 12th, the results of our inquiries have been furnished to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, for a determination.

Sincerely yours,

*C. M. Kelley*  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

1 - Cleveland - Enclosure

NOTE: Response coordinated with Division 11. Karen Silkwood was a representative of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union who was killed in an automobile accident just prior to her scheduled appearance before the Atomic Energy Commission which was conducting an investigation concerning plutonium supplies at an Oklahoma facility. Investigation conducted to date has been sent to the Department of Justice for consideration.

WPH:rcl (4)

As'soc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐



b6  
b7C

March 23, 1975

Ohio 44128

WPH

Dear Mr. Director :

KAREN <sup>0</sup> Silkwood-

Thankyou for your letter of March 12, 1975, regarding the death of Karen Silkwood.

Please send me all information <sup>my</sup> the FBI has got regarding the death of Karen Silkwood.

EX 104 REC-23 159-4005-32  
Thankyou very much.

APR 1 1975

Sincerely,

ack  
3-31-75  
WPH:nd

Just  
CORRESPONDENCE



b6  
b7C

~~For~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F B I

Date: 3/25/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)  
 FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

UNSUBS;  
 Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)  
 LMRDA; OOJ  
 OO: Oklahoma City

Enclosed herewith for Bureau are six copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy of LHM being furnished USA, Oklahoma City.

The enclosed LHM sets forth self-explanatory article appearing in the April, 1975 edition of Ms. relative to captioned case. LHM being submitted for completion of Bureau files.

Deleted Copy Sent [redacted]  
 by Letter Dated 5-10-76 [redacted]  
 Per FOIPA Request re K. Silkwood

b6  
 b7C

② - Bureau (Enc.-6)  
 2 - Oklahoma City  
 LJO:mbs  
 (4)

2cc ROM CRIM. DIV., by 0-6D

1cc LABOR DESK, TICKLER

1cc to AGS-CD(155)  
 ATTN JOE TAGE

Approved: 57 APR 8 1975  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
March 25, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

159-45

Unknown Subjects;  
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND  
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION  
OF JUSTICE

The April, 1975 edition of Ms., a monthly magazine, contained an article entitled, "The Case of Karen Silkwood", authored by Ms. B. J. Phillips. The article is as follows:

NO LOC

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

159-45-33

ENCLOSURE



(EXCLUSIVE!)

# THE CASE OF KAREN SIKWOOD DEAD BECAUSE SHE KNEW TOO MUCH?

PHOTO ESSAY  
EVERYDAY  
LIFE IN  
A SMALL TOWN  
VIVA'S GREAT  
BREASTFEEDING  
CAPER

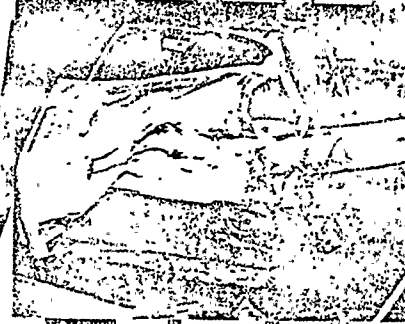
# MS

HOW TO USE  
VIDEO FOR ART  
POLITICS  
AND SEX  
JUMP ROPE  
TURNS  
PRO



B.J. PHILLIPS

# THE CASE OF KAREN SILKWOOD



**THE DEATH OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT  
WORKER RAISES THE SPECTER OF MURDER AND  
A TERRIFYING TECHNOLOGICAL REALITY**

**I**n small towns, the police are often the only ones who know the people. In the town of Hanford, Calif., where Karen Silkwood, 33, was born, the police are the only ones who know her. They know her father, her mother, her brothers, and her friends. They know her because she is a quiet, unassuming woman who has lived in the same house for 15 years. They know her because she is a good person who has never been in trouble. They know her because she is a woman who has been a nuclear power plant worker for 10 years.

But now, the police are looking for her. They are looking for her because she has disappeared. They are looking for her because she has been found dead. They are looking for her because she has been found in a car that was found in a ditch. They are looking for her because she has been found in a car that was found in a ditch. They are looking for her because she has been found in a car that was found in a ditch.

Karen Silkwood, 33, was born in Hanford, Calif. She was a nuclear power plant worker for 10 years. She was a good person who had never been in trouble. She was a woman who had been a nuclear power plant worker for 10 years. She was a woman who had been a nuclear power plant worker for 10 years. She was a woman who had been a nuclear power plant worker for 10 years.

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A six-months-long chain of events brought her to her journey. But in a real sense, it began before she was born with the detonation of atomic bombs over two Japanese cities. What Tacitus had said of the ancient Roman legions, "They make a desert and call it peace," had taken on a terrifying technological reality. Mankind had unleashed a power from which it could only recoil in horror. Or turn to benefit. So the dream of "harnessing the atom for peaceful purposes"—a catchphrase of the pre-energy-crisis fifties when Arab oil was still cheap—started to take shape.

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was created in 1946 to oversee the development of these goals, principally the building of reactors to generate electricity. A multibillion-dollar industry sprang up: uranium mining and processing, reactor manufacturing with its myriad of components ranging from special wiring to 750-ton containment vessels. At the forefront in the fledgling industry was an Oklahoma-based company, Kerr-McGee. Founded in 1929 to drill for oil, the company was a perfect blend of two gifted men, the late Senator Robert S. Kerr, "the uncrowned king of the Senate," and Dean A. McGee, often acknowledged to be one of the most technically brilliant and visionary men in the energy industry. Political clout and the long view. Kerr-McGee began to explore for, mine, and process uranium—first for the nuclear weapons program, then for reactors. When planning began in the late sixties on the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor—the ultimate dream, a power source that creates, "breeds," more fuel than it consumes—the company contracted to produce plutonium fuel pins for the test version of the LMFBFR.\* In 1970, a plutonium-processing

\*Fuel pins are eight-foot-long, pencil-thin metal rods containing small pellets of concentrated plutonium. Inserted into the reactor core, they provide fuel for a continuous fission reaction. The rods manufactured by Kerr-McGee were for use in the Fast Flux Test Facility near Richland, Washington. The FFTF is the experimental forerunner of the LMFBFR.

plant went up alongside a uranium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, thirty miles north of Oklahoma City. The plant took its name, Cimarron Facility, from the nearby river.

It is doubtful that Karen Silkwood knew more about the background of the nuclear power industry than the average American—which is to say very little—when she went to work for Kerr-McGee in the summer of 1972. It was a job certain to attract her, for it involved laboratory work, her forte since her high school days. Born on February 19, 1946, in Longview, Texas, she had grown up in Nederland, a town halfway between Port Arthur and Beaumont. Nederland is in the heart of the Texas petrochemical region and, as in its larger neighboring cities, the night sky is lit by the floodlights and tall torches of oil refinery stacks burning off gaseous waste. A maze of pipes and storage tanks stretches across the flat terrain. Her grandfather worked in one of the refineries and was the family's first member of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union.

Her father, a paint contractor, and her mother, a bank teller, recount the ordinary childhood of their eldest daughter. She rode her bike, played tennis, and was very much a big sister to Rosemary, six years younger, and Linda, born 12 years after Karen. As a small child, she had an asthmatic condition, so perhaps she naturally turned to playing nurse with her dolls. Shortly before her death, she was to tell a union official that her early illness had instilled in her an interest in health.

In high school, she played flute in the band, played on the volleyball team, belonged to the Future Homemakers of America. She turned down a place in the majorette corps, however. "Her band teacher," her mother remembers, "told her it was much more important for her to stay in the band than get out there and kick her legs up, so she took his advice." It was as a student that she left her mark. She was a member of the National Honor Society, and one of 22 honor graduates in the

Class of 1964. She excelled in science, especially chemistry, and when she went to Lamar College in Beaumont to study medical technology, she paid her expenses with a scholarship from the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Her best friend throughout childhood recalled that Karen was a good person to ask for notes when someone had missed class. "She took clear, concise, and well-organized notes," Karen Miller Patterson says. "In school she was precise and meticulous." A decade later, notes she had taken would trigger an AEC investigation.

But she was best remembered, her friend said, for other qualities. "As I remember Karen, she was the kind of person who, if something was wrong, was not going to stand by and ignore it. She was not afraid to stick her neck out. When she went into anything, she put everything into it and she stayed with it. It was like that in the band, in sports—even down to batting a volleyball around in my driveway at night. She was intensely loyal. She'd stick up for her friends. And she had a great capacity for having a good time, for laughing. I think that's the one thing most people from school would remember about her."

After her first year in college, Karen went to Kilgore, Texas, to spend the summer with her grandmother. There she met Bill Meadows, and they eloped. They had three children. Meadows worked for one of the oil companies, and the young family moved from one town to another across Texas and Oklahoma oil fields. There were financial difficulties leading to bankruptcy, and marital problems that led to separation. Their marriage broke down after six years, and Karen left with the children to begin life on her own, working in hospitals. When her husband decided to remarry, he filed for divorce, citing incompatibility. She gave him custody of the children while retaining visiting privileges, telling her parents and friends that she felt it was better for the children to grow up in the more stable

atmosphere of her former husband's new marriage. She was alone now. She moved to Oklahoma City and went to work for Kerr-McGee.

Compared to the final months of her life, the first 20 months or so at Kerr-McGee were rather uneventful for Karen. Unlike the majority of workers, she joined the union, perhaps out of memory of her grandfather's stories about the early organizing days of the OCAW. When the union went out on strike in the fall of 1972, she walked the picket lines. The strike was brief, nine weeks, and, from the union's viewpoint at least, difficult. The picket lines were crossed; production wasn't stopped; and, in the end, the union was forced to accept Kerr-McGee's original offer, the one they had struck against. Around that time, she met Drew Stephens, a fellow laboratory analyst who was among the plant's original employees. Stephens was married when they met, but was sued for divorce a few months later. His relationship with Karen was a factor in the end of his marriage.

The couple began to draw one another into their respective enthusiasms. Stephens was a sports-car freak. He taught Karen to drive in competitions and rallies; she went on to earn trophies. She was an excellent driver. They collected records—rock, and Country and Western. And they shared an ardent interest in union activities. In the late spring of 1974, Karen was elected one of three governing committee members of the OCAW local. It was at this point that Karen's life began to change sharply. As would the plutonium fuel she helped to manufacture, Karen Silkwood began to implode, to turn inward a concentrated power, a power intense enough to set off a chain reaction.

What held Karen's concentration was the health and safety of herself and her co-workers who handled plutonium at Kerr-McGee. There is no substance which more deserves concern, for plutonium is the most toxic substance known. It is 20,000 times more lethal than cobra venom, and in very small amounts—a single

particle the size of a grain of pollen—it has been shown to cause cancer in laboratory test animals. Furthermore, plutonium retains its radioactivity for 250,000 years. Exposure to high levels of radiation can sicken and kill; in small doses, radioactive particles can lie latent for years with the possibility of triggering cancer.

The connection between radiation and cancer has been known for 100 years. As early as the 16th century, miners of pitchblende (a form of uranium ore) in German and Czechoslovakian mines were known to develop fatal diseases of the lung. The miners called it *Bergkrankheit*, mountain sickness, the disease that gave them an aver-



## SINCE 1970: SEVENTEEN PLUTONIUM ACCIDENTS

age life expectancy of less than 20 years from the day they entered the mines. Pitchblende contains little plutonium, since plutonium's presence in the natural state is very rare. (Plutonium, a transuranic element, is transmuted from uranium during fission reaction. It must then be extracted from reactor waste to produce significant quantities.) Our experience with plutonium has been limited to the past 35 years, not enough time to firmly establish its carcinogenic (cancer-causing) effects in humans. Still, the toxicity of plutonium is known, and laboratory tests indicate that, like other radioactive materials, it is carcinogenic.

In the four years that Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant had been

in operation, there had been 17 contamination incidents, involving 77 employees. In one instance, two men left the plant "hot" and went into a restaurant in Crescent. In another, seven workers received more than the AEC-defined permissible levels of airborne plutonium (and a heated controversy is under way about whether or not those levels are, indeed, low enough to protect human health). During the first week in January, 1974, an employee had, in the words of a report to the AEC, "a small portion of skin excised to remove plutonium in a wound."

Twice Kerr-McGee shipped radioactive wastes in improper containers. In another incident, some drums of waste being stored on a flatbed truck leaked. The truckbed, axle, and tires had to be cut up, the ground underneath it dug up, and everything put into barrels for burial in a nuclear dump. So there was already an alarming history with an extremely hazardous substance when Karen Silkwood assumed her union duties.

As the summer of 1974 opened, Karen and some of her co-workers started to notice what they considered to be a production speedup and a concomitant decline in standards and safety. Additionally, there was a rapid personnel turnover, certainly attributable in part to long work shifts (often 12 hours) and changes from day- to night-work on short notice. Whatever the cause for the high turnover (99 of 287 workers left between January 1 and October 31, 1974, 35 percent of the payroll), it seems axiomatic that such a turnover would cause the experience and skill levels of the work force to decline. Karen began to take notes on occurrences inside the plant. She started to become obsessed with the Cimarron Facility.

On the night of July 31/August 1, 1974, Karen was working a 4 P.M. to 4 A.M. shift in the Emission Spectrography Laboratory. When the two air sample filter papers from the room in which she worked were analyzed on August 1, they indicated that radioactive material had

027/MS.

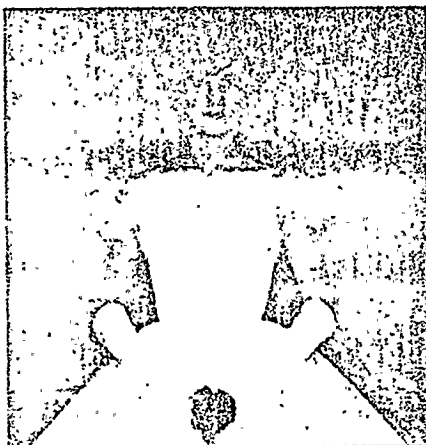
escaped into the room between 4 P.M. and midnight. When urine samples collected from Karen during the following week were analyzed, they showed that she had received some contamination. A full awareness of the implications had not yet come to Karen.

By the end of September, the ramifications were quite real, and Karen had fallen into the spiral of events that led to her death. With two other union committee members, she flew to Washington, D.C., on September 26 to meet with national officials of the OCAW. A contract was coming up for renewal on December 1, and the union local was locked into a struggle for survival. A campaign to decertify the OCAW at Cimarron had begun; an election to determine whether or not the union would continue to represent workers was scheduled for October 16. There was no love lost on either side. Kerr-McGee had a hard-line history on unionization. A strike of OCAW miners at its major uranium mines in New Mexico the previous year had lasted six long, bitter months. But the three union officials from Cimarron came with other worries as well: a series of allegations about health and safety conditions and falsification of quality-control information. The allegations were based largely on notes taken by Karen Silkwood. The OCAW has a record of vigorous concern for occupational safety, and officials in Washington viewed the charges with alarm. Steve Wodka, a member of the Washington staff, recalled their reaction. He feared that if the charges were true, "the consequences here were very deep and very grave, not only for the people in the plant, but for the entire atomic industry and the welfare of the country. If badly made pins were placed into the reactor without deficiencies being caught, there could be an incident exposing thousands of people to radiation."

The following day, the delegation from Cimarron Facility, accompanied by Wodka, recounted their charges to AEC officials. Wodka

then asked them to return and attempt to further document their allegations. Almost parenthetically, Wodka told them that plutonium was thought to cause cancer. It was the first time any of the Oklahomans had been specifically told this important information.

Karen took the role of record-keeper upon herself. She began to carry a notebook around constantly. At the same time, Stephens had quit working at Kerr-McGee. His interest in issues there had worn thin,



## AT 16— A FUTURE HOMEMAKER OF AMERICA

and he was bewildered by Karen's single-minded dedication to the happenings at the Cimarron Facility. "I felt it was consuming everything she had, mentally and physically," Stephens said. "She just lived it, couldn't let it go and relax, particularly in the last month she was alive." He speaks now with regret for not offering her more help and support in her project, but people live their lives as they happen and without the benefit of hindsight. "I never accepted it," he said. "The good times that we'd had together before were being lost to what happened at the plant. I didn't think it was good for either of us, especially for Karen on the basis of the physical considerations. I told her this. She said, 'They need me.'"

Stephens had reason to worry about Karen's physical condition. She started to lose weight; in approximately four months, she would drop from 112 pounds to 94. She had never slept well. "She'd always stay up late with her daddy watching the 'Late Show,'" her mother recalls. "She just couldn't seem to go to sleep before midnight or one o'clock." This, coupled with shift work and growing tension at the plant perhaps led to a series of doctor-prescribed sleeping pills. She was progressively given Placidyl, a hypnotic used for insomnia that carries lengthy warnings of possible psychological and physical dependence in standard medical reference books; followed by prescriptions for Parest and Quaalude, both brand names for the generic drug methaqualone, another sedative and hypnotic that has occasionally been known to produce psychological dependence and, more rarely, physical dependence. It is a sequence of prescriptions that is unwise, if not baffling. It is, unfortunately, within the regrettable, but all-too-common, propensity of American medicine to overprescribe such drugs, and the special tendency to dispense tranquilizers to women. In any event, how much of the drugs she took, how often, and how far back the prescription history goes is impossible to gauge in the absence of confidential medical records. Stephens maintains that she had begun to take them, however, for tranquilization, not for sleep, especially during the last confusing week of her life.

The union won the decertification contest in mid-October. The final tally was 80 to 61 in favor of the OCAW; only 60 workers belonged to the union at that point. Karen kept up her note-taking. On Tuesday, November 5, she returned to work after four days off. She started work at 1:20 P.M. in the Metallography Lab, performing a number of operations. At approximately 6:30, she took her hands out of a glovebox (a sealed box in which one handles radioactive materials)

3 3



In a statement released in late January, the OCAW suggests that Karen was intentionally contaminated by someone else. The union cited an AEC finding that two key urine samples had been improperly labeled so that their identities and dates are uncertain. Additionally, the adulteration of two other urine samples and the presence of high radiation counts in some of Karen's food led the union to conclude that poisoning is a possibility. (According to the AEC report, while preparing her lunch, Karen carried the package of bologna into the bathroom briefly after she had spilled some of a urine sample. The bologna was then returned to the refrigerator.)

Karen Silkwood lived six more days. All but the last day were spent talking to investigators from the AEC and the Oklahoma State Health Department, attempting to determine how she was contaminated and how badly. From November 10 through the evening of November 12, she, Stephens, and her roommate, Sherri Ellis, were in Los Alamos, New Mexico, the place where the atom was first unleashed. Today, this country's most sophisticated equipment for studying radiation is there. All three were placed in an underground vault where extremely sensitive counters would begin to assess how much radiation had remained inside their bodies. One of the ironies of the use of nuclear materials is that the equipment for measuring radiation far outstrips our knowledge of its effects on the human organism. It is known to cause death, induce cancers, trigger genetic damage. But how much radiation? For how long? The broad limits are known, but uncertainties still exist, experimentation continues. Karen, Stephens, and Ellis entered the vault right after the beagles and just before the Rhesus monkeys.

Prior to leaving Los Alamos on the afternoon of November 12, they had a conference with doctors who interpreted the preliminary data. The doctors were able to reassure Karen that she was in no imminent

danger. Her studies indicated what the AEC later termed "a small amount of plutonium, less than one half of the maximum permissible body burden." The maximum permissible body burden is the cumulative amount which cannot be exceeded without risk. What neither the scientists at Los Alamos nor anyone else could tell her was precisely how her present body burden would affect her in 20 or 30 years, the latency period for the development of lung cancer among uranium miners. Yet her mind was put somewhat to rest about the short-term outlook, and she returned to Oklahoma to pick up her work.

Wednesday, November 13, she reported to work for the 8 A.M. shift. A good part of the day was taken up in contract negotiations. For the last time, she wrote in her notebook: "Try to be able to reach a contract by November 26. . . . Meet again Thursday, November 21, 1974, 10 A.M." At 4 P.M., she left the plant and went to the Hub Café in Crescent for a meeting of the negotiating committee. At 6 P.M., she called Stephens to confirm that she would meet Wodka and New York Times reporter David Burnham at a Holiday Inn on the northwest edge of Oklahoma City, approximately 30 miles from Crescent. As the meeting in the café drew to a close, she began to discuss her worries about her health. Fellow committee member Jack Tice relates that "she did become a bit emotional toward the end of the meeting." He added, "She shed tears out of concern for her health. It wasn't an emotional outburst, just a few tears. I didn't think any more about it." Another member offered to drive her home. She declined, saying she'd be all right.

One of the last people to see her alive recounts in a sworn affidavit that Karen clenched her hand around a brown manila folder and a large notebook. The affidavit continues: "She then said there was one thing she was glad about, that she had all the proof concerning the health and safety conditions in the plant, and concerning falsification. As she said this, she clenched her

hand more firmly on the folder and the notebook she was holding. She told me she was on her way to meet Steven Wodka and a New York Times reporter to give them this material. Karen appeared to be somewhat weary on that day, but she was alert, speaking clearly and acting normally, and it would never have crossed my mind that she might not be capable of driving a car safely. I was shocked when I learned the next day that she had been killed in a car accident. It seemed impossible to believe, especially since she had been so determined to deliver the material she had to Mr. Wodka and the newspaper reporter."

Karen got into her 1973 Honda Civic Sedan and started down State Highway 74. It was a dark, windy night. Karen was traveling at 50 to 55 miles an hour on an absolutely straight highway built along the grids drawn with a ruler when Oklahoma was opened to the land rush. The car went off the road 7.3 miles south of Crescent on the left side of the road. It traveled 240 to 250 feet down the shoulder, went over a concrete wall flaring from the northern edge of a culvert running beneath the road. The car slammed head-on into the southern wall. Karen Silkwood apparently died instantaneously.

On that much there is agreement. But there the accord ends. A private accident investigator, A. O. Pipkin Jr., of Dallas, was hired by the OCAW to investigate the crash. He has done more than 2,000 such investigations and has testified in more than 300 court trials. An Oklahoma State Highway patrolman, Rick Fagan, investigated the accident that night. His investigation has since been reviewed by officials of the Highway Patrol, who stand by its conclusions. The two reports could scarcely vary more.

According to the Highway Patrol, Karen went to sleep at the wheel, drove off the road, left two sets of rolling tracks with no evidence of having attempted to brake or control the car; the Honda was airborne

for 24 feet after crossing the northern wall, and plowed into the southern wall three feet above the ground. The Pipkin report, on the contrary, holds that the car went off the road out of control, leaving three tracks because the car was skewed into an attitude that had aligned the right rear wheel with the left front wheel. The car flew over the northern wall, was airborne 20 feet, skidded four feet into the wall. Tread prints taken at the scene on Sunday, November 17—the day Karen was buried in Kilgore, Texas—matched those on the Honda, according to Pipkin. A small, fresh dent on the rear bumper, which under magnification proved to have scratch marks leading from the rear of the car toward the front, indicated to Pipkin that the car had been struck by another vehicle. In this version, either the blow itself or the collision combined with driver overreaction forced the car out of control and caused the fatal accident. The Highway Patrol says that the dent and scratches occurred when the car struck the concrete culvert while being re-

moved by a wrecker. For many technical reasons Pipkin and Dr. B. J. Harris, a structural engineer called in as a consultant, maintain that the dent could not have happened during removal from the crash scene and subsequent towing.

Later microscopic examinations by consulting experts retained by Pipkin revealed no concrete fragments in the dent. Rather, their report indicated contact with another metal surface, and a smudge believed to have come from rubber bumper stripping.

A Highway Patrol spokesman called the crash "a classic" example of a driver asleep at the wheel. There is disagreement here, too, because barring severe wheel misalignment, drivers who fall asleep go off the road on the right. Highways slope away from the centerline, or crown. The crown is designed into a road so that the downward angle and the pull of gravity will gently tug automobiles toward the right shoulder and away from a collision course with approaching vehicles.

The Highway Patrol's claim of

sleep is buttressed by an autopsy report showing methaqualone in the blood, stomach, and liver. There was a trace of alcohol, but the level is so slight that it can be considered insignificant. The methaqualone levels, on the other hand, are consonant with normal metabolism of a large but still therapeutic dose ingested within an hour of her death. The methaqualone cannot definitively be said to have caused sleep, but it would probably have impaired her reactions. This is particularly so if a person had used the drug frequently and had developed the tolerance that could be expected from such usage. It is certain that Karen took the drug with some frequency during her last, extremely stressful days. Whether or not enough was taken often enough to develop a tolerance is not known.

The uncertainty about the drug's effect on Karen is but one anomaly. One wrecker was dispatched to the scene by the Guthrie Police when the first report came in. Halfway there, he was called on his radio and told to return, another wrecker

There are few subjects as daunting as nuclear technology. Its language is arcane, its mathematics mind-boggling, and, after all, it took Einstein to figure it out. Leave it to the physicists. Thus the nuclear industry was allowed to develop without public oversight. It matters little whether an uninformed and apathetic citizenry or a nuclear establishment less than candid about the risks is at fault in this. The point is that the reactors are there, 56 in operation today, with plans to build 850 to 1,400 by the year 2000. They dot our countryside, are cheek by jowl with our cities. And they pose hazards on a scale second only to nuclear warfare.

The possibility of an accident releasing radioactive materials from the core of a nuclear reactor is very real. There have already been a series of near misses, enough to remind us that technology is not always triumphant. Just

as planes crash, bridges collapse, cars are lemons, so do reactor components malfunction. But a major reactor accident could, according to a study prepared, then suppressed for eight years by the AEC, result in 45,000 fatalities and contamination of an area the size of the state of Pennsylvania. The area closest to the accident site would likely be uninhabitable for hundreds of years.

The lengthy lethal life of reactor fuels (plutonium, for example, remains radioactive for a quarter of a million years) poses a second problem: the storage of nuclear wastes. Under present plans, there will be 20,000 metric tons of nuclear wastes by the turn of the century, wastes that will have to be kept out of the biosphere for a time frame almost one hundred times as long as the recorded history of the human race. Not only does this presuppose political and social stability, it also assumes

that the technology to assure safe disposal exists. There are plenty of sci-fi schemes for getting rid of the waste—launching it into perpetual orbit (a risk the missile designers are unwilling to take); dropping it into the tectonic plates in mid-ocean and hoping it will work its way down to the earth's core; letting it melt into the Antarctic ice cap. But the simple fact is that the best anyone can do at this point is provide temporary storage with constant monitoring and safeguards until a method for disposal is found.

Finally, there is the matter of securing nuclear materials from the world's terrorists and black-mailers. A quantity of plutonium roughly the size of a softball is sufficient to build a nuclear weapon. Once the material has been obtained—and hijacking hasn't been proved impossible—it is regarded as quite simple to build a crude weapon. —B.J.P.

had been sent by the Highway Patrol dispatcher. A mix-up, it is explained, between two different agencies. But the truck driver's report was of someone pinned in a wreck, and speed would be crucial.

It is known that Kerr-McGee personnel went to the accident scene. Another Kerr-McGee official was at the hospital where her body was taken. (A macabre extension of her contamination is the fact that the ambulance attendants who picked up her body were checked by the AEC for contamination. Results were negative.)

Whatever the coincidences, the variations between the two accident investigations, a human being was dead and the shock of that fact had to be absorbed by those who knew and loved Karen Silkwood. In Nederland, Texas, two policemen—one of them a high school classmate of Karen's—came to knock on the Silkwoods' door. Her parents were aroused from sleep and told the news. At the Holiday Inn outside Oklahoma City, Stephens, Wodka, and reporter Burnham waited for Karen. Finally, around 10 P.M., they began calling to locate her. When Wodka reached a friend in Crescent, he was told that Karen's car had been towed into town and that she was dead. It was left to Wodka to tell Drew Stephens.

They drove out to the now-deserted accident scene, locating it by headlights when they found her paycheck lying on the ground. They found no notebooks containing information of any consequence then or later when her personal effects were released. Union officials remain convinced that some of Karen's notes are missing. The brown manila folder and notebook referred to in the affidavit have never been found.

Outside the garage in Crescent where Karen's car had been towed, then locked up, Drew Stephens put his head against the wall and wept. In Nederland, Bill Silkwood ran about trying to find an open telegraph office so that he could cable a message he did not know how to phrase. At 2:36 A.M. on November 14, he dispatched his telegram: RE-

QUEST AUTOPSY KAREN GAY SILKWOOD. BILL SILKWOOD FATHER.

The ripples spread from family and friends to the press, the AEC, and eventually, to the FBI and the Justice Department. Attention was focused as it had never been before on the nuclear power industry, its safety in view of the terribly toxic materials it used, and, indeed, beyond, to questioning the wisdom of building reactors when a serious accident could endanger the lives of thousands. (See box, page 65.)

There are risks inherent in current plans to rely on nuclear power for electricity. This is the specter raised by the life and death of Karen Silkwood. In a more immediate sense, her presence still haunts Kerr-McGee's Cimarron Facility. Nearly two months after her death, the AEC released reports of its investigations into allegations developed from information she provided. Of 39 charges concerning health and safety, 20 were substantiated wholly or in part. Three violations of AEC regulations dealing with health and safety were found. Among the allegations that were confirmed were the company's failure to set up a routine procedure for assuring that respirators were properly functioning (respirators are the only defense against inhaling plutonium when it has escaped into the air), and an incident in which plutonium was stored in unsafe amounts (since plutonium can reach critical mass—the point at which a nuclear chain reaction can begin—there is a risk of a nuclear explosion if it is improperly handled or stored). Additionally, the report confirmed that operating errors had resulted in worker contamination. Furthermore, in the area of quality control, it was shown that photographic negatives had been touched up with a black felt-tip pen, a fact which many consider significant but the AEC does not; and that some analytic data had been misused.

Two other contamination incidents occurred at the Cimarron Facility on December 17, and five employees were exposed to radiation. Kerr-McGee promptly closed the plant, charging that "some of

the recent incidents . . . have been contrived." This is an allegation that remains unproved, except for the still-mysterious adulteration of Karen's urine samples. All the workers were laid off for 10 days and production ceased. The company then began administering polygraph tests to several of its employees. The questions workers were asked while hooked up to the lie detector delved into such areas as whether or not they had ever talked to Karen, belonged to the union, stolen anything from Kerr-McGee (a question that would show up the same on a polygraph, for a pencil or 50 pounds of plutonium), used narcotics, talked to a reporter, had an affair with another employee.

After the lie-detector tests, the staff of an isolated warehouse reportedly trebled when eight workers were transferred there. Among them were the chairman of the union local and a former committeeman. They were told that they were forbidden to go to any other area of the plant and that a supervisor had to be with them at all times, even when they went to the bathroom. The OCAW has filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board about the lie-detector tests. The polygraph tests are continuing at this writing.

In Oklahoma City, two state legislators have called for an investigation into Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant. A similar move is under way in the Congress. Drew Stephens searches his memory for the key that will unlock the mystery surrounding Karen's death. In Nederland, Texas, the Silkwood family waits for an explanation of what happened to Karen, and why.

Karen Silkwood's story remains star-crossed. On New Year's Eve, Trooper Rick Fagan, the highway patrolman who investigated Karen's accident, patrolled State Highway 74. A few miles from the place where she died, he was struck from behind by a drunken driver and was critically injured.

*B. J. Phillips is a "Ms." staff writer. Later, she will explore the implications of the use of nuclear power.*



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b>	DATE <b>4/7/75</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>3/28-3/75</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUBS; KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)</b>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 20px;"></div>	TYPED BY <b>jr</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>LMRDA; OOJ</b>	b6 b7C

REFERENCE: Oklahoma City airtel to the Bureau, dated 4/2/75.

-P-

ADMINISTRATIVE

It is noted that all logical investigation regarding captioned case has been completed and reported. As set out in this report, USA, Oklahoma City was consulted regarding prosecutive aspects of this case. USA advised that no violation of LMRDA or OOJ was apparent.

By referenced airtel, Oklahoma City furnished to Bureau, copies of French magazine article, which appeared in 2/15/75 edition of "Paris Match" and requested that translation of this article be made. Upon receipt of translation, Oklahoma City will disseminate article and

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO				
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES							
APPROVED <i>KW/H&amp;P</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW			
COPIES MADE: (6- Bureau (159-4005) 1- USA, Oklahoma City 2- Oklahoma City (159-45).						159-4005-34			15 APR 10 1975 EX-111		
ICC LABOR. UNIT						Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations	
Agency	1cc ROM CRIM. DIV									<i>Duff</i> <i>Five</i> <b>SIX DATA PROC</b>	
Request Recd.											
Date Fwd.	4/14/75										
How Fwd.	OGP										
By	<i>Errol</i>										

**60 APR 15 1975**

OC 159-45

place case in closed status.

LEAD

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will place case  
in closed status upon dissemination of above mentioned  
French article.

Cover Page  
B\*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1- USA, Oklahoma City

b6  
b7C

Report of: [REDACTED]

Office: Oklahoma City

Date: 4/7/75

Field Office File #: 159-45

Bureau File #: 159-4005

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT  
OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

## Synopsis:

During period 3/28-31/75, prosecutive aspects of this case were discussed at length with AUSA [REDACTED] and USA [REDACTED] WDO, Oklahoma City, at which time they advised that investigation to date did not appear to reveal any violation of the LMRDA or OOJ Statutes in regard to this case.

b6  
b7C

-P-

DETAILS: AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

During the period of March 28, through 31, 1975, SA [REDACTED] discussed the prosecutive aspects of this case with [REDACTED] Assistant U. S. Attorney and [REDACTED] U. S. Attorney, Western District of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City. They advised that investigation to date did not appear to reveal any violation of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959; or the Obstruction of Justice Statutes in regard to this case.

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] advised that he was desirous of having the Department of Justice and his office make a statement regarding the conclusion of this case and that he anticipated that he would be in contact with the Department in this regard.

1\*

4/16/75

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
(ATTN: RESEARCH SECTION)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (117-373)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;  
Unauthorized Possession of  
Plutonium Resulting in Contamination of  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (Deceased),  
[REDACTED] b6  
[REDACTED] b7C  
Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC),  
Nuclear Products Division,  
Cimarron Facility  
Crescent, Oklahoma  
AEA  
(OO: OC)

ReCCairtel to the Director, 4/11/75.

On 4/16/75, it was established that the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (NRDC), does have offices at 15 West 44th Street, NYC, with telephone listing 869-0150.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
  - (1 - Research Section)
  - (1) 159-4005
- 2 - Oklahoma City (117-51) (RM)
- 1 - New York

TJD:kmm  
(7)

NOT RECORDED  
102 APR 24 1975

ORIGINAL FILED IN 117-373

NY 117-373

A non-specific telephone call to the above number, developed the following information:

The NRDC is a non-profit, tax exempt membership organization dedicated to the protection of America's endangered natural resources and to improving the quality of the human environment. When questioned as to whether or not the organization is opposed to the use of nuclear reactors for the generation of energy, the reply was in the affirmative specifically specifying those systems which utilize "liquid metal fast breeder reactors". This call was also able to establish that [redacted] who could be contacted care of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, 1126 16th Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C., is on the Board of Directors of NRDC.

b6  
b7c

FBI

Date: 4/11/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
Attention: Research Section

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (117-51)(P)

RE: UNSUBS;  
UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF PLUTONIUM  
RESULTING IN CONTAMINATION OF KAREN G.  
SILKWOOD (DECEASED), [REDACTED] AND  
[REDACTED] KERR MC GEE CORPORATION (KMC),  
NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION, CIMARRON FACILITY,  
CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA  
AEA  
OO: Oklahoma Cityb6  
b7cRe Oklahoma City teletype to Bureau, 4/7/75 and  
Bureau teletype to Oklahoma City, 3/14/75.Enclosed herewith for the Bureau two copies  
of an article which appeared in the January, 1975 Health  
Physics Society Newsletter.For information of the New York Division, the Bureau  
in referenced teletype designated captioned case a Bureau  
Special.b6  
b7cAs set out in referenced Oklahoma City teletype,  
on 4/7/75 [REDACTED] KMC, Oklahoma  
City, advised it was KMC's understanding that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers  
International Union (OCAW), Washington, D. C., is on the  
Board of Directors of the Natural Resources Defense Council,  
15 West 44th, New York, New York. [REDACTED] advised it was his3-Bureau (Enc. 2)  
(1-159-4005)  
2-New York  
2-Oklahoma City  
LJO/sal  
(7)159-4005-  
NOT RECORDED  
25 MAY 1975  
CARBON COPY 197558 MAY 6 1975  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

OC 117-51

understanding this commission is considered to be an anti-nuclear (industry) group.

Oklahoma City indices negative re Natural Resources Defense Commission. Bureau has separately advised Bufiles contain no information identifiable with this commission.

It is recalled [ ] in his capacity with OCAW directed a telegram to the then Attorney General of the U. S., 11/13/74, and as a result was the original complainant in case entitled, "UNSUBS; KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased), LMRDA; OCJ, OO: Oklahoma City, " Oklahoma City file 159-45, Bufile 159-4005. b6 b7C

It would be of interest to determine if [ ] a representative of the OCAW, is in fact in a leadership position in a so-called anti-nuclear group.

An article appeared in the 4/7/75 edition of the Oklahoma City Times, a daily newspaper published at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, captioned "Nuclear Plant Perils Cited," which article in part indicated an environmental scientist appeared before an Oklahoma State Legislative Committee, the House Committee on Environmental Affairs. The article identified the scientist as Dr. TERRY R. LASH, Staff Manager of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., which council was identified in the article as a citizens lobby "against nuclear development until some very disturbing problems are resolved." It would appear the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., is likely identical with the similarly named group mentioned above by [ ] listing the address 15 West 44th, New York, New York. b6 b7C

Article enclosed for the Bureau was obtained from [ ] Health and Safety, captioned facility, who voluntarily made the article available. The article was obtained from the 1/75 issue of the Health Physics Society Monthly Newsletter. [ ]

[ ] The article makes reference to a national meeting of Nuclear critics held in Washington, D. C., 11/15-17/74, which meeting was entitled "Critical Mass, 1974."

OC 117-51

The above-mentioned article is being submitted to the Bureau for information and for the completion of Bufiles.

For the additional information of the Bureau, [ ] additionally advised the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, a legitimate nuclear industry management organization, is holding its annual meeting in New Orleans, La., in mid 6/75. KMC management personnel are members of this group.

b6  
b7C

[ ] advised included in the meeting activities is a 6/20/75 panel entitled, "Safeguards, the Press, and the Public." Included on the panel as representatives of the information media and nuclear critic representation are the following:

D. BURNHAM, New York Times  
T. COCHRAN, Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.  
D. COMEY, Businessmen for the Public, Inc.  
R. NEWBURGER, Nucleonics Week

[ ] advised four panel members are listed as representing the nuclear industry, among which are [ ] [ ] International Research and Technological Corporation.

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[ ] noted it is ironic that TAYLOR is appearing as a nuclear industry representative rather than a critic since that [ ] is identical with the [ ] who authored the controversial series of articles which appeared in the New Yorker magazine was critical of the nuclear safeguard system.

The above information is furnished Bureau for their information in the event further complaints are received relative to the SILKWOOD case and any additional complaints concerning other nuclear problems.

LEADS

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK - Will furnish Bureau and Oklahoma City Division any pertinent information



OC 117-51

concerning Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.,  
15 West 44th. and any information which would relate  
 with that group.

b6  
b7C

SAC, Oklahoma City (159-45)

April 24, 1975

Director, FBI (159-4005) -

UNSUBS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOF  
(OO: OKLAHOMA CITY)

Attached is the translation which you requested  
by airtel dated 4/2/75.

The contents thereof, where pertinent, must be  
reported under appropriate captions and afforded whatever  
investigative attention is necessary.

The foreign language material is returned herewith.

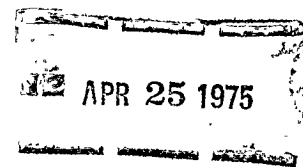
Enc. (3)

1 - Mr. Gebhardt (Attn.: Accounting and Fraud Section),  
sent direct with enclosure

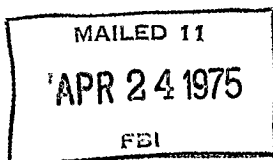
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MEB:ljkl  
(4)

REC-37

159-4005-35



ENCLOSURE



4929 112404  
MAY 05 1975

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Deleted Copy Sent  
by Letter dated 5-19-75  
Per FOIPA Request 44-111-1000

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

Article on page 54 of the February 15, 1975, issue of "Paris Match."

★

★

★

"THE PLUTONIUM LADY"

This could be a headline for a horror story of the kind that used to come out in installments. But it is a real FBI investigation: a woman died on a U. S. highway. Was she connected with a gang of plutonium thieves who wanted to manufacture a bomb? Did she fall into a trap? It remains a complete mystery; a mystery which frightens America.

Seated on the well-padded stools of the Holiday Inn bar, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, three men ordered a new round of drinks. In the discreet light of red lanterns, they were waiting for Karen Silkwood. For several days, now, she had been the only topic of conversation. The young woman had been contaminated by plutonium. Her apartment, likewise, had been contaminated by this radioactive element. The "Kermac" plant in Crescent which treats one-and-one-half tons of plutonium and uranium for peaceful purposes, suspects Karen of having stolen several kilograms of radioactive elements. Miss Silkwood, an active militant labor union member, defended herself, in turn, by attacking "Kermac" "which," she contended, "does not respect the security measures imposed by the Atomic Energy Commission."

The bartender served the new round of drinks. The most nervous of the trio looked at his watch once more. His name is David Burnham. He is a journalist in New York. His neighbor's name is Steve Wodka. Mr. Wodka is a lawyer for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (International) Union (OCAW Union); last September, Karen sent him thirty-nine complaints against "Kermac," motivated by seventy-three cases of contamination. The third man, Drew Stephens, had previously been employed by "Kermac," and had since resigned. For two years, Karen had been his girlfriend.

TRANSLATED BY: MEB

April 23, 1975

b6

b7C

ENCLOSURE

Again, David Burnham looked at his watch. If he had come from New York, it was because his friend Wodka had telephoned him saying: "I have a rendezvous with Miss Silkwood who is to hand over to me an explosive file which you can examine." David immediately took the first plane to Oklahoma. Now in the presence of his two companions, he had been waiting for three hours.

"Is she habitually late?" - asked David, impatiently.

-"No," replied Drew; "provided she has had no mishaps..."

David Burnham would never write the interview of his life.

Steve Wodka would never plead in court the case which would make his career.

Drew Stephens would never again press Karen to his heart.

Drew's foreboding turned out to be correct: the young woman met with tragedy. On U. S. 74, at the wheel of her white car, bearing license number YF8261, Karen was speeding, despite the speed limit, to her rendezvous. She was a good driver, since she had taken part in numerous car rallies. And yet, on the long straight line without danger, her little racing car inexplicably left the highway and turned over into a concrete ditch. Mangled sheet metal was removed from Karen's lifeless body: her skull was fractured, her rib cage was caved in, and her arms and legs were broken. Pretty Karen Silkwood was now only a broken, disjointed body whose looks were unbearable. David, Steve and Drew quickly went to the scene of the accident. It was 11:00 p.m. at night-time and pitch black. With the beam of the headlights of their car, they inspected everything, without finding anything unusual, except for the fact that the police were unable to find, either in the car or in her clothing or in the immediate surroundings, the famous file which Karen was supposed to have brought along.

"It must have been a tremendously dangerous file because they decided to do away with her!" - Wodka burst out, in a frenzy.

The police report concluded that it was an accident. But the lawyer did not agree. He hired a private detective from Dallas, O. D. Piploin, a former New Mexico police officer, who specialized in the reconstruction of accidents.

Piploin investigated, searched, interrogated. His conclusion, likewise, was that it was an accident. But he did not exclude the possibility that it could have been caused intentionally. In effect, he indicated to the Union's lawyer that the Honda had a dent on the right rear bumper: whereas, the car had turned over on its left side.

"The possibility," declared Piploin, "that Miss Silkwood's Honda might have been intentionally hit by another car cannot be excluded."

"But who could have done it?" asked David Burnham.

Kermac? Is Kermac fed up with the trials and tribulations which it has known since it was founded in 1970, due to Karen's activities as a labor union member? The conflict between management and the female laboratory technician arose because she accused the plant of not setting up a system of protection which would prevent leaks and contamination. Plutonium is, in effect, extremely dangerous: a fragment the size of a pinhead can paralyze a lung "100,000 times more rapidly than the venom of a rattlesnake" and "10,000 times more rapidly than potassium cyanide." If absorbed in small doses, it can cause cancer of the bone or leukemia. In order to avoid these risks, plutonium is stored in airtight, sealed containers or barrels, resistant to the most violent impacts. It is never handled out in the open air, but in special caissons, resembling incubators in a maternity ward. The female laboratory technician, dressed like a nurse, puts her hands in huge neoprene gloves, fixed to port-holes imbedded in glass partitions. The air pressure inside is less than that of the room. In short, a whole system must be constructed so as to prevent even the tiniest particle of plutonium from escaping.

Karen Silkwood, last July, had, like other colleagues, been severely contaminated. For her, the Kermac plant's security system was a ... sieve!

Two months had passed by. On December 5, at 6:30 p.m. in room 135, the female laboratory technician had reduced plutonium capsules to powder. She removed her hands from the gloves, and allowed herself a break. For fifteen minutes she had been cleaning the element of its impurities by means of an ultrasonic device, inspected it under a microscope and had it X-rayed. Before leaving the laboratory, Karen passed through the gamma ray detector: her hands were contaminated.

She was sent to the infirmary and declared not in danger. But, in amazement, it was discovered that the young woman's apartment was also contaminated. The logical deduction was that the place had been used to store plutonium. "Kermac" immediately counterattacked. Without making any formal accusations, Kermac did not exclude the hypothesis that Miss Silkwood could have had some contact with plutonium thieves. Kermac does not care on behalf of whom. It is up to the FBI to find out. It is their job. Federal Agent Steve Olson was sent to Crescent on an assignment. He arrived there after Miss Silkwood's fatal accident.

In a hotel room, that same evening, Steve Olson, the FBI Agent, was bent over some files. His job was not only to determine if there had been a theft, but who would profit from it. Was it carried out in order to profit a nuclearly underdeveloped power? This is very unlikely. Chances are more likely that it was done in favor of a terrorist movement. The first file was that of "Kermac" which attacked its employee. The next file was that of the labor union which Wodka handed over, and which revealed twenty defects, more or less well founded on the part of the plant. A third file was one which had been drafted by a committee of six officials from the AEC (the American Atomic Energy Commission) who had conducted an investigation of the plant's facilities. Finally, the last file contained the autopsy report which stated: "The traces of plutonium found in the young woman's liver and lungs are far too small to have caused sudden death." Steve Olson continued reading. The seven doctors, who had performed two autopsies, were unanimous in pointing out the presence of a large quantity of methaqualon -- a powerful hallucinatory drug which Karen could obtain with a doctor's prescription and which she used generously -- "the medicine could not make Miss Silkwood 'get high' to the extent of losing control of her car," stated Drew Stephens to the FBI Agent. "I knew her very well. We even smoked marijuana together. She knew very well how much of the stimulants as well as of the sedatives, to take. She never 'got high.' As far as methaqualon is concerned, her system was accustomed to it."

"Believe me, Inspector, the disappearance of the file which she was supposed to have turned over to us signifies that she was put away because she was becoming troublesome," said Wodka, insistingly, to the FBI Agent.

Steve Olson set out on the hunt. As the investigation progressed, the unknown and troubled person of a new Karen Silkwood gradually came to light. First of all, there was the ardent labor union member's sentimental life. At age twenty-eight, she was divorced, mother of three children, who were entrusted to the father. According to witnesses, she did not suffer from the divorce in any respect whatsoever. Then, Olson was astonished to learn that Karen divided her love between Drew Stephens and a girlfriend, a Cherrie Ellis, who had a passion for rodeos and always dressed like a man. This free love is calmly explained by Drew, who said: "Karen was, undoubtedly, due to her Indian blood, a rebel. She balked at the restraints of society."

This was a good breakthrough. Steve Olson continued his investigation into the dead woman's past. He went to the May Avenue Bank. Amiably the young woman's account was handed over to him: Karen was not a millionaire: far from it. She bought her car and motorcycle, as well as her stereo set, her television and her wardrobe on credit. This amounted to a total indebtedness of \$3,798 which Karen tried to stem, by borrowing money from various banks. For someone who earned only \$8,210 a year, this could be a motive to steal plutonium, according to Steve Olson.

But, Steve Olson wondered: how can anybody smuggle plutonium out of the plant, in spite of the guards, the dogs, the detection system which everyone leaving the Kermac premises must undergo? He questioned the personnel (136 employees) and discovered that the detection system is deceptive. First of all, resolute, armed commando teams with good contacts inside the plant, could enter the premises of "Kermac" whenever they wanted to. But, over and above all, the detection system is fantastic. It would set off the alarm at the drop of a pin, to such an extent that the guard, tired of so many useless signals, would resort to setting it on again and would not search the person whose entry or exit had caused the alarm to go off. But, Steve Olson was not at the end of his surprises. He learned that, if each milligram of plutonium is rigorously accounted for, its manipulation involves losses of up to 2%, which the Atomic Energy Commission tolerates, without requesting that an investigation be made: 2% which undoubtedly not everyone loses. It seems unbelievable that an element as terrifying as plutonium, which is thought of as being guarded like the gold in Fort Knox, is guarded in such a loose manner. Unfortunately, however, this is the case.

"It is surprising that no one has taken up nuclear terrorism yet," states physicist Ted Taylor, a manufacturer of the most minaturized atomic bombs, "for the means to steal really and truly does exist." It is sufficient to use "M.U.F.," an abbreviation which signifies "material unaccounted for." This corresponds to all the plutonium which is still being treated and which is impossible to inventory, account for, or keep under surveillance. A laboratory technician holding a position which gives access to plutonium, as was in Miss Silkwood's case, could steal thirty kilograms (66 lbs.) of the element without anyone noticing it. The theft would be discovered only if an arrest had been made at the plant and only after six months to one year: enough time to enable an organization to make its bomb.

In early January, after Karen's death, the Kermac plant temporarily closed its doors and stopped production of plutonium bars destined for the nuclear center of Hanford, in the State of Washington. For 48 hours, a count was taken of all the "material unaccounted for"; in the thermic caissons, in the robot machines of the production chain, in the plant's ventilation system. All the plutonium -- minus the famous 2% margin -- was recovered.

It remains a complete mystery. In effect, since the investigations have not made it possible to discover plutonium on Karen's person and since the verifications made at the Kermac plant have not revealed any theft, the enigma lives on. The question which faces the investigators is the following: was the plutonium stolen from the plant and, perhaps stored by the female laboratory technician at home and, if so, was it returned by the thieves who had gotten wind of the investigations by the FBI and the AEC? If such were the case, the events in Oklahoma City would turn out to be extremely dangerous. For what authority, from here on in, could guarantee us that the famous homemade bomb, which can be easily carried in a simple suitcase, could not be made by someone some day?

JEAN NOLI

caption under picture, middle of page 55:  
Karen, found dead, contaminated by plutonium.



F B I

Date: 4/2/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOJ

OO: OKLAHOMA CITY

Deletal Copy Sent [redacted]

by Letter Dated 5-10-75 [redacted]

Per FOIPA Request [redacted]

b6  
b7C

Enclosed herewith is an article (in French) from the 2/15/75 edition of "Paris Match" and two copies of a rough English translation.

For information of the Bureau, on 4/2/75, [redacted] Regulation and Control, Nuclear Division, Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC), made available copy of an article, which appeared in the Paris, France weekly periodical known as "Paris Match", which was obtained from the 2/15/75 edition. This article relates to KAREN GAY SILKWOOD. [redacted] also made available a translation of the article. [redacted] advised that this English translation is rather rough, in that the company did not immediately have available anyone who was sufficiently proficient in French to allow a fully accurate translation to be made.

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A review of the English translation at Oklahoma City, indicates that the article appears to be rather fanciful; however, it is unusual in that it includes certain details which have not thus far appeared in the American media. [redacted] was the likely source of much of the information contained in the article.

APR 7 1975

② Bureau (Enc. 3)  
2- Oklahoma City  
LJO/jr  
(4)

ENCLOSURE

SEEN [initials]

Approved: [signature] Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

OC 159-45

Request of the Bureau

It is requested that the enclosed French magazine article be translated and thereafter, furnished to Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City thereafter will make necessary dissemination of translated version of the article.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.:  
 Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

## FBI Finds No Foul Play in Auto Death

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The FBI says it found no evidence of foul play in the death of Karen Silkwood, a worker at Kerr-McGee's Crescent plutonium plant who died in a car wreck Nov. 13.

The FBI findings back up an Oklahoma Highway Patrol investigation that discounted allegations that Miss Silkwood's car had been forced off the road.

Miss Silkwood died when her car crashed into a culvert near Crescent. She reportedly was en route to a meeting with a New York Times reporter and a union representative to discuss safety conditions at the plant.

Deleted Copy Sent \_\_\_\_\_

by Letter Dated 5-10-76 *Ambr*  
 Per FOIA Request *Re K. Silkwood*

b6  
b7C

154-4005-A -

NOT RECORDED

182 AUG 4 1975

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Washington Star-News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Los Angeles Times 16

MAY 3 1975

Date \_\_\_\_\_

FILE IN

159-4005

5/3/75

7 AUG 12/1975

## Justice Department Doubtful of Killing Of Atomic Worker

By DAVID BURNHAM  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 1—The Justice Department said today that the death of a young woman who had raised serious safety questions about an Oklahoma plutonium factory did not appear to be murder.

The department's announcement came five and a half months after the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union asked it to investigate the Nov. 13 car crash that took the life of Karen G. Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician who worked in a factory of the Kerr-McGhee Nuclear Corporation near Crescent, Okla.

While the Justice Department spokesman said the Federal Bureau of Investigation had found no evidence that Miss Silkwood had been murdered, he said that two aspects of the case were still under investigation.

The spokesman, Robert L. Stevenson, said the F.B.I. was still looking into allegations that Miss Silkwood's rights as a union member may have been violated.

### Plutonium Possession

He said the second aspect was the possible illegal possession by some unnamed person or persons of plutonium, a carefully guarded substance that is considered highly dangerous both as a cause of cancer and as the raw material of atomic bombs.

A spokesman for the Senate Government Operations Committee said the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union last week submitted a confidential letter "detailing what it considered to be outstanding issues" of the F.B.I.'s investigation.

Both the union and the committee declined to make public the contents of the letter. But the committee spokesman said it had been forwarded to the General Accounting Office, which, at the request of Senator Lee Metcalf, Democrat of Montana, is investigating the quality of the inquiry by various Federal agencies looking into the Silkwood case.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-1-85 BY 9145 C1-JO

#251-957

b6  
b7C

NOT RECORDED  
182 AUG 5 1975

Deleted Copy Sent

by Letter Dated 5-10-76

Per FOIPA Request

The Washington Post  
Washington Star-News  
Daily News (New York)  
The New York Times  
The Wall Street Journal  
The National Observer  
The Los Angeles Times

MAY 2 1975

Date

AUG 5 1975

MS

FILE IN

159-4005

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

117-2696-A

117-2703-A

cc 117-2696  
cc 117-2702

117-2696

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : *Wn* DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

DATE: 5/9/75

FROM : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau, 4/2/75; Oklahoma City report of SA [redacted] 4/7/75; Oklahoma City letter to Oklahoma City, 4/24/75; and Bureau telephone call to Oklahoma City, 5/8/75. b6 b7c

Enclosed for the Bureau six copies of a LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy LHM furnished U. S. Attorney, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

As set out in referenced Oklahoma City report, all logical investigation re captioned case has been completed and reported and USA, Oklahoma City, advised no violation of LMRDA or OOJ is apparent.

Enclosed LHM sets forth self-explanatory article appearing in the 2/15/75 issue of Paris Match relative to captioned case. LHM being submitted for completion of Bufiles.

## LEADS

Deleted Copy Sent  
by Letter Dated 5-10-76 [redacted]  
Per FOIPA Request [redacted]

b6  
b7c

## OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA - Will conduct investigation requested in referenced Bureau telephone call.

2-Bureau (Enc. 6)  
2-Oklahoma City  
LJO/sal  
(4)

ENCLOSURE

REC-59

MAY 19 1975

ST 112

2cc ROM CRIM. DIV., by 0-6D

1cc LABOR DESK, TIGER



58 MAY 23 1975

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

May 9, 1975

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND  
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION  
OF JUSTICE

---

The February 12, 1975 issue of Paris Match, a French language periodical published at Paris, France, contained an article entitled, "The Plutonium Lady." A translation of the article is as follows:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

Article on page 54 of the February 15, 1975, issue of "Paris Match."

\*

\*

\*

"THE PLUTONIUM LADY"

This could be a headline for a horror story of the kind that used to come out in installments. But it is a real FBI investigation: a woman died on a U. S. highway. Was she connected with a gang of plutonium thieves who wanted to manufacture a bomb? Did she fall into a trap? It remains a complete mystery; a mystery which frightens America.

---

Seated on the well-padded stools of the Holiday Inn bar, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, three men ordered a new round of drinks. In the discreet light of red lanterns, they were waiting for Karen Silkwood. For several days, now, she had been the only topic of conversation. The young woman had been contaminated by plutonium. Her apartment, likewise, had been contaminated by this radioactive element. The "Kermac" plant in Crescent which treats one-and-one-half tons of plutonium and uranium for peaceful purposes, suspects Karen of having stolen several kilograms of radioactive elements. Miss Silkwood, an active militant labor union member, defended herself, in turn, by attacking "Kermac" "which," she contended, "does not respect the security measures imposed by the Atomic Energy Commission."

The bartender served the new round of drinks. The most nervous of the trio looked at his watch once more. His name is David Burnham. He is a journalist in New York. His neighbor's name is Steve Wodka. Mr. Wodka is a lawyer for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (International) Union (OCAW Union); last September, Karen sent him thirty-nine complaints against "Kermac," motivated by seventy-three cases of contamination. The third man, Drew Stephens, had previously been employed by "Kermac," and had since resigned. For two years, Karen had been his girlfriend.

Again, David Burnham looked at his watch. If he had come from New York, it was because his friend Wodka had telephoned him saying: "I have a rendezvous with Miss Silkwood who is to hand over to me an explosive file which you can examine." David immediately took the first plane to Oklahoma. Now in the presence of his two companions, he had been waiting for three hours.

"Is she habitually late?" - asked David, impatiently.

"No," replied Drew; "provided she has had no mishaps..."

David Burnham would never write the interview of his life.

Steve Wodka would never plead in court the case which would make his career.

Drew Stephens would never again press Karen to his heart.

Drew's foreboding turned out to be correct: the young woman met with tragedy. On U. S. 74, at the wheel of her white car, bearing license number YF8261, Karen was speeding, despite the speed limit, to her rendezvous. She was a good driver, since she had taken part in numerous car rallies. And yet, on the long straight line without danger, her little racing car inexplicably left the highway and turned over into a concrete ditch. Mangled sheet metal was removed from Karen's lifeless body: her skull was fractured, her rib cage was caved in, and her arms and legs were broken. Pretty Karen Silkwood was now only a broken, disjointed body whose looks were unbearable. David, Steve and Drew quickly went to the scene of the accident. It was 11:00 p.m. at night-time and pitch black. With the beam of the headlights of their car, they inspected everything, without finding anything unusual, except for the fact that the police were unable to find, either in the car or in her clothing or in the immediate surroundings, the famous file which Karen was supposed to have brought along.

"It must have been a tremendously dangerous file because they decided to do away with her!" - Wodka burst out, in a frenzy.

The police report concluded that it was an accident. But the lawyer did not agree. He hired a private detective from Dallas, O. D. Piploin, a former New Mexico police officer, who specialized in the reconstruction of accidents.



Piploin investigated, searched, interrogated. His conclusion, likewise, was that it was an accident. But he did not exclude the possibility that it could have been caused intentionally. In effect, he indicated to the Union's lawyer that the Honda had a dent on the right rear bumper: whereas, the car had turned over on its left side.

"The possibility," declared Piploin, "that Miss Silkwood's Honda might have been intentionally hit by another car cannot be excluded."

"But who could have done it?" asked David Burnham.

Kermac? Is Kermac fed up with the trials and tribulations which it has known since it was founded in 1970, due to Karen's activities as a labor union member? The conflict between management and the female laboratory technician arose because she accused the plant of not setting up a system of protection which would prevent leaks and contamination. Plutonium is, in effect, extremely dangerous: a fragment the size of a pinhead can paralyze a lung "100,000 times more rapidly than the venom of a rattlesnake" and "10,000 times more rapidly than potassium cyanide." If absorbed in small doses, it can cause cancer of the bone or leukemia. In order to avoid these risks, plutonium is stored in airtight, sealed containers or barrels, resistant to the most violent impacts. It is never handled out in the open air, but in special caissons, resembling incubators in a maternity ward. The female laboratory technician, dressed like a nurse, puts her hands in huge neoprene gloves, fixed to port-holes imbedded in glass partitions. The air pressure inside is less than that of the room. In short, a whole system must be constructed so as to prevent even the tiniest particle of plutonium from escaping.

Karen Silkwood, last July, had, like other colleagues, been severely contaminated. For her, the Kermac plant's security system was a ... sieve!

Two months had passed by. On December 5, at 6:30 p.m. in room 135, the female laboratory technician had reduced plutonium capsules to powder. She removed her hands from the gloves, and allowed herself a break. For fifteen minutes she had been cleaning the element of its impurities by means of an ultrasonic device, inspected it under a microscope and had it X-rayed. Before leaving the laboratory, Karen passed through the gamma ray detector: her hands were contaminated.

She was sent to the infirmary and declared not in danger. But, in amazement, it was discovered that the young woman's apartment was also contaminated. The logical deduction was that the place had been used to store plutonium. "Kermac" immediately counterattacked. Without making any formal accusations, Kermac did not exclude the hypothesis that Miss Silkwood could have had some contact with plutonium thieves. Kermac does not care on behalf of whom. It is up to the FBI to find out. It is their job. Federal Agent Steve Olson was sent to Crescent on an assignment. He arrived there after Miss Silkwood's fatal accident.

In a hotel room, that same evening, Steve Olson, the FBI Agent, was bent over some files. His job was not only to determine if there had been a theft, but who would profit from it. Was it carried out in order to profit a nuclearly underdeveloped power? This is very unlikely. Chances are more likely that it was done in favor of a terrorist movement. The first file was that of "Kermac" which attacked its employee. The next file was that of the labor union which Wodka handed over, and which revealed twenty defects, more or less well founded on the part of the plant. A third file was one which had been drafted by a committee of six officials from the AEC (the American: Atomic Energy Commission) who had conducted an investigation of the plant's facilities. Finally, the last file contained the autopsy report which stated: "The traces of plutonium found in the young woman's liver and lungs are far too small to have caused sudden death." Steve Olson continued reading. The seven doctors, who had performed two autopsies, were unanimous in pointing out the presence of a large quantity of methaqualon -- a powerful hallucinatory drug which Karen could obtain with a doctor's prescription and which she used generously -- "the medicine could not make Miss Silkwood 'get high' to the extent of losing control of her car," stated Drew Stephens to the FBI Agent. "I knew her very well. We even smoked marijuana together. She knew very well how much of the stimulants as well as of the sedatives, to take. She never 'got high.' As far as methaqualon is concerned, her system was accustomed to it."

"Believe me, Inspector, the disappearance of the file which she was supposed to have turned over to us signifies that she was put away because she was becoming troublesome," said Wodka, insistingly, to the FBI Agent.

37

Steve Olson set out on the hunt. As the investigation progressed, the unknown and troubled person of a new Karen Silkwood gradually came to light. First of all, there was the ardent labor union member's sentimental life. At age twenty-eight, she was divorced, mother of three children, who were entrusted to the father. According to witnesses, she did not suffer from the divorce in any respect whatsoever. Then, Olson was astonished to learn that Karen divided her love between Drew Stephens and a girlfriend, a Cherrie Ellis, who had a passion for rodeos and always dressed like a man. This free love is calmly explained by Drew, who said: "Karen was, undoubtedly, due to her Indian blood, a rebel. She balked at the restraints of society."

This was a good breakthrough. Steve Olson continued his investigation into the dead woman's past. He went to the May Avenue Bank. Amiably the young woman's account was handed over to him: Karen was not a millionaire: far from it. She bought her car and motorcycle, as well as her stereo set, her television and her wardrobe on credit. This amounted to a total indebtedness of \$3,798 which Karen tried to stem, by borrowing money from various banks. For someone who earned only \$8,210 a year, this could be a motive to steal plutonium, according to Steve Olson.

But, Steve Olson wondered: how can anybody smuggle plutonium out of the plant, in spite of the guards, the dogs, the detection system which everyone leaving the Kermac premises must undergo? He questioned the personnel (136 employees) and discovered that the detection system is deceptive. First of all, resolute, armed commando teams, with good contacts inside the plant, could enter the premises of "Kermac" whenever they wanted to. But, over and above all, the detection system is fantastic. It would set off the alarm at the drop of a pin, to such an extent that the guard, tired of so many useless signals, would resort to setting it on again and would not search the person whose entry or exit had caused the alarm to go off. But, Steve Olson was not at the end of his surprises. He learned that, if each milligram of plutonium is rigorously accounted for, its manipulation involves losses of up to 2%, which the Atomic Energy Commission tolerates, without requesting that an investigation be made: 2% which undoubtedly not everyone loses. It seems unbelievable that an element as terrifying as plutonium, which is thought of as being guarded like the gold in Fort Knox, is guarded in such a loose manner. Unfortunately, however, this is the case.

37

"It is surprising that no one has taken up nuclear terrorism yet," states physicist Ted Taylor, a manufacturer of the most minaturized atomic bombs, "for the means to steal really and truly does exist." It is sufficient to use "M.U.F.," an abbreviation which signifies "material unaccounted for." This corresponds to all the plutonium which is still being treated and which is impossible to inventory, account for, or keep under surveillance. A laboratory technician holding a position which gives access to plutonium, as was in Miss Silkwood's case, could steal thirty kilograms (66 lbs.) of the element without anyone noticing it. The theft would be discovered only if an arrest had been made at the plant and only after six months to one year: enough time to enable an organization to make its bomb.

In early January, after Karen's death, the Kermac plant temporarily closed its doors and stopped production of plutonium bars destined for the nuclear center of Hanford, in the State of Washington. For 48 hours, a count was taken of all the "material unaccounted for": in the thermic caissons, in the robot machines of the production chain, in the plant's ventilation system. All the plutonium -- minus the famous 2% margin -- was recovered.

It remains a complete mystery. In effect, since the investigations have not made it possible to discover plutonium on Karen's person and since the verifications made at the Kermac plant have not revealed any theft, the enigma lives on. The question which faces the investigators is the following: was the plutonium stolen from the plant and, perhaps stored by the female laboratory technician at home and, if so, was it returned by the thieves who had gotten wind of the investigations by the FBI and the AEC? If such were the case, the events in Oklahoma City would turn out to be extremely dangerous. For what authority, from here on in, could guarantee us that the famous homemade bomb, which can be easily carried in a simple suitcase, could not be made by someone some day?

JEAN NOLI

caption under picture, middle of page 55:  
Karen, found dead, contaminated by plutonium.

Mr. W. E. Wannall

F. S. Putman

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams  
1 - Mr. A. E. Gebhardt  
1 - Legal Counsel (Route  
5/20/75

through for review)

1 - Mr. W. E. Wannall  
1 - Mr. F. S. Putman  
1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin

KERR-MCGEE NUCLEAR CORPORATION,  
CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA  
AEA

By letter dated 5/16/75, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) advised that [redacted] Executive Director of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy (JCAE) had requested copies of FBI reports in their files regarding Karen G. Silkwood (deceased). NRC requested Bureau permission to furnish [redacted] with investigative reports in this regard.

b6  
b7C

As you will recall, the Bureau has had three investigations involving allegations and/or situations at Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, where Karen G. Silkwood, until her death in November, 1974, was employed. The following two cases actually concerned Silkwood: Unsub; Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased); LARDA; OOJ; Bufile 159-4005 and Unsub; Unauthorized Possession of Plutonium Resulting in the Contamination of Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased); [redacted] and [redacted] Kerr-McGee Corporation (KMC), Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, AEA; Bufile 117-2702.

b6  
b7C

A third case did not pertain to Silkwood but only to an incident at the Uranium Fuel Production Plant: Unsub; Scattering of Uranium Fuel Pellets, Kerr-McGee Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, 12/18/74, AEA; Bufile 117-2898.

*Karen G. Silkwood*

In addition, by letter dated 5/4/75, to the Assistant Attorney General (AAG), Criminal Division, the Department was requested to review a letter received from the NRC dated 2/20/75, and its enclosures, and advise if the investigations under way at that time concerning KMC were a sufficient response to recent occurrences at the Corporation or if additional investigation should be instituted under provisions of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) or Title 18, U. S. Code, Sections 1505 and 1510.

Enclosures

117-2701

1 - 159-4005

1 - 117-2898

1 - 117-2702

NOT RECORDED

167 JUN 9 1975

AJD:mjg

(10)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Hannall  
Re: Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation,  
Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma  
117-2701

It is believed that the request by NRC to furnish FBI reports to a Congressional committee should be denied in keeping with the Bureau policy of disseminating investigative reports only within the Executive Branch of Government and to refrain from disseminating them to Congress.

In addition, it is felt that the Department should be queried as to the results of its review of the information provided by letter dated 3/4/75, Supra.

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This matter has been coordinated with Supervisor [redacted] of the General Investigative Division and Deputy Assistant Director Jack E. Herington of Legal Counsel Division.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the attached letter to NRC be sent.
- 2) That the attached letter to the AAG, Criminal Division, be sent.

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams  
1 - Mr. R. E. Gebhardt  
1 - Legal Counsel  
(Route through for review,

May 22, 1975

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall  
1 - Mr. F. S. Putman  
1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin

KERR-MC GEE NUCLEAR CORPORATION,  
CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA  
AEA

Enclosed herewith is a Xerox copy of a letter from [redacted] Executive Director for Operations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), dated May 16, 1975, as well as a Xerox copy of my reply thereto.

b6  
b7C

By letter dated March 13, 1975, you were advised that the FBI has in the past refrained from discussing pending cases which have the potential for Federal prosecution and, further, that I would so advise the General Accounting Office (GAO) of this. It will be recalled at that time, the GAO had requested to meet with FBI representatives concerning ongoing investigations centered at captioned facility and this request was denied.

In addition, by letter dated March 4, 1975, the Department was requested to review letter from the NRC dated February 20, 1975, along with its enclosures, to determine if the investigations currently under way by the Bureau are a sufficient response to occurrences at Kerr-McGee or if additional investigation should be instituted under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) or Title 18, U. S. Code, Sections 1505 and 1510. The results of your review in this regard would be appreciated.

Enclosures (2)

117-2701

- ① - 159-4005  
1 - 117-2696  
1 - 117-2702

AJD:mjg  
(12)

NOT RECORDED

167 JUN 9 1975

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

ORIGINAL FILED IN

DELICATE YELLOW

pyd

JUN 10 1975

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

NOTE:

See memorandum F. S. Putman to Mr. W. R. Wannall dated 5/20/75, captioned "Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, AA," prepared by AJD:mjg.



- 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams  
1 - Mr. R.E. Gebhardt  
1 - Legal Counsel  
(Route through for review)  
1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall

May 22, 1975

- 1 - Mr. F. S. Putman  
1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin

**Executive Director for Operations  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555**

b6  
b7C

Dear [redacted]:

Reference is made to your letter dated May 16, 1975, wherein you advise that [redacted] Executive Director of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy (JCAE), has requested of you copies of FBI reports pertaining to Karen G. Silkwood (deceased).

b6  
b7C

As you are aware, the FBI has provided you with investigative reports concerning investigations into certain allegations and occurrences at Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, where Karen G. Silkwood, until the time of her death, was employed. These investigations have the potential for criminal prosecutions.

The dissemination of investigative reports in pending cases is made to the proper agencies within the Executive Branch of Government. This Bureau has made it a practice in the past to refrain from disseminating reports of ongoing cases to Congressional committees. Therefore, it is requested that you not furnish FBI investigative reports relating to Silkwood to the JCAE. You may wish to advise the JCAE that any request for information concerning Silkwood and these related investigations should properly be addressed to [redacted] Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

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b7C

117-2701

- ① - 159-4005  
1 - 117-2696  
1 - 117-2702

AJD:mjg  
(11)

51 JUN 10 1975 DUPLICATE YELLOW

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

b6  
b7C



For your information, I have taken the liberty of referring a copy of your letter along with a copy of this reply to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelloy  
Director

NOTE:

See memorandum F. S. Putman to Mr. W. R. Wannall dated 5/20/75, captioned "Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, AEA," prepared by AJD:njg.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. LM  
 Asst. Dir.:  
 Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comp. Syst. LM  
 Ext. Affairs LM  
 Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inspection LM  
 Intell. LM  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

## Probe of Atom Worker's Crash

# FBI: No Foul Play in Death

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The FBI says it found no evidence of foul play in the death of Karen Silkwood, a worker at Kerr-McGee's Crescent plutonium plant who died in a car wreck Nov. 13.

The FBI findings back up an Oklahoma Highway Patrol investigation which discounted allegations Miss Silkwood's car was forced off the road.

Miss Silkwood died when her car crashed into a culvert near Crescent. She reportedly was en route to a meeting with a New York Times reporter and a union representative to discuss safety conditions at the plant.

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union requested the Justice Department investigate the death.

"We have decided that there seem to be no federal violations" in connection with Miss Silkwood's death, Robert L. Stevenson, a Justice Department spokesman, said. "It does appear to be an accident."

An FBI spokesman here said there was "no mystery" about the crash and referred to it as "a closed book."

Miss Silkwood was contaminated by plutonium the

week before the accident. The day of the crash, she reportedly was carrying altered inspector's records and documents alleging poor safety standards at the plant.

An FBI spokesman said that although foul play had been ruled out in the accident, the FBI was continuing to investigate the possibility that persons connected with the plant illegally possessed plutonium.

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b7C

NOT RECORDED

b6 182 AUG 5 1975  
b7C

Deleted Copy Sent [redacted]  
 by Letter Dated 5-10-76 LM  
 Per FOIPA Request re K. Silkwood

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 7-1-85 BY 9145-01-JD

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Washington Star-News A-2  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

MAY 3 1975

AUG 5 1975

File in

159-4005

5/3/75

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20 AUG 18 1975  
 117-2702  
 117-2696

#251-957

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May 21, 1975

OT REC-63

159-4005-38

ST 114

[Redacted]  
National Public Radio  
2025 M Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

b6  
b7C

Dear Miss Newman:

This is to acknowledge your recently received  
Freedom of Information Act request.

Due to the increased interest generated by the  
amendments to the Freedom of Information Act, it is neces-  
sary to advise you that an extension of time is needed to  
process your request.

You may be assured that every feasible effort  
will be made to comply with your request within 25  
working days and you will be advised of the results as  
soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

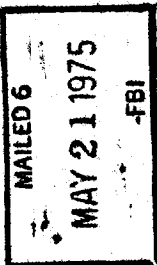
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure  
Attention: [Redacted]

~~xxxx Bufile 62-115530 (FOI-REFUSED) xxx~~

b6  
b7C

kmb:nlm 6(5)



MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

1 - Legal Counsel  
1 - Mr. E. E. Schacht  
(Attn: Mr. Rothman)  
1 - Mr. W. H. Wansell  
1 - Mr. A. J. Duffin  
June 2, 1976

159-4005-

Director  
Citizenship-Legislative Department  
Civil, Criminal and Atomic Work  
International Union  
1120 18th Street, Northwest  
Washington, D. C. 20036

b6  
b7C

Dear [redacted]

Reference is made to your letter dated May 31, 1976, wherein you advise that the National Regulatory Commission (NRC) wrote to this Bureau subsequent to January 21, 1976, regarding the violations of the rights of Kern Wolfe employees in Crescent, Oklahoma.

For your information, [redacted] Acting Executive Director for Operations, NRC, by letter dated February 20, 1976, acknowledged your letter of January 21, 1976, alleging a violation of an NRC regulation in addition to other enclosures.

By letter dated March 4, 1976, [redacted] letter along with its enclosures was forwarded to the Assistant Attorney General (AAG), Criminal Division. To date, no decision has been forthcoming from the Department as to whether or not investigation should be conducted. You may wish to address any additional correspondence concerning this matter directly to the AAG, Criminal Division, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

For your information, I have taken the liberty of referring a copy of your letter with its enclosures along with a copy of this reply to the AAG, Criminal Division.

Sincerely yours,  
E. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

Chief, Div. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
JUN 8 1976  
FBI

336  
54 JUL 3 1976

TELETYPE UNIT

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b6  
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NOTE:

By letter dated 3/20/75, AED requested FBI investigation concerning allegations made by Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers under the criminal provisions of Title 42, USC, Section 2282 (1925). At that time, Bureau had three investigations under way concerning occurrences at Kerr-McGee Facility and by letter dated 3/4/75, Department requested to advise if investigations under way sufficient or if additional investigation warranted.

On 5/20/75, a letter was directed to the Department concerning the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation cases and in that letter the Department was requested to submit the results of its review concerning the 3/4/75 letter.

F B I

Date: 6/4/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)  
 FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)  
 UNSUB;  
 KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
 LMRDA - OOJ  
 OO - Oklahoma City

ReButelcal to Okla. City 5/8/75.

For information of the Bureau, two of the three persons who were involved in initially discovering the deceased car wreck 11/13/75, have been located and interviewed. These individuals are as follows:

[redacted] Okla., and his 14 year-old brother-in-law, [redacted] Okla.

[redacted] was the person who initially observed the wrecked vehicle.

[redacted] and [redacted] were driving about one-quarter mile behind [redacted] formerly of Garver, Okla, who passed the wrecked car without noticing it.

[redacted] has moved from [redacted] to [redacted] and presently is employed on a job for a yet undetermined company in Kansas which keeps him on the road the bulk of the time. Arrangements are being made to make contact with [redacted] on his first return to Okla. City.

LEADS:OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will locate and interview [redacted] and thereafter submit closing LHM.

2- Bureau

2- Oklahoma City

LJO/psh

51 JUN 7 1975 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7Cb6  
b7Cb6  
b7C

June 24, 1975

[Redacted]  
National Public Radio  
2025 M Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

b6  
b7C

Dear [Redacted]:

This is in response to your recently received Freedom of Information Act request.

For your information, the documents you requested concerning the death of Karen Silkwood are exempt from disclosure as they are investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, and the release of these records would interfere with enforcement proceedings.

Their release would also deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, disclose the identity of a confidential source, and disclose investigative techniques and procedures. These documents are further exempt from disclosure since they are inter-agency and intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. These exemptions are pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (b) (7) (D), (E), (C), (D), (E), and (b) (5).

MAILED 7 JUN 25 1975 FBI

ST-104 REC-63 157-400540

The only other documents the FBI has concerning Karen Silkwood are various newspaper clippings and magazine articles. We are not enclosing copies of these documents since they are public source material and we assume you are aware of their existence. However, we will forward copies of these articles upon your request.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General  
Attn: [Redacted]

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO . . .

b6  
b7C



b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]

You have thirty days from receipt of this letter to appeal to the Attorney General from any denial contained herein. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Attorney General (Attention: Freedom of Information Appeals Unit), Washington, D. C. 20530. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Following the Attorney General's decision, judicial review is available in the district of your residence or principal place of business, or in the District of Columbia, where the records are situated.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

NOTE: Response coordinated with [REDACTED] Division 5, who advised on 6/6/75 that our investigation into this matter is continuing. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Division 6, advised SA [REDACTED] FOIA Section, on 6/17/75, that criminal investigation in this matter is continuing.

b6  
b7C

F B I

Date: 7/25/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)  
FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)  
SUBJECT: UNSUBS;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City letter to the Bureau, dated 5/9/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy of LHM furnished USA, Oklahoma City.

LEADOKLAHOMA CITYview AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will locate and inter-b6  
b7c

② - Bureau (Enc. - 6)  
2 - Oklahoma City  
LJO:jgs  
(4)

ENCLOSURE

EX 104

REC-56

JUL 28 1975

Deleted Copy Sent

by Letter Dated 5-10-76  
Per FOIPA Request K. G. Silkwoodb6  
b7c

SIX

Approved: 1975  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

July 25, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Unknown Subjects;  
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND  
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION  
OF JUSTICE

---

Set forth below are interviews with [redacted]  
[redacted] and [redacted] who were among the first  
individuals on the scene of Silkwood's fatal accident  
November 13, 1974. Also set forth is interview with [redacted]  
[redacted] who had previously been interviewed in regard  
to this case.

b6

b7C

159-4005-  
ENCLOSURE

41

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 6/13/75

[redacted] furnished the following information:

b6  
b7C

He is 14 years old, having been born [redacted] at [redacted]. He presently is in the 9th grade and attends school in [redacted] Oklahoma.

Sometime in mid-November, 1974, the exact date unrecalled, he was working with his brother-in-law, [redacted] for [redacted] who was remodeling his house in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. At this particular time, [redacted] was living in [redacted] Oklahoma, and he was living with [redacted].

He does not remember the exact time that they left Oklahoma City enroute to [redacted] but darkness had fallen and they had worked later than usual that particular night. [redacted] was going back to [redacted] Oklahoma, where he lived at that time and was driving a pickup truck.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] was driving a flat bed truck and following along behind enroute to [redacted]. He was kind of tired and was dozing as [redacted] drove down the road. Somewhere south of Crescent, Oklahoma, [redacted] stopped the truck and said he thought he had seen a wrecked car in the ditch.

[redacted] blinked his lights at [redacted] who stopped, turned around, and started back.

In the meantime [redacted] turned the truck around and shined his headlights on the ditch where they could see a small car badly damaged laying in a culvert.

b6  
b7C

It was very quiet at the wreck and he and [redacted] had some discussion as to whether or not there was someone still in the car. At first it appeared that the car was empty, but he noticed something sticking out of the windshield, possibly a hand. He told [redacted] this, and he looked at the car a little closer and saw that there appeared to be a girl in the front seat of the car.

Interviewed on 6/3/75 at [redacted] Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 6/9/75

By then [ ] had come back, and they had told [ ] about the wreck, and he had turned around and gone back north to call the Highway Patrol.

b6  
b7c

A carload of black people, all of whom appeared to be drunk, briefly stopped at the scene shortly after they got there. They asked what was going on and were told that the Highway Patrol was coming and they took off at a high rate of speed.

Shortly thereafter, a couple of men stopped at the scene, looked at the car, and said that they thought they worked with the person who owned the car. One of these two men drove off to call the Sheriff.

About fifteen minutes after [ ] left, the Highway Patrol got on the scene and almost immediately thereafter an ambulance came.

He and [ ] went down in the ditch and helped turn over the car. He also helped to use a power tool to pry the car door open so they could get the girl out of the car.

b6  
b7c

He noticed that there was an "antique looking" purse laying on the ground and the contents of the purse were scattered about in the immediate vicinity. He noticed small little slips of different colored paper and a pack of cigarettes which appeared to have come from the purse. He did not notice any cosmetics. He did not see any notebooks, folders, or any other type of larger pieces of paper in the vicinity of the wreck.

He saw the wrecked car's tire tracks in the ditch where it looked like the car had just gone straight down the ditch for one quarter mile or so and headed right into the culvert.

The entire front end of the car was "wiped out" and the left front door was severely dented and crushed in. He does not know what the extent of the damage was to the rear of the car.

OC 159-45

3

He, [redacted], and [redacted] left the wreck scene after the ambulance left and before the wrecker moved the car from the ditch.

b6  
b7c

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 6/13/75

[redacted]  
Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

b6  
b7C

He previously was employed by [redacted] who formerly operated a trailer sales lot known as [redacted] which was located just south of [redacted] Oklahoma. [redacted] business was a side venture and [redacted] principal employment was with [redacted]. This company is involved in the manufacture of stock and grain trailers.

b6  
b7C

He presently is employed by [redacted] and his residence phone number is [redacted]. He is in the process of moving his residence in [redacted] and will maintain the same [redacted] phone number. His new residence is [redacted].

On the evening of November 13, 1974, he was working for [redacted]. At that time [redacted] was in the process of moving from [redacted] Oklahoma, to [redacted] Oklahoma, and was remodeling his new house in [redacted]. He and his 14 year old brother-in-law, [redacted] had worked all day the day of November 13, 1974 for [redacted] in [redacted] and were "running about four hours late." At this particular time he lived in [redacted] Oklahoma, and his brother-in-law [redacted] was living in [redacted] with him.

They ate a hurried supper after finishing their work day and were enroute from [redacted] to [redacted] via U. S. Highway 74. [redacted] was driving ahead of them in a pickup truck. [redacted] was enroute to [redacted].

b6  
b7C

As [redacted] recalls, it was about 7:45 p.m. when they were in the vicinity of the intersection of State Highway 33 and 74. It was very dark at this time. [redacted] was approximately one quarter mile ahead of him. He was driving a one ton flat bed truck and his brother-in-law [redacted] was riding in the cab beside him. [redacted] was dozing.

Interviewed on 6/3/75 at [redacted] Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 6/9/75

b6  
b7C  
Date dictated

He had driven the road on numerous occasions and had driven the road daily for the previous two-week period and, therefore, was most familiar with the road and the roadside conditions. He also had considerable experience as a wrecker driver and he prides himself in being little more alert than the average person concerning the likelihood of occurrence of automobile wrecks. At a point about a mile and a half south of the intersection of State Highway 33 and 74, he caught a light reflection out of the corner of his eye from the east side of the road, which to him suggested the possibility of a car having gone off in a ditch. He slowed down and stopped, having passed this point. As he came to a stop, he blinked his headlights several times which caused [ ] who was ahead of him, to also stop.

b6  
b7C

He backed the truck up south past the point where he thought he saw something in the ditch and turned the truck so the headlights would shine off the road. He then saw there was a small white foreign car laying on its side in a culvert which passed under the road. The truck lights were shining over the wreck rather than right down on it and he had difficulty observing the wreck at this point.

He told [ ] to get out of the truck and holler down and see if there was anyone still in the car. [ ] did get out of the truck and called out, but there was no response from the wrecked car. [ ] told him he thought he saw a hand sticking out of the broken windshield, and [ ] said he thought there was someone trapped in the car.

b6  
b7C

About this time [ ] had gotten back to the wreck location and he and [ ] had by this time verified that there was someone trapped in the car. They so informed [ ] who immediately turned around and headed north to call the Highway Patrol.

b6  
b7C

Shortly thereafter a carload of drunken Negroes stopped at the wreck scene. When they were informed that the Highway Patrol was coming, the Negroes "took off."

Shortly thereafter a white male wearing a hardhat and driving a 1967 brown Ford stationwagon passed the wreck



from the north, when about one quarter mile south turned around and came back to the wreck. This man asked if they needed any help and he told the man that they had already called the Highway Patrol. The man thereafter left without getting out of his car.

About that time, two white males approaching the wreck scene from the south drove up and stopped. They got out and looked at the wreck from a distance and one of them said he thought he recognized the car. These two individuals identified themselves as being employees of the Kerr McGee Company and working at the Nuclear Plant a couple of miles north of the wreck site. One of the men said he thought that the wrecked car belonged to a girl who also worked at the plant. The other man got into his car and also drove off to call the police or the Highway Patrol. The man who recognized the car stayed at the scene.

About five or ten minutes after [ ] got back from making his phone call, a Highway Patrol Trooper arrived on the scene. It did not seem that it took long at all for the Trooper to get there as only from ten to fifteen minutes elapsed between the time that [ ] left to report the wreck and the Trooper got there. An ambulance got on the scene about four or five minutes after the Trooper arrived and a wrecker arrived on the scene before they completed loading the girl who was trapped in the car into the ambulance.

b6  
b7c

He stayed up on the shoulder when the Highway Patrol Trooper and [ ] and [ ] helped turn the car over and helped the ambulance attendants get the girl out of the car.

He had previously noted that the girl's purse was laying on the ground between the car and the culvert and and he pointed this fact out to the Trooper who said he would pick it up.

He could not clearly see the entire wrecked car but it appeared to him that the front end of the car was totally demolished. He did not observe the back end of the car; therefore, he does not know what the extent of damage was to the rear of the car.

OC 159-45

4

Almost immediately after the ambulance departed, he, [ ] and [ ] left the scene. This was before the wrecker had removed the car from the ditch.

b6  
b7c

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 5/9/75

[redacted]  
Oklahoma, when contacted in regard to a different matter,  
furnished the following information:

b6  
b7C

As he previously indicated, he did not see  
KAREN SILKWOOD after the time that she left the union  
meeting at Crescent, Oklahoma, at 7:00 pm, November 13,  
1974.

He never saw KAREN arrive after that time.  
He did not follow her home and he did not discover the car  
wreck in which she died later on the evening of November  
13, 1974.

He first learned about KAREN's death at  
around 9:00 am, November 14, 1974.

Other than the notebook, which he previously  
mentioned, he does not know what kind of documentation she  
may have had concerning the fuel rod quality control  
allegations. He has no information concerning any manila  
folder that SILKWOOD may have had in her possession on  
November 13, 1974.

Interviewed on 5/5/75 [redacted] Oklahoma b6 Oklahoma City 159-45  
by SA's [redacted] and [redacted] b7C  
Date dictated 5/8/75

July 15, 1975

REC 27

News Editor  
WCOL Radio Station  
195 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

b6  
b7C

Dear [redacted]:

In response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request regarding a Justice Department investigation of [redacted] or of any other reporters involved in reporting on the death of Karen Silkwood, please be advised that no such investigation(s) was conducted. Any mention of reporters during the investigations of the incident at Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, Crescent, Oklahoma, was purely incidental.

b6  
b7C

A search of our central records failed to reflect that the FBI received a request from Senator Bartlett concerning this matter. Certainly, no investigation was initiated at his request.

The investigations concerning Kerr-McGee are continuing and any documents associated with those investigations are being withheld as their release would interfere with enforcement proceedings. The release of these documents is withheld pursuant to the FOIA, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (b) (7) (A).

Additionally the release of any documents in which reporters were mentioned is withheld pursuant to Subsections (b) (7) (C) and (D) as release would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and disclose the identity of persons cooperating in an official investigation with an implied assurance of confidentiality.

You have thirty days from receipt of this letter to appeal to the Attorney General from any denial contained herein. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Attorney General (Attention: Freedom of Information Appeals Unit), Washington, D. C. 20530. The envelope and the letter should

1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure

Attention: [redacted]

b6  
b7C

SEE NOTE NEXT PAGE

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

GPO 954-546

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Following the Attorney General's decision, judicial review is available in the district of your residence or principal place of business, or in the District of Columbia, where the records are situated.

Sincerely yours,

**C. M. Kelley**  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

NOTE: Response was coordinated with [REDACTED]  
Criminal Division, Dept. of Justice. [REDACTED] b6  
Division 5, advised on 6/6/75, that our investigation into [REDACTED] b7C  
the Silkwood death is continuing. [REDACTED]  
Div. 6, advised on 6/17/75, that criminal investigation into  
the Silkwood death is continuing. This request was confined  
to information relating to [REDACTED] or any other reporters  
involved in reporting on her death only.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTIONTransmitted by Facsimile **AIRTEXT** AUG 06 1975**TELETYPE**To: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005) Date: 8/6/75  
ATTENTION: ROOM 5152JENFrom: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P) b6 Time: Transmitted -  
b7CSubject: UNSUB;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)  
LMRDA - OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☐ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph☐ Artists Conception☐ (6 min) ☐ (4 min)

Special handling instructions:

Oklahoma City memorandum of  
SA [redacted] dated 5/8/75.b6  
b7C

EX-105

REC-18

159-4005-44

6-6-75

159-4005

Deleted Copy Sent [redacted]

b6  
b7CPer FOIA Request 5-10-76 [redacted]  
Per FOIA Request [redacted]

AUG 18 1975

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep.-A.D. Adm.	
Dep.-A.D. Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	
Comp. Svst.	
Ext. Affairs	
Files & Com.	
Gen. Inv.	
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Plan. & Eval.	
Spec. Inv.	
Training	
Legal Coun.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director Sec'y	

SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) - P -

5/8/75

SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

UNSUB;  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LMSDA - OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

Rebuletal OK 5/8/75.

[REDACTED] Unit Chief, Labor Unit,  
FBIHQ, telephonically advised that the Department was  
requesting that the first person or persons to discover  
the SILKWOOD wreck be identified and interviewed with  
emphasis on their observations at accident scene re any  
documents or papers.

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] requested that a closing LHM be  
prepared when this particular investigation is completed.  
[REDACTED] indicated that he was attaching no particular  
urgency to reporting the results of this investigation.

Investigation previously determined the first  
persons on the scene are as follows:

[REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Oklahoma  
[REDACTED] Oklahoma  
[REDACTED] Oklahoma.

b6  
b7C

SA [REDACTED] will locate and interview these  
individuals listed above in accordance with Bureau  
instructions.

2 - Oklahoma City

LID/vb  
(2)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 8 1975	
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY	

159-4005-1

159-45-145

"GREAT AS ORIGINAL"

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 25 1975

TELETYPE

FD-448 (10-28-71)

Assoc. Dir.  
Dep. A.D. Adm.  
Dep. A.D. Inv.  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin.  
Comp. Syst.  
Ext. Affairs  
Files & Com.  
Gen. Inv.  
Ident.  
Inspection  
Intell.  
Laboratory  
Plan. & Insp.  
Spec. Inv.  
Training  
Legal Coun.  
Telephone Rm.  
Director's Sec'y

Transmit attached by Facsimile - PLAINTEXT

Priority URGENT

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

ROOM 5152JEN

From: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

Date: 8/25/75

5152-JEN

Subject: UNSUB;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)

LEADA - OOJ

OO: Oklahoma City

☐ Fingerprint Photo

☐ Fingerprint Record

☐ Map

☒ Newspaper clipping

☐ Photograph

☐ Artists Conception

☐ Other

☐ (5 min)

☐ (10 min)

Special Handling Instructions

Deleted Copy Sent [REDACTED]

2. Letter Dated 8-10-76 [REDACTED]

Per FOIPA Request [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Approved: [Signature]

ST-1

REC 20 / 59 400-45

TO AUG 26 1975

331



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## SILKWOOD CASE CITED

# Women's Group Calls for Strike

By Associated Press

A lot of husbands could be doing the housework, taking care of the kids and fixing the meals October 29, if the National Organization of Women (NOW) gets the results it wants.

NOW is calling for a general, nationwide strike by women that day, according to NOW spokesman Bernice Friedlander.

The purpose of the strike, said Friedlander Friday in a telephone interview from Washington, is "to focus national attention on the inequalities in the society, and the fact that women are not paid equally, women are not treated equally in employment, women's rights are not given the same respect as other peoples' rights before the law, in educational institutions, in the political structure, and so on."

Final details will be worked out during NOW's national convention in Philadelphia, Oct. 24-27.

NOW is asking women to walk off their jobs both in and out of the home, to withhold all monetary support of the system, not to volunteer anything and not to baby-sit.

NOW is also planning a number of actions next Tuesday, the 55th anniversary of women's suffrage, "to protest violence abuse against women in all phases of society," according to Friedlander.

However, much of the national focus will be on Washington, where NOW members will stage a candlelight vigil from the Ellipse to the Justice Department, and will formally call for a reopening of an investigation into the death of a woman plutonium plant worker in Oklahoma last year.

The woman, Karen Silkwood, 26, died in what was termed a mysterious auto accident last summer.

At the time of the accident, Miss Silkwood was reportedly driving from Crescent, to Oklahoma City to confer with union leaders and other officials on conditions at the Kerr-McGee Plutonium plant near Crescent.

Miss Silkwood had voiced several complaints about what she said were unsafe practices at the plant. She said workers were being unnecessarily exposed to radiation.

An Atomic Energy Commission report on the Kerr-McGee investigation released in January indicated Karen Silkwood was contaminated outside the plant, possibly by plutonium intentionally taken from the firm's Cimarron nuclear plant.

The AEC report concluded that the Kerr-McGee facility could improve its control of worker exposures, its hygiene precaution program and monitoring of employee exposures. By April it gave a stamp of approval to the Crescent facility, saying possible sources of contamination had been removed.

After the accident, Miss Silkwood's union alleged foul play was involved in the crash, but the Oklahoma Highway Patrol ruled the mishap an accident. An FBI investigation found no evidence of foul play.

An autopsy indicated the presence of radioactive material in Miss Silkwood's body, but officials said it was not sufficient to cause death. The autopsy report said part of the radioactive material could have been ingested.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: August 23, 1975  
Edition: Morning

Author:  
Editor: Charles L. Bennett  
Title: National Organization of Women (NOW)

Character:  
or  
Classification: 159-45  
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

159-4005-45

4/5

"The FBI has evidence that they have not pursued," said Friedlander. "We know she was poisoned, but more than that, there has to be further tests."

Friedlander said NOW will come forward Tuesday with a "very complete" file of information on what has and hasn't been probed in the case.

NR73 OC PLAIN

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 23 1975

b6  
b7c

132PM NITEL AUGUST 23, 1975 RLH

TO DIRECTOR (159-4775)

TELETYPE

PHILADELPHIA

FROM OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)

UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED); LMRDA; OOJ.

OO: OKLAHOMA CITY.

THE AUGUST 23, 1975, EDITION OF "THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN", A DAILY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., ON PAGE ONE HAD AN ARTICLE CAPTIONED "WOMEN'S GROUP CALLS FOR STRIKE" SUBCAPTIONED "SILKWOOD CASE SITED" WITH AN ASSOCIATED PRESS DATELINE (NO CITY INDICATED). THE ARTICLE IN PART INDICATED THAT THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN (NOW) IS CALLING FOR A NATIONAL STRIKE OCTOBER 29, 1975, ACCORDING TO NOW SPOKESPERSON BERNICE FRIEDLANDER. FINAL DETAILS FOR STRIKE TO BE WORKED OUT AT NOW'S NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA OCTOBER 24-27, 1975.

REC-30

159-4005-46

ARTICLE INDICATED NOW IS ASKING WOMEN TO WALK OFF THEIR JOBS, BOTH IN AND OUT OF HOMES, TO WITHHOLD ALL MONETARY SUPPORT OF THE SYSTEM, NOT TO VOLUNTEER ANYTHING AND NOT TO BABYSIT.

NOW IS PLANNING A NUMBER OF ACTIONS AUGUST 26, 1975,

END PAGE ONE

message relayed  
to US Secret Service  
8/25/75 11:10 AM  
JH/pms  
SEP 1 1975

Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7c

THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE "TO PROTEST VIOLENCE  
ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN IN ALL PHASES OF SOCIETY." MUCH OF THE  
NOW NATIONAL FOCUS WILL BE IN WASHINGTON (AUGUST 26, 1975)  
WHERE NOW MEMBERS WILL STAGE A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FROM THE  
ELIPSE TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND WILL FORMALLY CALL FOR A  
REOPENING OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF KAREN  
SILKWOOD.

FRIEDLANDER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "THE FBI HAS EVIDENCE  
THEY HAVE NOT PURSUED. WE KNOW SHE WAS POISONED, BUT MORE  
THAN THAT, THERE HAS TO BE FURTHER TESTS." FRIEDLANDER  
INDICATED THAT NOW WOULD COME FORWARD ON AUGUST 26 WITH A  
VERY COMPLETE FILE OF INFORMATION ON WHAT HAS AND HAS NOT  
BEEN PROBED IN THE CASE.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

FOR INFORMATION OF PHILADELPHIA, INFORMATION CONCERNING  
SILKWOOD WAS PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED IN CASE ENTITLED "UNSUB;  
THREAT TO BOMB PHILADELPHIA, PA., MARCH 6, 1975, BT, OO:  
PHILADELPHIA", PHILADELPHIA FILE 174-1353.

OKLAHOMA CITY IS FURNISHING ABOVE TO BUREAU FOR INFORMA-  
TION PURPOSES NOTING THAT THERE WILL BE A DEMONSTRATION  
END PAGE TWO

46

PAGE THREE

OC 159-45

AUGUST 26, 1975, AT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

PHILADELPHIA AT PHILADELPHIA. WILL REMAIN ALERT FOR  
ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING  
AUGUST 26, 1975, VIGIL RE SILKWOOD CASE.

OKLAHOMA CITY - SAME LEAD AS PHILADELPHIA.

END

SMD FBIHQ CLR FOR ONE TELS

46

3

# MESSAGE RELAY

Transmit in ☒ Plaintext  
☐ Code

Via Teletype the Attached

☐ Immediate  
☒ Urgent  
☐ Nitel

Message

Date 8/25/75

From: Director, FBI

To: SACs:

To: Legats:

To: RUEADWW/ ☐ The President

☐ The Vice President

☐ White House Situation Room

☐ Attn:

☐ Attn:

RUEBWJA/ ☐ Attorney General

☐ Deputy Attorney General

☐ Attn: Analysis and Evaluation Unit

RUEBWJA/ ☐ Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division

RUEBWJA/ ☐ Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division

☐ Attn: Internal Security Section

☐ Attn: General Crimes Section

RUEABND/ ☐ Drug Enforcement Administration

RUEANAT/ ☐ National Aeronautics & Space Adm.

RUEBWJA/ ☐ Immigration and Naturalization Service

RUEOIAA/ ☐ National Security Agency

(DIRNSA/NSOC (Attn: SOO))

RUEBWJA/ ☐ U. S. Marshal's Service

RUEBDUA/ ☐ Department of the Air Force (AFOSI)

RUEOLKN/ ☐ Naval Investigative Service

RUEACSI/ ☐ Department of the Army

RUEAUSA/ ☐ U. S. Postal Service (if Classified)

(Use RUEVDFS if Unclassified)

RUEAIA/ ☐ Director, CIA

RUEHSE/ ☒ U. S. Secret Service (PID)

RUEBJGA/ ☐ Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard

RUEHOC/ ☐ Secretary of State

RUEKJCS/ ☐ Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

RUEBJGA/ ☐ Department of Transportation

RHEGGTN/ ☐ Energy Research and Development  
Administration

Attn: Director of Security

RUEOGBA/ ☐ Federal Aviation Administration

ST. 109

AUG 26 1975

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_

Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_

Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

Asst. Dir.:

Admin. \_\_\_\_\_

Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_

Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_

Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_

Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

Ident. \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection \_\_\_\_\_

Intell. \_\_\_\_\_

Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_

Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_

Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

Training \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_

Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Top Secret

☐ Secret

Classification:

☒ Confidential

☐ Unclassified

UNSUBS, HAREN G. SPOKWOOD (DECEASED);

MRDA: OOO

Foreign Liaison Unit

☐ Route through for review

☐ Cleared telephonically

with \_\_\_\_\_

AUG 25 1975

TELETYPE

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☒

PAGE THREE

OC 159-45

~~AUGUST 26, 1975, AT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.~~

~~PHILADELPHIA AT PHILADELPHIA. WILL REMAIN ALERT FOR  
ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING  
AUGUST 26, 1975, VIGIL RE SILKWOOD CASE.~~

~~OKLAHOMA CITY SAME LEAD AS PHILADELPHIA.~~

END

~~END BEING CLR FOR ONE TELS~~

21

F B I

Date: 9/2/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **AIRTEL** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)

UNSUB;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LMRDA - OOJ  
OO: OKLAHOMA CITY

For information of the Bureau, at Oklahoma City on the morning of August 29, 1975, a local news broadcast was heard during which a female identified as chair woman of the Oklahoma City chapter of the National Organization of Women, (NOW) was designating 11/13/75 (The first anniversary of the death of KAREN GAY SILKWOOD) as a national day of mourning and would have demonstrations that date at various places throughout the United States commemorating this event.

No specific information was given as to where these demonstrations would occur.

This spokeswoman also alluded to "new" information in possession of NOW regarding SILKWOOD's accident and contamination incident.

Oklahoma City, as of dictation of this communication, has not been contacted by NOW in regard to any "new" information. A review of local news media during period 8/29 - 9/2/75, has not developed any additional information regarding proposed NOW demonstrations.

It is anticipated that demonstrations relative to SILKWOOD could be held at the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma. Liaison with KMC security has failed to develop any additional information regarding proposed NOW demonstrations.

2- Bureau (2-159-4005)(1-117-2702)  
3- Oklahoma City (2-159-45)(1-117-51)  
LJO/mm (6)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

70 SEP 18 1975



OC 159-45

By separate communication within the Cimarron Facility control file, the Bureau has been requested to resolve aspects of trespassing violation under the AEA.

Oklahoma City will remain alert for any additional information regarding proposed NOW demonstrations re SILKWOOD and advise Bureau by appropriate communication.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: August 25, 1975

FROM : L. E. Rhyne

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD  
(DECEASED)  
LABOR MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND  
DISCLOSURE ACT  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

1 - Mr. Adams  
1 - Mr. Gallagher  
1 - Mr. Rhyne  
1 - Mr. Yelvington  
1 - Mr. Moore  
1 - Mr. Wannall

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

PURPOSE: This is to advise that a newspaper article appeared in the August 23, 1975 edition of "The Daily Oklahoman," a daily newspaper published at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, wherein it was stated that the National Organization of Women (NOW) is calling for a national strike on October 29, 1975. In addition, NOW is planning a number of actions August 26, 1975, one of which will be a candlelight vigil from the elipse, Washington, D. C., to the U. S. Department of Justice formally calling for a reopening of the investigation into the death of Karen Silkwood. The Department of Justice and Secret Service have been advised.

DETAILS: On 11/21/74, a Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA)-Obstruction of Justice (OOJ) investigation was instituted by our Oklahoma City Office upon receipt of a request dated 11/20/74, from the Assistant Attorney General (AAG), Criminal Division, Department of Justice. This request was based on an article appearing in the "New York Times" on 11/19/74, and a telegram received by the Attorney General (AG) from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) on the same date suggesting that the death of Karen G. Silkwood, who died in a one-car accident on 11/13/74, was caused by Silkwood's automobile being hit from behind by another vehicle causing it to run off the road. The Department advised that if these allegations were substantiated, a possible violation of Section 530, Title 29, U. S. Code (USC) (through the impairment of Silkwood's rights as a union member guaranteed by Section 411 Title 29, USC) and Section 1505, Title 18, USC (in that Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)) would exist.

A thorough investigation was conducted in this matter and no information was developed indicating the death of Silkwood was other than accidental. An autopsy, which was

JHY:pms (7)

10 OCT 1 1975

CONTINUED - OVER

File in  
159-4005

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Deleted Copy Sent  
by Letter Dated 3/6/76  
Per FOIA Request

MEMORANDUM TO MR. GALLAGHER  
FROM L. E. RHYNE

performed on Silkwood, indicated she was under the influence of a drug (methaqualone) at the time of her death. The Chief Medical Examiner, Board of Medicolegal, Oklahmoa City, advised this drug is a sleep inducing drug. The amount found in Silkwood's system subsequent to her death would indicate that she was under the influence of the drug at the time of her death and was drowsy or sleepy.

The results of all investigation conducted relative to the LMRDA-OOJ violation have been furnished to the Management and Labor Section, Criminal Division, Department of Justice.

The Department has requested additional investigation be conducted in this matter, namely the interview of the first person or persons to discover the Silkwood automobile after the crash. Oklahoma City has interviewed two of the three persons who discovered Silkwood's wrecked car and is currently attempting to locate the third person for interview.

There are two Atomic Energy Act investigations currently being conducted concerning Silkwood and the company for which she was employed prior to her death, the Kerr-McGee Corporation. These investigations relate to the scattering of uranium fuel pellets at Kerr-McGee on 12/16/74, and the possession of plutonium resulting in the contamination of Silkwood and others in November, 1974. These investigations are being supervised by the Intelligence Division.

The Oklahoma City Office advised that the August 23, 1975 edition of "The Daily Oklahoman," a daily newspaper published at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, had an article captioned "Women's Group Calls For Strike" subcaptioned "Silkwood Case Cited." The article in part indicated that the National Organization of Women (NOW) is calling for a national strike October 29, 1975, final details for the strike to be worked out at NOW's national convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 24-27, 1975. The article continued that NOW is planning a number of actions August 26, 1975, with a national focus at Washington, D. C., where NOW members are staging a candlelight vigil from the elipse to the Justice Department and will formally call for a reopening of the investigation into the death of Karen Silkwood.

MEMORANDUM TO MR. GALLAGHER  
FROM L. E. RHYNE

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[redacted] Department of Justice, Management and Labor Section was telephonically advised on 8/25/75 of the proposed action of NOW planned at Washington, D. C., for 8/26/75. [redacted] advised he was aware of this information and in fact is scheduled to meet with representatives of NOW at the Department on 8/26/75. In addition, Secret Service has been advised.

ACTION: For information.

*Ly  
JSEW*

*201*

*BSA  
Pm*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten mark]*

*[Handwritten mark]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

FROM : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (C)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

DATE: 9/22/75

Re Oklahoma City airtel and LHM, 7/25/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy of LHM being furnished to United States Attorney, Oklahoma City.

Enclosed LHM in part sets forth results of interview with [redacted] who was among the first three persons on the scene of SILKWOOD's fatal accident 11/13/75. Results of interview with [redacted] two companions have been previously reported by referenced airtel and LHM.

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On 8/28/75, case agent [redacted] received an unsolicited telephone call from [redacted] telephone number (202) 722-0827 of the National Organization of Women (NOW). It was known to SA [redacted] that one [redacted] was the [redacted] of NOW's protest relative to SILKWOOD. [redacted] advised that she was among those persons who participated in the 8/26/75, NOW - U.S. Department of Justice meeting. [redacted] requested information relative to the status of FBI investigation relative to the various SILKWOOD matters and questioned the thoroughness in which any FBI investigation was conducted. [redacted] was advised that all investigation conducted by the FBI relative to the various SILKWOOD matters has been reported to the United States Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office, Oklahoma City, and she was assured that every aspect relative to the SILKWOOD matter has been thoroughly investigated by the FBI, and reported as described above. [redacted] was advised that information concerning ongoing FBI investigations could not be divulged and it was suggested to her to recontact the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. in the event she had any unresolved questions. SA OLSON informed [redacted] the FBI would welcome information from any source, including the NOW organization relative to

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2 - Bureau (Enc.)

1 - Oklahoma City

LJO:pwo

(3)

ENCLOSURE FROM CRIM. DIV. by 0-6D

1cc LABOR DESK, TICKLER

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SEP 26 1975

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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OC 159-45

any new leads regarding captioned case or any of the other related SILKWOOD cases including the SILKWOOD contamination incident. SA [ ] asked [ ] if she had any information in this regard that she wished to furnish at this time. [ ] indicated that she had no information in this regard.

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Inasmuch as all investigation in this matter has been completed and reported, Oklahoma City is placing this case in closed status. In the event additional instructions are received from the Bureau or the Department requesting additional investigation in this matter or in the event information is received relative to substantial information of value pertaining to new leads in this matter, the case will be reopened and any necessary investigation conducted.

NUCLEAR REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Kerr-Mc Lee Nuclear Corporation

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 6-17 Searcher Initial la

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Kerr-Mc Lee Co (Var)52-53711-8Kerr-Mc Lee Coal Mine174-1652Kerr-Mc Lee Chemical Corp.60-7229-1 incl p 3Kerr-Mc Lee Building174-3-5984Kerr-Mc Lee29-28704-4149 p 421, 422, 560561, 563, 564, 566, 567, 580,581, 583, 584, 599, 622Search completed.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Section

6/17/58

, 1958

Fo ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.☐ ~~Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.~~A ☐ Forward to ☐ w☐ Attention☐ Return to MLH 54425568

Supervisor Room Ext.

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## Type of References Requested:

- ☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive References Only  
☐ Nonsubversive References Only  
☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

## Type of Search Requested:

- ☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject

KERR-McGEE Nuclear Corporation

Birthdate &amp; Place \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_

Date

6-17

Searcher

Initials Bar

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

117-2701

117-2696

117-2702

117-2702-21

(Var)

Kerr-McGee Industries

62-102190-27

29-28704-3284

94-52214-11

(Var)

Kerr-McGee Corporation

46-59566

56-4906

117-2692

117-2696

117-2702

174-1652

15-0-3448

105-212115-15

159-4005-20



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Section6/17/, 1975☒ Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.☒ ~~Service Unit, 4654 JEH-FBI Bldg.~~☐ Forward to File 

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☒ Attention

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☐ Return to MLH 5442 5568

Supervisor

Room

Ext.

## Type of References Requested:

- ☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
- ☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- ☐ Subversive References Only
- ☐ Nonsubversive References Only
- ☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

## Type of Search Requested:

- ☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
- ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject

S. O. Kwood, KAREN

Birthdate &amp; Place \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 6-17 Searcher Initials AB

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

117-2702159-21085KAREN G.117-2701-3KAREN GAGETHNA

4/ NUMEROUS REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP

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Subj: [REDACTED]

Supervisor MLH [REDACTED] Room 5442 pkR# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 6/17 Searcher Initial BR

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL b6

b7C

[REDACTED]

(P.W.) 5162 - 51406Search Completed



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
September 22, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)  
LABOR - MANAGEMENT REPORTING  
AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959;  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Set forth below is results of interview of [ ]  
[ ] who was among the first individuals on the scene  
of Silkwood's fatal accident November 13, 1974. Also set  
forth is an interview with an official of the Oklahoma  
Department of Highways who provided information relative  
to the repaving of Oklahoma State Highway 74 on which road  
the Silkwood fatal accident occurred.

b6  
b7c

This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

157-415

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/19/75

[redacted] furnished the following information:

b6  
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On the evening of November 13, 1974, he traveled from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to [redacted] Oklahoma. Earlier on November 13, 1974, he was working at his then new residence [redacted] assisted by one of his employees, [redacted] and [redacted] 14 year old brother-in-law, [redacted] where they all had been engaged in making the house ready for occupancy.

After they concluded work at the residence they drove a little distance north and ate a brief evening meal in the McDonald's Hamburger stand on N. May. After their meal they continued on northward toward [redacted] traveling on Oklahoma State Highway 74. He was driving his pickup truck and [redacted] and [redacted] were following along a short distance behind with [redacted] driving a one ton dual wheel truck. He cannot recall the exact time of day but it was shortly after sundown on November 13 that they came upon a wreck. As he recalls they had driven but a few miles from Oklahoma City when it became necessary to turn on the truck headlights. Thereafter they traveled a short distance and he noticed that [redacted] behind him was flashing his headlights from high to low beam. He first thought that some object had fallen off his pickup truck and [redacted] was trying to alert him to this fact so he turned around and went back to where [redacted] had stopped along the highway.

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[redacted] had stopped some seven miles south of Crescent, Oklahoma, on State Highway 74. [redacted] had discovered a wrecked car lying in a culvert alongside the road. He had passed this same wrecked car and had not noticed it. Apparently [redacted] could more readily see this wreck than he could since [redacted] was driving a larger vehicle and sat at a higher distance off the road.

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When he found out there was a wrecked car in the culvert he pulled off the east side of State Highway 74 and drove his pickup right to the edge of the culvert with his headlights shining in a southerly direction. Because of the difference in elevation his headlights did not clearly illuminate

Interviewed on 9/14/75 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 9/16/75

OC 159-45

the wreck and he was unable to tell if there was anyone in the wrecked car. Neither he nor [ ] had a flashlight in their respective vehicles. He thereafter told [ ] to drive the one-ton truck around to the south side of the culvert and put the truck with its back end on the east bank so the truck lights would be deflected downward into the culvert. After [ ] moved the truck he was able to see that there was an arm protruding through the car window. The arm was motionless. Both [ ] and [ ] had hollered down to the car and had gotten no response.

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As he recalls it was at about this time two other persons stopped at the wreck scene. One of these two individuals had a flashlight. One of the two individuals said he thought he recognized the car as belonging to a Kerr McGee employee and this individual took the flashlight and went down to the wreck and looked inside the car and said that he believed that the girl in the car worked at the Kerr McGee plant. It was about this time that he left the wreck scene, turned his truck around, and drove about 1½ miles north to the intersection of State Highway 74 and State Highway 33 to a crossroads grocery-gas station where he made a telephone call from an outside pay station. The station as he recalls was closed at this time.

He called the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Dispatcher in Oklahoma City. He made the call utilizing his company telephone credit card. He informed the dispatcher as to the location of the wreck and the fact that there was an injury-type incident and both a wrecker and ambulance would be needed. Upon completion of his telephone call he returned to the scene and found that some other persons had stopped at the wreck, including a carload of Negroes who appeared to be in a drunken condition. It seemed like only some five minutes had elapsed since he made the telephone call until the Oklahoma Highway Patrol arrived on the scene and immediately after the Highway Patrol a Guthrie ambulance arrived.

The wrecked car was lying on its left side in the culvert and he assisted those present in rolling the car over to its wheels. He also assisted in opening

OC 159-45

the driver's door which was jammed shut. A porta-power tool was used. The occupant of the car was removed from the car and thereafter placed in the ambulance. About the time that the ambulance departed the scene a wrecker arrived. Thereafter he checked with the Highway Patrol Trooper to see if he and his companions could be of any further assistance and thereafter found that they could not, therefore, they all left the scene and continued on to [redacted].

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When he first arrived at the accident scene he noted that the tracks of the wrecked vehicle were clearly visible for a great distance down the bar-ditch on the east side of the road. These tracks were well illuminated by the lights of [redacted] truck. The tracks as far as he could see them up the bar-ditch, which was almost to the intersection of the section line road about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of the accident site, were straight and uninterrupted. It appeared to him that the driver of the wrecked car made no effort to brake or to change the direction of the car until a couple of feet in front of the culvert wall. At this point he noticed that the tracks made by the wrecked car turned slightly back west toward the road.

At the time that he made these observations in regard to the tire tracks no other vehicles other than his truck had crossed the wrecked car's tire tracks.

At the time the female wreck victim was removed from her car he noted that blood on her face had dried. This indicated to him that the wreck had occurred at least 30 or 45 minutes prior to its discovery by [redacted].

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He drives each year well over 100,000 miles. Based on his experience it appears to him that the November 13, 1974, wreck was the result of a driver falling asleep at the wheel and thereafter running off the road. He is aware that some controversy had arisen surrounding the circumstances of this particular wreck. If the driver of the wrecked car had in fact been forced off the road it seems to him that there would have been some visible signs of the driver fighting for control of the car and making efforts to stop the car. There were several options

OC 159-45

4

available to the driver other than going into the culvert. The driver could have driven off into the field and come to a safe stop and certainly had the opportunity to have returned the vehicle to the road and come to a safe stop.

In regard to any items in the vicinity of the car wreck the only items he can recall scattered on the ground were some of the contents of the driver's purse, such as cigarettes, cigarette lighter, et cetera. He does not recall having seen any quantity of papers or notebooks scattered around.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 9/22/75

[redacted] Oklahoma  
Department of Highways, furnished the following information:

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A contract was let to pave Oklahoma State Highway 74 northward from the Oklahoma-Logan County line during September, 1973. The work for this portion of the highway was completed on February 25, 1974. Six miles of State Highway 74 had been paved during the course of this contract.

A separate contract was let on July 26, 1974 for Project MC 42(54) to pave another section of State Highway 74 northward from the previously completed six mile project.

Work on this second contract actually started December 9, 1974 and was completed January 28, 1975.

The portion of State Highway 74 covered by this second contract extended northward from a point three and one-half miles south from the intersection of State Highways 74 and 33 to a point two miles north of 74-33 intersection.

This contract was let to the Evans and Throop Company and called for the application of one and one-half inches of asphaltic concrete to the previously existing road surface. This work also included paving of the highway centers. The bid price of this second contract was \$110,187.00.

Interviewed on 9/12/75 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45  
by SA [redacted] b6  
b7C Date dictated 9/18/75



DIRECTOR, FBI

9/24/75

SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (117-43)(P)

KERR MC GEE CORPORATION  
NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION  
CIMARRON FACILITY  
CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA  
AEA  
OO: Oklahoma City

*Kerr Mc Gee*

Re Oklahoma City letter to Bureau, 9/9/75.

For information of the Bureau, on 9/8/75. SA

[redacted] when in contact with [redacted]  
[redacted] Regulation and Control, Kerr Mc Gee Nuclear Corporation, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, verified the fact that the captioned facility is in the process of being shut down.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] advised that the entire facility including both the plutonium plant and uranium plant are going to be closed. This is a result of the fact that the company was unable to secure any additional contracts for the production of either uranium or plutonium fuel rods.

He anticipates that all work on the present and only existing plutonium contract will be completed by the end of 9/75 and the uranium contract will be completed on or about 11/1/75. He anticipates that both plants will be fully shut down and in a standby status by the end of 12/75.

[redacted] advised that there is some potential the plutonium plant would after some considerable modification possibly be reopened to handle the recycling of plutonium fuel rod assemblies; however, he believes there is little potential for the uranium plant to be opened again. His company is presently consulting with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in regard to when the present safeguards and

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3-Bureau

(1-159-4005)

4-Oklahoma City (1-159-45)  
(1-117-51)

LJO/sal  
(7)

5 OCT 08 1975

NOT RECORDED  
183 SEP 30 1975

*SIX*

ORIGINAL FILED IN 117-

OC 117-43

security for the plutonium plant can be reduced inasmuch as there will be little reason for providing such protection to the plant once its operation is curtailed.

Oklahoma City will follow and keep the Bureau advised of any pertinent developments in this matter.

FBI

Date: 9/11/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (117-2702)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (117-51)(P)

UNSUBS; Unauthorized  
Possession of Plutonium  
Resulting in the Contamination of  
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (Deceased),[redacted] and [redacted] Kerr  
McGee Corporation (KMC),  
Nuclear Products Division,  
Cimarron Facility,  
Crescent, Oklahoma  
AEA

OO: Oklahoma City

b6  
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Enclosed herewith for Denver is one copy of a letter dated 1/20/75 to members of the OCAW at the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation, Crescent, Oklahoma from [redacted] and [redacted]

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The Bureau, by teletype dated 3/14/75, designated captioned case as a Bureau special.

159-4005-

For the information of Denver, captioned case relates to a contamination incident which involved KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased), who was an activist in the oil chemical and atomic workers international union, who was employed prior to her death by the Kerr McGee Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma where she worked in the plutonium fuel rod plant. SILKWOOD was involved in a contamination incident on or about 11/5/74 and was found to have been exposed to plutonium. Her apartment was found to be contaminated with plutonium as well.

3- Bureau (2-117-2702) (1-159-4005)

2- Denver (Encs. 1)

2- Oklahoma City

LJO/mm

(7)

NOT RECORDED

OCT 3 1975

7 SEP 15 1975

58 OCT 10 1975

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL FILED IN 117-2702-416

SILKWOOD died on the evening of 11/13/74 in a one car accident some 7 miles south of Crescent, Oklahoma.

The circumstances of her death and the circumstances surrounding the contamination incident involving SILKWOOD and her apartment has been the subject of much controversy and sensational publicity in the various media.

As a result, several separate cases have arisen concerning the various aspects of the controversy among which are the following cases, all of which Oklahoma City is Office of Origin.

Oklahoma City file 159-45, Bufile 159-4005 entitled "UNSUBS; KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased), LMRDA; OOJ" which case is presently in a Pending status and which primarily relates to the investigation conducted relative to the circumstances of SILKWOOD's death.

Captioned case, which as previously indicated, primarily relates to the contamination incident which case is also in a Pending status.

Oklahoma City 117-49, Bufile 117-2696 entitled "UNSUB; Scattering of Uranium Fuel Pellets, Kerr McGee Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, 12/16/74, AEA" which case is in a Closed status and which case relates to an investigation relative to an incident where a relatively small quantity of radio active uranium fuel pellets were found scattered on the facility grounds. Extensive investigation failed to develop the identity of the individual responsible for this incident or failed to establish the motive for the scattering.

Oklahoma City recently instituted investigation in Oklahoma City file 117-54, Bufile 117-2701, entitled, "Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, AEA; OOJ," which case pertains to an investigation being conducted to determine whether

or not the Kerr McGee Corporation is in criminal violation of Title 18, Section 1505 and 1510 (OOJ) and/or possible violation of the Atomic Energy Act, Title 10, CFR, Part 19.16 (c), stemming from the company's treatment of [ ] and [ ] both of whom were active in the OCAW as committeemen and both of whom were associates of SILKWOOD and also employed at the Cimarron Facility. The national labor relations board has previously conducted extensive investigation in an effort to substantiate similar civil violations against the company concerning these two individuals.

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The OCAW has been responsible for making numerous allegations relative to the above mentioned cases which allegations in many instances, were the partial basis for instituting investigation relative to these matters.

The bulk of the allegations made by the union are set out in enclosed letter. The authors of the letter, [ ] and [ ] have been previously interviewed relative to these various cases and the allegations made by the union.

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No direct or indirect contact has been had with representatives of the OCAW since 2/25/75 when [ ] was last interviewed.

For completeness, it is felt that the OCAW should again be contacted in an effort to determine whether or not they have developed any substantive information which would support their allegations set out in the enclosed letter or developed any new information which would pertain to any of the matters outlined above. It is noted that the head of the OCAW, [ ] OCAW with headquarters at 6136 Campa Street, Denver, Colorado, has not been previously contacted by this agency in regard to captioned case and related matters. Accordingly, the following lead is being set forth. It is noted that all information received from various sources including the OCAW relative to captioned case and related matters, has been investigated and reported to the various captions.

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OC 117-51

It is felt that OCAW [redacted] would be the best person to contact relative to this case, inasmuch as he can authoritatively state whether or not the union has any positive information of value regarding this case.

A summary of information relative to the status of the investigation of the various cases relating to SILKWOOD has been outlined above in the event that [redacted] is desirous of obtaining information in that regard noting that recent newspaper publicity has erroneously reported information indicating that many of these cases were not currently being investigated by the FBI.

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LEADS

DENVER

[redacted] AT DENVER, COLORADO Will contact [redacted] OCAW, 6136 Campa Street and determine whether or not they have developed any substantive information which would support their allegations set out in the enclosed letter or developed any new information which would pertain to any of the matters outlined above.

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OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA Investigation continuing.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

NR 013 OC PLAIN

753 PM NITEL OCT 30, 1975 DAF

OCT 30 1975

TO DIRECTOR 159-4005

TELETYPE

FROM OKLAHOMA CITY 159-45 P

UNSUB; KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED), LMRDA; OOJ, OO:  
OKLAHOMA CITY.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU ON OCT 28, 1975, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], KERR MC GEE CORPORATION (KMC), ADVISED

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THAT DURING CONTACT WITH OKLAHOMA CITY PD OFFICER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CONCERNING MATTER NOT RELATED TO CAPTIONED CASE, HE  
DEVELOPED INFORMATION FROM [REDACTED] THAT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], OKLA. REPORTEDLY WAS WITNESS TO SILKWOOD FATAL  
ACCIDENT NOV 13, 1974.

[REDACTED] LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED [REDACTED], OKLA. OCT 29,  
1975. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT [REDACTED] DID NOT ACTUALLY WITNESS  
ACCIDENT, BUT DID PASS BY SCENE AFTER ACCIDENT HAD ALREADY  
BEEN DISCOVERED AND REPORTED.

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DETAILS OF INTERVIEW WILL BE SUBMITTED BY CLOSING LHM.

END

REC-28

159-4005-51

HOLD

EX 103

OCT 31 1975

Deleted Copy Sent [REDACTED]  
by Letter Dated 3-16-76 [REDACTED]  
Per FOIA Request Re K. Silkwood

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b6  
b7C

5321  
22 1975

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams b6  
1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher b7C  
Attn:   
1 - Congressional Liaison  
1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall

November 7, 1975

1 - Mr. S. S. Mignosa  
1 - Mr. R. K. McHargue

REC-65

*K*  
*159-4005-52*  
Honorable Gilbert Gude  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gude:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 18, 1975, with enclosure, requesting information in regard to the deceased Karen Silkwood. The enclosure is being returned to you as you requested.

Karen Silkwood was an employee of the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation located in Crescent, Oklahoma, and was active in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW). On November 5, 1974, Miss Silkwood claimed to have become contaminated by plutonium through faulty safety procedures in effect at Kerr McGee. On the evening of November 13, 1974, Silkwood was killed in a one car automobile accident following her attendance at an OCAW meeting.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has conducted a lengthy investigation into the events surrounding Miss Silkwood's death. The results of this investigation were submitted to the Department of Justice for consideration. In the event you wish additional information, it is suggested you communicate with the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

G. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

Enclosure

1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

RKM:ddc

(10)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐



Honorable Gilbert Gude

NOTE:

By letter dated 9/18/75, Congressman Gude requested the FBI furnish him with information regarding the deceased Karen Silkwood. His letter was prompted by a note from [redacted] a constituent of Gude's, who requested Gude have a thorough investigation of Silkwood's death conducted.

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There have been four cases opened in this matter. The first concerns the unauthorized possession of plutonium which resulted in the contamination of Silkwood (CI-3); the second, the scattering of uranium fuel pellets at Kerr McGee (CI-3); the third, the death of Silkwood, handled by the General Investigative Division; and the fourth, alleged irregularities at the Kerr McGee facility in Oklahoma. The above reply generally encompasses all four investigations; consequently, this memorandum is being routed to the General Investigative Division.

The investigations concerning the scattering of uranium fuel pellets and the investigation of Silkwood's death have been closed. The cases concerning unauthorized possession of plutonium and the Kerr McGee facility are pending.

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

Washington, D.C.

September 18 19 75

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Office of Congressional Liaison  
10th and Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Sir:

The attached communication  
is sent for your consideration.  
Please investigate the statements  
contained therein and forward me  
the necessary information for re-  
ply, returning the enclosed corre-  
spondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

*Gilbert Gude*  
Gilbert Gude, M. C.

*Madison*  
*11/1*  
*yellow*

40 SEP 30 1975

REC-65

159-4005-52

SEP 30 1975

CORRESPONDENCE

ENCLOSURE

*10/19/75*  
*208*  
*29*  
*11-5-75*  
*RK M. C. G.*

28 Aug. 73  
Dear Congressman Lynde, SEP 2 1973

Please proceed to have a thorough investigation (FBI-IRS-CIA etc.) on the deceased Karen Silkwood- the Plutonium case which the Dept. of Justice wishes to drop. A great many Americans feel a direct threat to themselves and their families when government covers over and hides all the facts. We feel cheated of knowledge which in such a case is rightfully ours. We the people demand to know.  
Sincerely, [redacted]

b6  
b7c

MR. & MRS. JOHN B. KENNEDY  
1549 NORTH FAULKLAND LANE #220  
SILVER SPRING, MD. 20910



Adams

Patriot

USPS-1000

Congressman Gilbert Lynde  
U.S. Congressman for Maryland  
U.S. Congress  
Washington, D.C.

MR. & MRS.

JOHN B. KENNEDY  
ADDRESS 1549 NORTH  
FAULKLAND LANE #220  
SILVER SPRING, MD.

159-4005-52

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. J. B. Adams

DATE: 11/21/75

FROM : Legal Counsel *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: SUBCOMMITTEE ON REPORTS,  
ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

On November 21, [redacted] Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, telephonically advised me that representatives of captioned Subcommittee had been inquiring in the Criminal Division concerning an investigation by the FBI of the death of Karen Silkwood and related charges concerning safety violations at the Kerr-McGee Corporation plant in Oklahoma. He said that Chief Counsel of the Subcommittee, [redacted] assisted by a [redacted] who is an investigator of Congressman Dingel, temporarily on loan to the Subcommittee, and the Minority Counsel, whose name he could not recall, had contacted the Criminal Division and requested access to reports in these matters. [redacted] said that the Criminal Division prepared a summary concerning the homicide investigation of Karen Silkwood and made it available to the staff. The staff also inquired concerning the investigation of contamination of the plant and an allegation concerning misuse of plutonium pellets at another installation. He said that a summary was prepared by the Criminal Division on the plutonium pellets matter but not delivered to the staff and no response was given to the staff concerning the contamination matter because that investigation has not yet been completed by the FBI.

The Department has now received a letter signed by Senator Lee Metcalf, Chairman of the captioned Subcommittee. Copy of that letter dated November 17, 1975, addressed to the Attorney General, is attached. The Chairman requests that the Subcommittee investigators be furnished copies of memoranda relating to the investigations described above. He

- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Hotis
- 1 - Mr. Mintz

JAM:mtm

ENCLOSURE

(5) *[Signature]*

157-4005-  
NOTED  
170 DEC 1 1975  
DEC 10 1975

CONTINUED - OVER *[Signature]*

SEE ADDENDUM GID PAGE 4

SEE ADDENDUM INTD PAGE 5

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Memorandum to Mr. Adams

Re: SUBCOMMITTEE ON REPORTS,  
ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

further requests that the Subcommittee have complete access to all FBI and Justice Department files, memoranda and other materials relating to any investigations conducted by the FBI or the Department in connection with these matters. Further, he requests that the Subcommittee be given access to all FBI and Justice personnel involved in the investigations.

[redacted] asked me for a comment as to the Bureau's reaction to the letter and I told him that the FBI was unwilling to agree to giving complete access to all of our files and that we were unwilling to grant free access to all personnel who might have been involved in such investigations. I explained to him that this assertion of authority to inquire into the FBI by captioned Subcommittee shows the proliferation of committees attempting to claim oversight over the FBI in both the House and the Senate. I told him that except for the Senate Select and House Select Committees on Intelligence, the Bureau has been unwilling to furnish access to FBI file material to other committees and that the Attorney General has supported us in protecting the Bureau's files.

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[redacted] asked for my suggestion as to what might be done in response to the Chairman's requests and I told him that we would respond in writing to requests received in writing from the Committee addressed to the Attorney General and forwarded to the FBI for response. I told him that our reply would be routed through the Department back to the Committee. I told him that in regard to request for access to personnel, that it might be possible for Committee staff inquiries to be more specific as a result of obtaining written responses and if it was necessary for such specific questions to be answered by a personal briefing we would entertain the request for a briefing by a Bureau official. [redacted] said that he understood our position and that it was likely that a discussion would be held by the Criminal Division with the Deputy Attorney General on Monday, November 24, 1975. He asked whether the Bureau would be willing to participate in such a discussion and I told him that we would and would await his call.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the General Investigative Division review the requests for information concerning the homicide investigation of Karen Silkwood;

Memorandum to Mr. Adams

Re: SUBCOMMITTEE ON REPORTS,  
ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

the investigation of contamination at Kerr-McGee; and the matter concerning plutonium pellets, and provide recommendations as to whether any such material or summaries may be furnished to the Subcommittee.

2. That if requested, Assistant Director Gallagher, Mr. Adams and I join the Criminal Division in discussing this matter with the Deputy Attorney General.

General Investigative Division (GID) is aware of at least three separate investigations conducted by the FBI relative to Karen Silkwood, which are identified as follows: "Unknown Subject; Scattering of Uranium Fuel Pellets, Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, 12/16/74, AEA," Bufile 117-2696, "Unsubs; Unauthorized Possession of Plutonium Resulting in Contamination of Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased), Etc., AEA," Bufile 117-2702, "Unsubs; Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased), Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA)," Bufile 159-4005.

The AEA investigations described above were supervised by Section CI-3 of the Intelligence Division. It is believed investigation relative to the Unauthorized Possession of Plutonium is still pending.

The LMRDA investigation was instituted upon receipt of a request dated 11/20/74, from the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division. This investigation was to determine if violations of Section 530, Title 29, USC (through the impairment of Silkwood's rights guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, USC) and Section 1505, Title 18, USC, (in that Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before AEA) existed. No information was developed during this investigation to indicate the death of Silkwood was other than accidental.

The results of all investigation conducted relative to the LMRDA violation were furnished to the Management and Labor Section, Criminal Division.

GID believes that since the Criminal Division has prepared a summary concerning the LMRDA investigation and made the summary available to captioned subcommittee, no additional material or summaries should be furnished by the FBI.

GID recommends this memorandum be forwarded to the Intelligence Division for their comments concerning the AEA investigations.

ADDENDUM INTELLIGENCE DIVISION (INTD) 11/24/75 RKM:ddc

Intelligence Division is aware of one additional pending case relative to Karen Silkwood and the Kerr McGee Corporation of Crescent, Oklahoma. This case is titled "Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, AEA," Bureau file 117-2701. This investigation concerns possible violation of Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations 18 USC, Sections 1505 and 1510 and 10 CFR, Section 19.16 (C). These alleged violations were brought to the attention of the Department of Justice by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW). All information concerning this continuing investigation has been furnished the Department of Justice, General Crime Division.

As the General Investigative Division points out, the Intelligence Division also has a pending case titled "Unsub; Unauthorized Possession of Plutonium Resulting in Contamination of Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased), etc., AEA." Information concerning this matter has also been furnished the Department.

[redacted] Department of Justice, advised 11/24/75 that he has prepared a summary of the closed case "Unsub; Scattering of Uranium Fuel Pellets, Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, 12/16/74, AEA." In view of this, the Intelligence Division believes that no additional material or summaries concerning the two pending cases be furnished by the FBI.

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SSM

WRW/HOL

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

DATE: 2/23/76

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (C)

SUBJECT: UNSUB;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LMRDA; OOJ  
OO: Oklahoma City

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau is the original and five copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy of same LHM furnished USA, Oklahoma City.

Inasmuch as all investigation has been completed and reported, Oklahoma City is again placing this case in a closed status.

Deleted Copy Sent



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1 - Letter dated 2/23/76  
for FOIA Request

REC-39

159-4005-53

ST-101

23 MAR 1 1976

- (2) - Bureau (Enc. 6)
- 1 - Oklahoma City
- LJO:abp
- (3)

ENCLOSURE

2cc ROM CRIM. DIV., by O-6D

1cc LABOR CASE, TICKLER

3/8/76

9Hypel

MEMORANDUM  
FIVE

56 MAR 10 1976



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

February 23, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 159-45

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND  
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959 - OBSTRUCTION  
OF JUSTICE

On October 28, 1975, [redacted]  
[redacted] Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,  
advised that during the course of an investigation conducted  
by him in regard to another company matter unrelated to the  
various Silkwood cases, he was in contact with Sgt. [redacted]  
[redacted] Oklahoma City Police Department. During the  
course of this contact he learned that [redacted] had a former  
relation, possibly an ex-brother-in-law, who resided in [redacted]  
Oklahoma, by the name of [redacted]. According to [redacted],  
[redacted] was a witness to the actual accident which Silkwood had  
causing her death November 13, 1974. It was [redacted] under-  
standing that [redacted] at the time of the accident was involved  
in marital difficulties and may possibly have been in a  
compromising situation with a female and possibly under the  
influence of alcohol at the time of the accident; therefore,  
he did not stop at the accident.

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On October 29, 1975, [redacted] was contacted  
at which time he could provide no information beyond the informa-  
tion he provided to [redacted]. [redacted] advised that he did not  
know for a fact that [redacted] had a companion at the time that  
he allegedly observed the Silkwood accident. This was merely  
speculation on his part.

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Set forth below are results of interview with [redacted]

[redacted]:

This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

159-1105-53

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 11/11/75

[redacted] was interviewed at his place of business, [redacted] and furnished the following information:

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On an evening in November, 1974, exact date unrecalled at this time, he was traveling from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Enid, Oklahoma, via State Highway 74. He was driving north on State Highway 74 in his red Pontiac Trans Am when he happened on a wreck just south of Crescent, Oklahoma.

From the attendant publicity with this wreck, he learned that the wreck obviously was the wreck of KAREN SILKWOOD in which she met her death.

He cannot recall the time of day that he observed the wreck, but it was sometime in the early evening shortly after sundown.

Prior to coming upon the scene of the wreck, he saw the tail lights of a car ahead of him also heading north towards Crescent. This car was about one-half mile ahead of him as he traveled. He was driving at 70 miles per hour and never overtook this vehicle. He assumed that the car that he saw wrecked was the car that had been traveling ahead of him.

As he approached the wreck, he noted that there were perhaps two other vehicles already on the scene. This wreck had occurred in a culvert located on the east side of the road. One of the vehicles had pulled off the road, up near the right-of-way fence and shown its lights down on the wrecked car. The wrecked car was a little white foreign car, make unrecalled.

It was his recollection that the wrecked car was on its wheels with its front end pointed north. He recalls that there was heavy damage to the front end of his car.

He had a mobile telephone in his car and attempted to use the telephone to call the highway patrol, however, he found that the mobile telephone was inoperative. He did not get out of his car, but stopped his car on the edge of the east

Interviewed on 10/29/75 at Enid, Oklahoma Oklahoma City 159-45

SA's [redacted] and

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by [redacted] Date dictated 11/4/75

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OC 159-45

shoulder of the road where he could see down into the culvert.

He did not talk to anyone on the wreck scene and cannot at this time, recall who he saw there. It is his impression that there may have been one or two people near the car itself while he was there. It was his impression that this wreck had occurred only moments before he arrived and he assumed that no one had yet had the opportunity to call the highway patrol.

He was aware that there was a public pay telephone a mile or so down the road, so he went to that location, the intersection of State Highway 74 and State Highway 33 and called the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, advising them of the wreck. As he pulled away from the station from where he made the call, he noted a highway patrol car running with its red light, heading south down State Highway 74 towards the wreck.

Inasmuch as the highway patrol was enroute to the scene, he decided to continue his trip to Enid.

While at the scene of the wreck, he did not observe any papers or any articles scattered about by the wrecked car.

While traveling north on State Highway 74 prior to his coming upon the wreck, he did not observe any vehicles driving south on Highway 74 at a high rate of speed, nor did he observe anything suspicious that would appear to relate to the SILKWOOD accident.

March 16, 1976

1 - Mr. Mintz

Attention: Mr. Moschella

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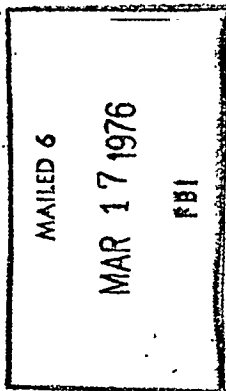
2005 L Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Dobrouir:

The enclosed documents are being released to you in accordance with the stipulation of counsel in connection with the pending litigation captioned National Public Radio, et al., v. Edward E. Levi.

Excisions have been made from these documents, and other documents have been withheld in their entirety in order to withhold materials which are exempted from disclosure by the following subsections of Title 5, United States Code, Section 552:

- (b) (2) materials related solely to the internal rules and practices of the FBI;
- (b) (5) inter-agency or intra-agency documents which are not available through discovery proceedings during litigation; or documents whose disclosure would have an inhibitive effect upon the development of policy and administrative direction; or which represent the work product of an attorney-client relationship;
- (b) (7) investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, the disclosure of which would:
  - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of another person;
  - (D) reveal the identity of an individual who has furnished information to the FBI under confidential circumstances or reveal information furnished only by



Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

1 - The Deputy Attorney General  
Attention: \_\_\_\_\_

kmb:car (6)

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NOT RECORDED

MAR 25 1976

SEE NOTE PAGE 3976

JUN 23 1976  
MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ORIGINAL FILED IN 74-67846-1

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such a person and not apparently known to the public or otherwise accessible to the FBI by overt means;

- (E) disclose investigative techniques and procedures, thereby impairing their future effectiveness.

A review of our files has revealed the following documents which originated with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

1. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) News Release U-11 dated January 6, 1975;
2. AEC News Release U-12 dated January 7, 1974;
3. AEC Report of Inspection during period November 21-22, 1974, and December 5-6, 1974;
4. AEC Investigative Report 74-09; and
5. AEC Division of Inspection Report 44-2-339.

These items are being referred to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for its decision and it will correspond directly with you.

Our files also contain photographs of Karen Silkwood's car and the accident scene. These photographs are currently being reproduced and copies will be sent to you at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

Enclosures (23)

[REDACTED]

NOTE: Documents being released in accordance with the stipulation of counsel in connection with the pending litigation captioned National Public Radio, et al., v. Edward H. Levi. Documents being released from 159-4005 after consultation with Legal Counsel Division. Departmental Attorney [REDACTED] Civil Division, and other Departmental representatives support without reservation our position with regard to obtaining notarized authorization from next of kin of the deceased subject of an FOIA request. However, in this case presently being litigated USDC, WDC, the deceased has regularly placed herself in the public arena seeking publicity. The case has enjoyed substantial notoriety including a Congressional inquiry. None of the documents being released herewith contain any personal, intimate data which might cause embarrassment to the next of kin. It is merely an investigation into her death as opposed to a case wherein she is subject of an investigation by the FBI. Considering all facts, Greenspan advised that discretionary release is most appropriate and in no way jeopardizes our basic requirement for written authorization from next of kin. An affidavit signed by SA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was filed in USDC, WDC, 3/15/76, wherein it was stated that these documents would be released to plaintiff's attorney pursuant to stipulation, supra. Cost for duplication will be billed with next letter forwarding photographs.

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Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

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SILKWOOD 11-12

BY KEY BUREAU  
 CRESCENT, OKLA. (UPI) -- KAREN SILKWOOD, A WORKER CONTAMINATED  
 WITH RADIOACTIVE PLUTONIUM, LEFT THE KERR-MCGEE NUCLEAR PLANT TO MEET  
 WITH A REPORTER ABOUT ALLEGED SAFETY HAZARDS. SHE NEVER MADE THAT  
 MEETING A YEAR AGO TODAY.

HER COMPACT CAR WEERED OFF THE DARK, LONELY HIGHWAY TWO MILES  
 SOUTH OF THE PLANT AND CRASHED INTO A CULVERT.

NOW THE GIANT PLANT IS CLOSING. OFFICIALS SAY THE SHUTDOWN, WHICH  
 WILL BE COMPLETE BY THE END OF THE YEAR, WAS CAUSED BY LACK OF  
 BUSINESS, BUT SOME CRESCENT RESIDENTS BELIEVE THE PUBLICITY RESULTING  
 FROM MISS SILKWOOD'S DEATH PLAYED A PART IN THE DECISION.

MISS SILKWOOD, 28, WAS EN ROUTE TO A MEETING WITH A UNION OFFICIAL  
 AND A NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER IN OKLAHOMA CITY WHEN THE CRASH  
 OCCURRED.

HER DEATH STARTED INVESTIGATIONS BY THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION,  
 THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
 A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR HIRED BY THE OIL, CHEMICAL AND ATOMIC WORKERS  
 UNION.

THE FBI SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY, BUT THE NATIONAL  
 ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN HAS ASKED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO REOPEN ITS  
 INVESTIGATION.

MISS SILKWOOD HAD TESTIFIED IN WASHINGTON AGAINST ALLEGED SAFETY  
 HAZARDS AT THE PLANT, WHICH PROCESSED PLUTONIUM AND URANIUM.

SHE LATER WAS CONTAMINATED WITH AIRBORNE PLUTONIUM DUST AND WENT  
 TO LOS ALAMOS, N.M., FOR TESTS, RETURNING ONE DAY BEFORE HER DEATH.

THE OCAW PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR CONTENDED HER CAR WAS FORCED OFF THE  
 ROAD AND CITED A DENT ON THE REAR FENDER.

HOWEVER, STATE INVESTIGATORS SAID SHE PROBABLY FELL ASLEEP AT THE  
 WHEEL WHILE SEDATED WITH METHAQUALONE AND SAID THE DENT PROBABLY WAS  
 MADE BY A WRECKER.

NOV 13 9 50 AM '75

159-4025-A  
 NOT RECORDED  
 98 DEC 4 1975

66 DEC 8 1975

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



THE AEC INVESTIGATION FOUND FOUR VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, BUT COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAID NONE WOULD HAVE ENDANGERED EMPLOYEES OR THE PUBLIC.

KERR-MCGEE OFFICIALS SAID THE PLANT FAILED TO GET SUFFICIENT CONTRACT RENEWALS, BUT SOME CRESCENT RESIDENTS FEEL THE SILKWOOD INCIDENT AFFECTED THE DECISION.

"MY PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT PLANT NEEDED TO BE CLOSED DUE TO THAT PROBLEM THEY HAD WITH THIS GIRL GETTING KILLED AND SO FORTH. THEY NEEDED TO CLEAN HOUSE AND START ALL OVER AGAIN," SAID LARRY STOEN, A CRESCENT GROVER.

CRESCENT MAYOR BILLY "BUDDY" JOHNSON, OWNER OF THE CITY CAFE, SAID HE FELT THERE WAS TOO MUCH PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDERS. "THE NEWS MEDIA AND STUFF LIKE THAT. IT WAS JUST A LOT OF BAD PUBLICITY FOR KERR-MCGEE."

UPI 11-13 1972 AEC

A-2

2/25/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (117-2702)  
(Attn: INTD)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (117-51) (C)

UNSUB;  
UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF  
PLUTONIUM RESULTING IN THE  
CONTAMINATION OF KAREN G.  
SILKWOOD (DECEASED).

AND

KERR MC GEE CORPORATION (KMC),  
NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION,  
CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT,  
OKLAHOMA  
AEA  
CO: OKLAHOMA CITY

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For the information of the Bureau, on 2/24/76, during the course of liaison contact with Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC) in regard to the contingency plan in effect for their Cimarron Nuclear Facility, it was ascertained that the company had been contacted the previous day by a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) representative, who in part advised the company that it was his agency's understanding that Senate hearings in regard to the overall SILKWOOD situations would start in Washington, D. C. on or about 4/1/76.

The above is being provided Bureau for completion of Bureau files.

3 - Bureau  
(2 - 117-2702)  
(1 - 159-4005)  
2 - Oklahoma City  
(1 - 117-51)  
(1 - 159-45)  
LJO:mbs (5)

159-4005-  
NOT RECORDED  
183 MAR 2 1976

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Date: April 1, 1976

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To:

[redacted] Chief Attn: Mr. Moschella  
Field Support and Enforcement Branch  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

From: Clarence M. Kelley, Director

Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST  
OF BARBARA NEWMAN CONCERNING THE DEATH OF  
KAREN SILKWOOD

In responding to a Freedom of Information Act request, our search revealed five documents which originated with your agency. A list of these documents is being attached along with a copy of Ms. Newman's request.

The enclosed is being referred to your office for a decision as to whether they should or should not be released pursuant to FOIA. The requester has been advised of this referral.

Please direct your prompt reply to [redacted]  
[redacted] in care of her attorney, [redacted]  
2005 L Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

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Enclosures (2)

EX-104

REC-23

159-4005-54

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Documents being referred are from Bufile 159-4005.

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6 APR 2 1976

1 - The Deputy Attorney General  
Attention: [redacted]

kmb:neb (6)

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

**National Public Radio**

2025 M Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

202-785-5400

May 1, 1975

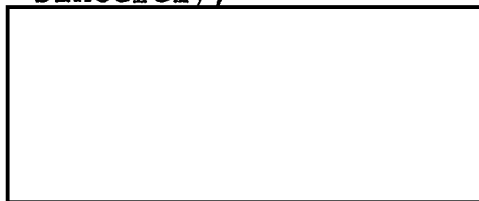
Hon. Harold R. Tyler  
Deputy Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Tyler:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I request to see the documents in connection with the determination by the Justice Department that its investigation into the circumstances of Karen Silkwood's death is concluded and that Miss Silkwood's death did not indicate any violation of Federal law. I am also requesting any statements, charges or documents pertaining to the two other aspects of the case still under investigation by your department. Specifically, whether Miss Silkwood's rights as a union member were violated and the possible illegal possession of plutonium.

I look forward to hearing from you about these matters as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,



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BN/pw

**ENCLOSURE**

159-4005-54

AEC News Release #U-11, dated 1-6-75

AEC News Release #U-12, dated 1-7-74

AEC Report of Inspection during period 11/21-22/74  
and 12/5-6/74

AEC Investigative Report #74-09

AEC Division of Inspection Report 44-2-339

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 4/29/76

FROM : L. E. Rhyne

1 - Mr. Callahan  
1 - Mr. Adams  
1 - Mr. Gallagher  
1 - Mr. O'Connell  
1 - Mr. Rhyne  
1 - Mr. Yelvington

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED)  
LABOR MANAGEMENT REPORTING  
AND DISCLOSURE ACT  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

PURPOSE: This is in response to the notation "What about this?" written by the Director on a UPI release dated 4/26/76, attached, concerning captioned matter.

REG-94 157-4-555  
SYNOPSIS: On 11/21/74, a Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) - Obstruction of Justice (OOJ) investigation was instituted by our Oklahoma City Office upon receipt of a request dated 11/20/74, from the Criminal Division of the Department. This request was based on allegations that the death of Karen Gay Silkwood, who died in a one car accident on 11/13/74, was other than accidental. The Department advised if these allegations were substantiated a possible violation of Section 530, Title 29, USC, (through the impairment of Silkwood's rights as a union member guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, USC) and Section 1505, Title 18, USC, (in that Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)) would exist. A thorough investigation was conducted and no information was developed indicating the death of Silkwood was other than accidental. An autopsy indicated Silkwood was under the influence of a drug (methaqualone) at the time of her death. The amount of the drug found in Silkwood's system subsequent to her death would indicate that she was under the influence of the drug at the time of her death and was drowsy or sleepy. Silkwood was a member of the local Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) which was deeply embroiled in negotiations with Management of Kerr-McGee Nuclear Facility where Silkwood was employed. There had been allegations by the local union that certain safety regulations were being violated by the company and Silkwood reportedly gathered some documentation to support the allegations and was in possession of these documents on the evening of 11/13/74. Investigation by Oklahoma City failed to disclose any evidence that Silkwood carried with her any documentation of health and

ENCLOSURE

Attachment

JHY:pms (7)

6-40486  
CONTINUED - OVER

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

MAY 2 1976

MEMORANDUM TO MR. GALLAGHER  
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

safety violations on the evening of 11/13/74, or that these particular documents existed. Results of all investigation in this matter were furnished to the Management and Labor Section, Criminal Division, Department of Justice. The Department determined that there was no specific indication of a violation of Federal criminal law in the death of Silkwood and terminated this investigation.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

APPROVED: *[Signature]*  
Assoc. Dir. *[Signature]*  
Dep. AD Adm. *[Signature]*  
Dep. AD Inv. *[Signature]*  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. *[Signature]*

Comp. Syst. ....	Laboratory .....
Ext. Affairs .....	Legal Coun. ....
Gen. Inv. <i>[Signature]</i>	Plan. & Eval. ....
Ident. ....	Rec. Mgmt. ....
Inspection .....	Spec. Inv. ....
Intell. ....	Training .....

7 DETAILS: On 11/21/74, LMRDA - OOH investigation was instituted by our Oklahoma City Office upon receipt of a request dated 11/20/74, from the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice. This request was based on an article appearing in the New York Times on 11/19/74, and a telegram received by the Attorney General from the OCAW on the same date suggesting that the death of Karen Gay Silkwood, who died in a one car accident on 11/13/74, was caused by Silkwood's automobile being hit from behind by another vehicle causing it to run off the road. The Department advised that if these allegations were substantiated a possible violation of Section 530, Title 29, USC, (through the impairment of Silkwood's rights as a union member guaranteed Section 411, Title 29, USC) and Section 1505, Title 18, USC, (in that Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before the AEC) would exist.

A thorough investigation was conducted in this matter and no information was developed indicating the death of Silkwood was other than accidental. An autopsy, which was performed on Silkwood indicated she was under the influence of a drug (methaqualone) at the time of her death. The chief medical examiner, Board of Medicolegal, Oklahoma City, advised this drug is a sleep-inducing drug. The amount found in Silkwood's system subsequent to her death would indicate that she was under the influence of the drug at the time of her death and was drowsy or sleepy.

Silkwood was a member of the local OCAW which was deeply embroiled in negotiations with Management of Kerr-McGee Nuclear Facility where Silkwood was employed. There

MEMORANDUM TO MR. GALLAGHER  
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

had been allegations by the local union that certain safety regulations were being violated by the company and Silkwood reportedly gathered some documentation to support the allegations and was in possession of these documents on the evening of 11/13/74. Investigation by Oklahoma City failed to disclose any evidence that Silkwood carried with her any documentation of health and safety violations on the evening of 11/13/74, or that these particular documents existed. Results of all investigation in this matter were furnished to the Management and Labor Section, Criminal Division, Department of Justice. The Department determined that there was no specific indication of a violation of Federal criminal law in the death of Silkwood and terminated this investigation.



Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

A040

D W

PX-SILKWOOD SKED 4-28  
 EDITORS: SUBCOMMITTEE STARTS AT 10 AM EDT

BY SARA FRITZ

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THOUGH A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE IS BEGINNING AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF A UNION WOMAN PROBING SAFETY FEATURES AT AN OKLAHOMA PLUTONIUM PLANT, THE FBI HAS QUIETLY CLOSED ITS BOOKS ON THE CASE.

THE FBI MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT HAD ENDED ITS INVESTIGATION OF KAREN SILKWOOD'S DEATH NOV. 13, 1974 -- AS SHE WAS LOOKING INTO QUESTIONS OF SAFETY AT THE KERR-MCGEE PLUTONIUM PLANT IN OKLAHOMA.

AND INVESTIGATORS FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SAID THEY TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO OBTAIN MANY FBI RECORDS ON HER AUTO CRASH DEATH.

THEY SAID THE HEARINGS WILL SHOW A "LACK OF FOLLOW THROUGH" WHICH RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE FBI AND OTHER AGENCIES TO RESPOND TO HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS AT NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

COMMITTEE STAFFER PETER STOCKWOOD SAID THE KERR-MCGEE PROBE HAS RAISED "SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT IS EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THE IMPACT OF THE ENORMOUS INCREASE IN THE USE OF PLUTONIUM" EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE FBI PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DROPPING ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH ITSELF, AFTER FINDING NO EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY. MISS SILKWOOD, WHO HERSELF HAD BEEN CONTAMINATED, DIED ENROUTE TO A MEETING WITH A NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER. THE MATERIAL SHE HAD COLLECTED AT THE KERR-MCGEE PLANT WAS NEVER FOUND.

BUT THE FBI HAD SAID IT WAS STILL INVESTIGATING TWO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CASE -- THE DISAPPEARANCE OF 400 POUNDS OF PLUTONIUM AND CHARGES OF ILLEGAL COMPANY INTERFERENCE IN UNION ACTIVITIES.

UPI LEARNED THAT THOSE TWO PARTS OF THE INVESTIGATION ALSO HAVE BEEN CLOSED, WITH NO ACTION TAKEN. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WITNESSES ARE EXPECTED TO REPORT THAT DEVELOPMENT DURING THE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS CHAIRED BY REP. JOHN D. DINGELL, D-MICH.

SUBCOMMITTEE STAFFERS SAID THEY RECEIVED "VERY LIMITED" AND "HIGHLY SANITIZED" RECORDS FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DURING THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE. THE ONLY DOCUMENT THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECEIVED FROM THE FBI WAS A "SUMMARY" OF THE INVESTIGATION.

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN MEANWHILE HAS CHARGED THAT SENS. LEE METCALF, D-MONT., AND ABRAHAM RIBICOFF, D-CONN., RENEGED ON A PROMISE THE SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE WOULD HOLD HEARINGS INTO THE SILKWOOD CASE.

NOW SAID SENATE HEARINGS WERE CANCELED AFTER METCALF RECEIVED A VIST FROM DEAN MCGEE, PRESIDENT OF THE KERR-MCGEE PLANT. A COMMITTEE AIDE SAID THE SENATORS WERE SIMPLY TOO BUSY AND DECIDED TO RELQ ON THE HOUSE HEARINGS.

UPI 04-28 04:24 AED

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

6-ye [signature]  
 FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) E

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased);  
ET AL;  
LMRDA;OOJ.  
OO:Oklahoma City

DATE: 5/11/76

Enclosed for the Bureau is one xerox copy of news article from the Woodward Daily Press, Woodward, Oklahoma dated 5/6/76.

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On 5/7/76, Assistant District Attorney [redacted] Woodward, Oklahoma advised that he had read an article in the Woodward Daily Press, Woodward, Oklahoma on 5/6/76 which suggested that [redacted] may have knowledge of "the Silkwood matter". He stated that he felt that COOK did not have any such knowledge.

[redacted] explained that [redacted] has been charged in Woodward, Oklahoma with Second Degree Murder, after shooting CLAUSSON JONES in Woodward, Oklahoma on 1/29/76. He explained that [redacted], who was at that time employed as an oil field worker for Woodward Service Company, shot and killed JONES when JONES came to [redacted] residence to take him to work. COOK fired from inside the living room of his residence, striking JONES, who was seated in a truck in the driveway of [redacted] residence.

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[redacted] then proceeded to the Woodward, Oklahoma office of Woodward Service Company where he shot himself in the jaw with the rifle. When [redacted] was initially approached after the shooting, he was said to have used his blood to write the initials "AEC" on the wall of the company office.

[redacted] advised that his Department's investigation has determined that a fellow employee, [redacted] was to have picked [redacted] up and taken him to work on that date, rather than JONES, and that it is his opinion that [redacted] killed the wrong man. [redacted] stated that in view of the above, he felt that [redacted] was actually trying to write this on the wall when he placed the initials "AEC" in that location, and that the letters stand for [redacted], rather than ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION. He stated that this is supported by [redacted] later statement at the

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2-Bureau (Enc.1)  
2-Oklahoma City  
HJW:ddw  
(4)

REC-92

159-45-56



56 MAY 25 1976

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

OC 159-45

hospital on the same date, at which time, he made a comment to the effect that the doctors must "keep him (JONES)" alive.

It is noted that the above referenced article stated that COOK and SILKWOOD had been co-workers at the Kerr-McGee nuclear plant at Crescent, Oklahoma, however, COOK left this employment after developing a strong hatred for SILKWOOD.

UACB, no action being taken on above by Oklahoma City.

ONE ENCLOSURE TO BUREAU WITH OKLAHOMA CITY LETTER

DATED. 5/11/76:

RE: UNSUBS;  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)  
ET AL;  
LMRDA;OOJ.  
OO:OC

Enclosed for Bureau is 1 xerox of news article from  
Woodward Daily Press, Woodward, Okla. dated 5/6/76.

2-9



159-4005-56

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Suspect Former Silkwood Co-Worker

By VANCE HORNE  
Staff Writer

John Thomas Cook, charged in Woodward with second degree murder of Clausson Jones on January 29, was at one time a close co-worker of Karen Silkwood at the Kerr-McGee nuclear plant at Crescent. It has been learned.

At Kerr-McGee, Cook started a strong personal dispute with Silkwood which he gave as his reason for leaving his job with the company, according to former fellow workers of Cook and Silkwood at the now deactivated nuclear plant.

One of their fellow co-workers said Cook "just really blew up over Karen," and that Cook said he was morally forced to leave Kerr-McGee because Silkwood was an immoral influence. The incident with Silkwood happened in late 1972.

Karen Silkwood, Cook's former laboratory partner at Kerr-McGee, is the central character in the "Silkwood case," involving alleged safety hazards at the nuclear plant, about which she gave testimony in 1974 to the Atomic Energy Commission, shortly before her death in an automobile accident.

Testimony in Cook's April 30 preliminary hearing for murder indicated the possibility that the Atomic Energy Commission and

his own past associations with Kerr-McGee were in his mind when he allegedly murdered Clausson Jones in Woodward on January 29, and then shot himself in an apparent attempt at suicide.

The testimony in Cook's hearing was that he had used his own blood to write the letters A E C on the wall of a building shortly after he had been asked his possible motives for a murder.

The Atomic Energy Commission, which was divided into two new agencies last year, was commonly known as the AEC.

Cook has reportedly made no comment on the meaning of the letters A E C since he wrote them on January 29. Before the April 30 hearing, the incident involving the letters had not been released to the public.

Six of Cook's former co-workers at Kerr-McGee learned of the incident following the preliminary hearing, and all said they believed the letters A E C could only stand for Atomic Energy Commission in Cook's mind.

Cook's former Kerr-McGee co-workers said that to their knowledge Cook had never had important dealings with the AEC, and they were at a loss to explain why he would write the letters in blood after allegedly committing

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Woodward Daily  
Express  
Woodward, Okla.

Date: May 6, 1976

Edition: Daily

Author: Vance Horne

Editor: Clark Lawrence

Title: Karen G. Silkwood; Kerr Mc Gee Corp., Oklahoma

Character: City, Okla.

or

Classification: 159-45

Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

murder and shooting himself.

They confirmed however that the names Karen Silkwood and Atomic Energy Commission were strongly connected in their minds, and they made reference to the publicity surrounding Silkwood's death in a car accident after she reported alleged Kerr-McGee safety violations to the AEC.

Three of Cook's fellow co-workers at Kerr-McGee spontaneously offered, however, that Silkwood and Cook were connected in their minds because of bad feeling Cook had expressed toward Silkwood.

According to their memories, Cook had become convinced that Silkwood was at the center of what he considered an "immoral" atmosphere in the laboratory where he and Silkwood worked side by side as technicians.

Cook "quit his job in a personal controversy over (the rate of) divorces at Kerr-McGee. Karen Silkwood was the one this was really all about," recalled one fellow worker.

Cook started talk among his fellow workers of what he saw as "immorality" centering on Silkwood because she was a divorced woman and he did not approve of divorce, the worker recalled.

"The last few weeks he (Cook) was there, he was very strange and would get very upset about little things concerning his job," he said.

"He just finally went off the deep end about Silkwood, the former co-worker said, adding that this was unusual behavior for Cook who ordinarily was quiet and hardworking.

Since the time Cook left Kerr-McGee, no one has reported any connection between him and Silkwood or Kerr-McGee, though one fellow co-worker did say that he had talked to Cook a year after he had quit his job and believed Cook was "despondent" about leaving Kerr-McGee.

"I felt he thought he had done the right thing in quitting, but on the other hand wished he still had the job," said the co-worker, who remembered that Cook had said he felt forced to quit because of Silkwood and what he considered her "immoral" influence.

"He really got on Karen," he added.

Clausson Jones, who Cook allegedly murdered, had no known connection with the AEC, Kerr-McGee, or with Karen Silkwood.

Cook reportedly killed Jones by firing a rifle at him from the window of his living room while Jones was sitting in a pickup in Cook's driveway with the intention of giving Cook a ride to work. Jones was a driller for Woodward Service, and Cook was an oil field hand who often worked under Jones for Woodward Service.

On January 29, the service

company had told Cook that Jones would drive to Cook's house to give him a ride to a job site.

As soon as Jones arrived, Cook allegedly shot him, then drove to Woodward Service offices where he shot himself.

The first person to talk to Cook after the alleged shooting was George Beverly, superintendent for Woodward Service who accompanied a Woodward policeman to the company offices.

In Cook's preliminary hearing, Beverly said that after he had asked Cook why he might have committed a murder, Cook shrugged his shoulders, and shortly thereafter used his blood to write A E C on the outside wall of the company offices.

Cook is currently in Woodward county jail on \$100,000 bond.

159-4005-56





CULVERT  
from <sup>NORTH</sup>~~south~~ BANK

159-105-

LD  
12/3/74

- 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
- 1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt
- 1 - Congressional Liaison
- 1 - Mr. S. S. Mignosa
- 1 - Mr. R. K. McHargue

May 20, 1976

EX-101

159-4005-57

Honorable Hiram L. Fong  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Fong:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 7, 1976, with enclosures, requesting information in regard to this Bureau's investigation regarding the death of Karen Silkwood. The enclosure is being returned to you as requested.

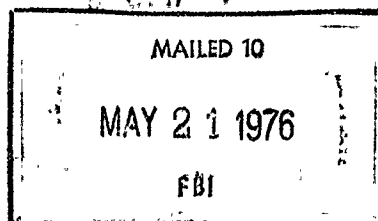
Karen Silkwood was an employee of the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation located in Crescent, Oklahoma, and was active in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW). On November 5, 1974, Miss Silkwood claimed to have become contaminated by plutonium through faulty safety procedures in effect at Kerr McGee. On the evening of November 13, 1974, Silkwood was killed in a one car automobile accident following her attendance at an OCAW meeting.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has conducted lengthy investigations into the events surrounding Miss Silkwood's death, her contamination, and the allegations of illegal company interference in a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) investigation at the Kerr McGee facility. This Bureau also conducted a related investigation which concerned the scattering of uranium fuel pellets at Kerr McGee. The results of these investigations were submitted to the Department of Justice for consideration and no further investigation is being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at this time.

The enclosure to your letter indicates that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was continuing to investigate the disappearance of 400 pounds of plutonium from the Kerr McGee facility. This Bureau has never investigated the

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. \_\_\_\_\_
- Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_
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- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

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(10)



SEE NOTE PAGE 2

XEROX

JUN 2 1976

GPO : 1975-O-594-120

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Honorable Hiram L. Fong

disappearance of 400 pounds of plutonium from Kerr McGee.  
In the event you wish additional information, it is suggested  
you communicate with the Criminal Division of the Department  
of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

Enclosure

1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

NOTE:

By letter dated 4/29/76, a constituent of Senator Fong's furnished the Senator a copy of a United Press International article which states that the FBI has closed a three prong investigation stemming from the death of Silkwood. The article also stated that the FBI said that it would continue investigating two other aspects of the case, the disappearance of 400 pounds of plutonium and charges of illegal company interference in union activity. Along with the article, the constituent noted that he hoped there was an error in the article since 400 pounds of plutonium would make a dozen atom bombs. It is noted that a House subcommittee investigation has been looking into the Silkwood investigations and the case Agent from Oklahoma City has testified before subcommittee staff concerning his investigations of the Silkwood contamination and related matters. The above letter has been coordinated with SA [redacted] of the General Investigative Division and SA [redacted] of Congressional Affairs-Legal Counsel Division.

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APPROVED:

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. *JKL* \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_

Ext. Affairs. _____	Laboratory. _____
Fin. & Pers. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Gen. Inv. <i>JKL</i> _____	Plan. & Eval. _____
Ident. _____	Rec. Mgmt. _____
Inspection. _____	Spec. Inv. _____
Intell. <i>JKL</i> _____	Training. _____

# United States Senate

May 7, 1976

Ltr frm:

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M. Goldman Consultants

43 E. Lanikaula Street

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Respectfully referred to:

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Congressional Liaison Office

J. Edgar Hoover Building

Washington, D. C. 20535



Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by



.....  
Hiram L. Fong

U.S.S.

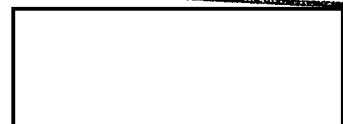
HLF:ckcc

Enclosure

Form #2

MT 13

Asst. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y.	_____



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40 MAY 10 1976  
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EX-101 REC-33 159-4005-57

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CONFERENCE

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JUN 2 1976

Let to Sen. Fong  
1 enc RKM:ddc  
5-7-76

1- ST

Chen

M. GOLDMAN CONSULTANTS

43 E. Lanikaula Street Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Phone 961-6139

April 27, 1976 9:44

Senator Fong  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Fong:

I hope there is an error in the enclaved  
article (Hon. Adv., April 26, 1976) since  
400 lbs. of plutonium is enough material  
to make a dozen ATOM BOMBS.  
Is this material really missing?

washington

# Silkwood probe closed by FBI



Silkwood: Hearings on

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The FBI quietly initiated a three-pronged investigation stemming from the death of Karen Silkwood, a union activist who was questioning safety at the Kerr-McGee plutonium plant in Oklahoma, it was learned yesterday.

The action came as House subcommittee investigators tried without success to obtain many FBI records on the case before hearings begin today.

Congressional investigators said the hearings will show that a "lack of follow-through" by the FBI and other agencies in the case raises questions about the ability of the government to respond to health and safety violations at nuclear facilities.

The FBI previously reported that it dropped its investigation into the November 1974 death of Silkwood in a car accident after finding no evidence of foul play.

Silkwood died en route to a meeting with a New York Times reporter. Her material collected at the Kerr-McGee plant was never found.

But the FBI said at the time that it would continue investigating two other aspects of the case — disappearance of 400 pounds of plutonium and charges of

A. L. K.

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ENCLOSURE

159-4005-27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Gallagher *EJW*

DATE: 5/17/76

FROM : L. E. Rhyne *LE Rhyne*

1 - Mr. Callahan  
1 - Mr. Adams  
1 - Mr. Gallagher  
1 - Mr. O'Connell  
1 - Mr. Rhyne  
1 - Mr. Yelvington  
1 - Mr. Leavitt

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD  
(DECEASED)  
LABOR MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND  
DISCLOSURE ACT  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to furnish results of investigation conducted by the Oklahoma City Office into the death of Karen G. Silkwood.

SYNOPSIS: On 11/21/74, a Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA)-Obstruction of Justice (OOJ) investigation was instituted by our Oklahoma City Office upon receipt of a request dated 11/20/74, from the Assistant Attorney General (AAG), Criminal Division, Department of Justice. This request was based on an article appearing in the "New York Times" on 11/19/74, and a telegram received by the Attorney General (AG) from the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) on the same date suggesting that the death of Karen G. Silkwood, who died in a one-car accident on 11/13/74, was caused by Silkwood's automobile being hit from behind by another vehicle causing it to run off the road. The Department advised that if these allegations were substantiated, a possible violation of Section 530, Title 29, U. S. Code (USC) (through the impairment of Silkwood's rights as a union member guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, USC) and Section 1505, Title 18, USC (in that Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)) would exist. *N*

A thorough investigation was conducted in this matter and no information was developed indicating the death of Silkwood was other than accidental. An autopsy, which was performed on Silkwood, indicated she was under the influence of a drug (methaqualone) at the time of her death. The Chief Medical Examiner, Board of Medicolegal, Oklahoma City, advised this drug is a sleep-inducing drug. The amount found in Silkwood's system subsequent to her death would indicate that she was under the influence of the drug at the time of her death and was drowsy or sleepy.

8 MAY 25 1976

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56 JUN 08 1976

Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

MEMORANDUM TO MR. GALLAGHER  
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD

The results of all investigation conducted relative to the LMRDA-OOJ violation were furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice. The Criminal Division determined that on the basis of the facts produced there was no significant indication of a violation of Federal criminal law in the death of Silkwood.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

*LCR*  
*Jim*

APPROVED: _____	Ext. Affairs.....	Laboratory.....
Assoc. Dir.....	Fin. & Pers.....	Legal Coun.....
Dep. AD Adm.....	Gen. Inv. <i>g/kvt</i>	Plan. & Eval.....
Dep. AD Inv.....	Ident.....	Rec. Mgmt.....
Asst. Dir.: <i>Jim</i>	Inspection.....	Spec. Inv.....
Adm. Serv.....	Intell.....	Training.....

DETAILS: By memorandum dated 11/20/74, the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, requested investigation into the death of Karen Gay Silkwood. This request was based on an article appearing in the New York Times on 11/19/74, and a telegram received by the Attorney General from the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) on the same date suggesting that the death of Karen Gay Silkwood who died in a one-car accident on 11/13/74, was caused by Silkwood's automobile being hit from behind by another vehicle causing it to run off the road. The Department advised that if these allegations were substantiated a possible violation of Section 530, Title 29, USC, (through the impairment of Silkwood's rights as a union member guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, USC) and Section 1505, Title 18, USC, (in that Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)) would exist. Immediate investigation was instituted by the Oklahoma City Office on 11/21/74.

Silkwood was an employee of the Kerr-McGee Corporation Nuclear Products Division Facility at Crescent, Oklahoma, which facility is in part a plutonium fuel plant. She was a member of the OCAW and a member of the local OCAW bargaining committee which was at this time deeply embroiled in contract negotiations at Kerr-McGee Nuclear Facility Management. There had been allegations by the local that certain AEC safety regulations were being violated by the company. In addition, Silkwood allegedly had information regarding alleged falsification of certain plutonium fuel rod quality control records and she had reportedly gathered some documents to support the allegations.

Silkwood was found to be contaminated by plutonium while at work on 11/5/74. As a result of this contamination incident, she was decontaminated. On 11/6/74, it was discovered that she

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MEMORANDUM TO MR. GALLAGHER  
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD

was again contaminated at work. She was thereafter decontaminated. On 11/7/74, immediately upon her arrival at work, Silkwood was checked and found to be contaminated again. This was prior to her having an opportunity to enter a work area in the plutonium plant. A check of her apartment in Edmond, Oklahoma, determined that her apartment was also contaminated. Because of the November contamination incident, Silkwood had been placed on a daily schedule of submitting urine and fecal samples. Prior to this time she had been on a weekly schedule because of a previous contamination incident. During the period 11/10-12/74, Silkwood and her roommate [redacted] and her boyfriend, [redacted] were sent to the Los Alamos, Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico, for examination. Silkwood and her companions returned to Oklahoma 11/12/74.

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Investigation determined that on 11/13/74, Silkwood attended a union contract negotiation session and was so engaged until approximately 3:30 p.m. Following this session she was interviewed by employees of the AEC concerning her recent contamination. Following her meeting with employees of the AEC, she attended a union meeting at the Hub Cafe in Crescent, Oklahoma. According to certain individuals in attendance at this meeting at the Hub Cafe, Silkwood appeared to be upset about her contamination problem and started crying during the course of the meeting. Two individuals in attendance at this meeting were concerned about her and felt that she was in no condition to drive from Crescent to her residence and offered to drive her home, which offer she refused.

Silkwood left the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m., to go to the Holiday Inn at Oklahoma City to meet with [redacted] Legislative Assistant for the OCAW and [redacted] an investigative reporter for the New York Times. The purported reason for this meeting was Silkwood's concern over violation of safety regulations at the company and her concern with alleged falsification of certain plutonium rod quality control records. None of the other local OCAW members at this session knew that Silkwood had arranged this meeting with Wodka and Bornham nor what the meeting concerned.

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Silkwood was killed in a one car accident at approximately 7:30 p.m. on 11/13/74. Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper [redacted] was the investigating officer, and he advised he arrived at the scene of the accident at about 8:15 p.m. The accident involved a 1973 white Honda Civic two door Sedan. He checked the occupant of the vehicle, later identified as Silkwood and determined that she appeared to be dead. It was necessary to pop the door with a porta power tool before Silkwood's body could be removed from the wreck. The car was equipped with both shoulder and lap belts which were not

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MEMORANDUM TO MR. GALLAGHER  
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD

in use at the time of the accident. Investigation failed to reveal any witnesses who actually observed the accident. His investigation determined that the car was south bound on State Highway 74. He estimated that the car was traveling 50-55 m.p.h. before impact. He estimates the car speed at time of impact to be 40-45 m.p.h. The car ran off the east side of the roadway leaving the road at a very shallow angle, entered the east barditch and traveled some 255 feet in the ditch. The car struck the north side of the north retaining wall of the culvert, which crosses the highway in an east west direction. The point at which the retaining wall was struck was three feet from the face of the culvert. The car thereafter became airborne for about 24 feet, traveling across the opening of the culvert, struck the north side of the south retaining wall at a point about three feet from the face of the bridge and about three feet above ground level. There were no skid marks at any point along the path of the vehicle either on the road or in the barditch. At a point just before impact the tracks appeared to turn slightly west and toward the road. There were no skid marks at any point and the tracks along the barditch were very well defined. There was no indication that the driver was fighting for control of the car. [ ] concluded that the driver had fallen asleep. b6 b7C

The first individuals on the scene of the accident were two men and a boy of 14. These three were traveling in two vehicles, a pickup truck and a flatbed truck. The driver of the flatbed truck observed the wreck and both trucks stopped to investigate. After determining that the crashed vehicle was occupied, one of the men left the scene to call the state police. Shortly thereafter, Trooper [ ] arrived followed by an ambulance. These individuals assisted in the removal of the body from the car. One of these individuals, [ ] noticed that the tracks in the barditch left by the accident vehicle were straight and he stated that it appeared to him that the driver of the wrecked car made no effort to break or change the direction of the car until a couple of feet in front of the culvert wall. b6 b7C

No one at the scene observed anything scattered about the wreck in the nature of any type of folders or notebooks. On the back seat of the car, Trooper [ ] observed two stacks of paper relating to the union contract negotiations and other documents of a personal nature, including a red spiral notebook approximately 11 inches by 9 inches in size. Persons at the scene stated that only the contents of Silkwood's purse were scattered on the ground.

MEMORANDUM TO MR. GALLAGHER  
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD

Silkwood's car was towed by wrecker dispatched by the Ford agency in Crescent, Oklahoma following a request by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. The wrecked vehicle was removed at approximately 9:30 p.m., and was towed to the garage where it was placed still attached to the wrecker. The car was examined the following day by representatives from the Kerr-McGee plant who were accompanied by Trooper [ ] and a Crescent police officer. The car was examined and one of the examiners obtained a sample of a red looking substance from a plastic container in the wrecked vehicle. The car was checked with a geiger counter, and nothing other than the red liquid sample was taken. The personal effects from the interior of the car were placed in an oil case box by the garage owner and his assistant on 11/14/74, at approximately 9:30 a.m. At approximately 1:30 p.m., [ ] Silkwood's boyfriend came to the garage and arranged to pick up the wrecked vehicle. The personal effects were released to [ ] at this time by the garage owner.

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Silkwood's physician advised that on 10/25/74, he prescribed medication for Silkwood to assist her in sleeping. This prescription was for 30 tablets of 300 milligrams qualude (methaqualone) and was to be taken upon retiring. The Chief Medical Examiner, Board of Medicolegal investigation, Oklahoma City, who performed the autopsy, advised that methaqualone is a hypnotic sleep-inducing drug and the amount of the drug found in the system of Silkwood subsequent to her death would indicate that she was under the influence of the drug at the time of her death and was drowsy or sleepy.

A private accident investigator hired by the OCAW concluded that Silkwood's car had been hit by another car and forced off the road. This conclusion was based partially on the fact that a dent in the left rear bumper and a dent in the under panel of the left rear fender were the results of being hit by another vehicle. Scrapings from this dent were obtained by the Oklahoma Office on 12/3/74, and forwarded to the FBI Lab. The lab analysis of the paint scrapings indicate that no foreign paint or other material was evident.

In regards to possible alleged documents in possession of Silkwood concerning safety violations and falsification of records, the following is noted: A passenger in her car from the plant to the Hub Cafe, on 11/13/74, relates that they each had

MEMORANDUM TO MR. GALLAGHER  
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD

their rough notes of the union demands against the company. This individual did not see in the car any brief case or large file of paper or documents. He has no recollection of seeing anywhere in the car any items that may relate to her allegations concerning quality control.

One individual was subsequently located who recalled seeing in Silkwood's possession at the meeting a brown or tan manila folder 12 inches by 9 inches. This person did not know the contents of the folder.

No one at the scene of the accident observed anything scattered about the wreck in the nature of any type of folders or notebooks. Trooper [ ] observed on the back seat of the car two stacks of papers relating to the union contract negotiations and other documents of a personal nature, including a red spiral notebook 9 inches by 11 inches in size. b6 b7C

The garage owner and his assistant removed all personal effects from the car on the day following the accident, 11/14/74, and placed them in a oil case box which was thereafter sealed. According to the garage owner's assistant, this box contained two binders approximately 3/8 inches to 1/2 inches thick with black lettering, including the words Kerr-McGee and nuclear. This box was turned over to Silkwood's boyfriend, Stevens. According to Stevens, the folders contained old union papers and information concerning nuclear hazards, industrial ecology, type written union proposals and a small notebook 4 inches by 5 inches.

The results of our investigation were furnished to the U. S. Attorney's Office, Oklahoma City and the Criminal Division of the Department.

On the basis of the facts produced in this investigation it was determined that there was no significant indication of a violation of Federal criminal law in the death of Silkwood. On 9/22/75, our investigation was placed in a closed status.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 02 1976

TELETYPE

NR001 KX PLAIN

12:15 PM URGENT JUNE 2, 1976 WEH

TO: DIRECTOR (ATTN: INSPECTOR-ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

[REDACTED] INSPECTION DIVISION)

OKLAHOMA CITY

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b7c

FROM: KNOXVILLE (159-0)

KAREN G. SILKWOOD. LMRDA.

REMYTELCALL TO INSPECTOR [REDACTED] INSPECTION  
DIVISION, JUNE 2, 1976.

[REDACTED] TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED ME  
THIS MORNING AND ADVISED THAT HE IS AN INVESTIGATOR  
CURRENTLY WORKING WITH CONGRESSMAN DINGELL WITH RESPECT  
TO THE KAREN SILKWOOD INVESTIGATION SEVERAL YEARS AGO  
IN OKLAHOMA CITY. HE INDICATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF  
JUSTICE AND FBI HQ HAD ORDERED THE OKLAHOMA CITY DIVI-  
SION OF THE FBI TO CONDUCT CERTAIN FACETS OF THE INVES-  
TIGATION. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE HAD DEVELOPED IN-  
FORMATION THAT THERE WERE CONTRADICTIONARY ORDERS CON-  
CERNING THE SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION FROM FBI HQ IN  
THE LATTER PART OF DECEMBER, 1974, OR JANUARY, 1975.  
HE DID NOT CLARIFY WHAT THESE CONTRADICTIONARY ORDERS WERE.

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Ext. Affairs	
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REC 68

EX-101

159-4005-59

JUN 15 1976

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70 JUN 22 1976

EX-101

PAGE TWO KNOXVILLE 159-8

HE INQUIRED OF ME IF I HAD ANY RECOLLECTION OF THE MATTER, AND I TOLD HIM I HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM OKLAHOMA CITY IN DECEMBER, 1974, AND DEPARTED OKLAHOMA CITY ON TRANSFER APPROXIMATELY DECEMBER 15, 1974.

I TOLD HIM THAT I COULD NOT RECALL ANY OF THE DETAILS OF THE CASE, NOR COULD I RECALL ANY CONTRADICTORY ORDERS BEING GIVEN BY FBI HQ AT THE TIME THAT I WAS SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE AT OKLAHOMA CITY. HE ALSO MADE INQUIRY AS TO WHOM THE SUPERVISOR MIGHT HAVE BEEN, AND I TOLD HIM I COULD NOT RECALL. HE INDICATED THAT HE MAY CONTACT THE OKLAHOMA CITY DIVISION WITH RESPECT TO THIS INFORMAZION, AND I SUGGESTED THAT HE MAY DESIRE TO MAKE ANY INQUIRY REGARDING THE MATTER THROUGH FBI HQ.

END.

FCD FBIHQ

June 9, 1976

[Redacted]  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

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Dear [Redacted]:

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act request concerning the death of Karen Silkwood.

Additional material pertaining to the death of Karen Silkwood can now be released to you.

These documents consist of 250 pages and will be forwarded to you upon receipt of \$25 to cover the cost of duplication at ten cents per page. Your check or money order should be made payable to the FBI.

Sincerely yours,

G. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

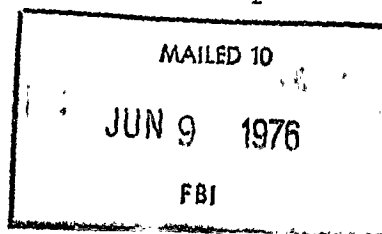
REG-59/59-4005-60  
7-13  
JUN 18 1976

1 - The Deputy Attorney General  
Attention: [Redacted]

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NOTE: Additional documents regarding the death of Karen Silkwood have been released in connection with a pending litigation captioned National Public Radio, et al., v. Edward H. Levi. Requester has already been sent a 58 page release of Silkwood documents. He is now being given the opportunity to acquire these additional documents. Documents being released from Bufile 159-4005. Documents previously released and copies can be found in Bufile 157-2702.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_



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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

RR HQ ME

DE OC

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M OKLAHOMA CITY (62-4175) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (117-2696, 117-2738, 117-2702, 159-4005) ROUTINE  
MEMPHIS (SR0UJD) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

KAREN G. SILKWOOD, ET AL, V. KERR - MC GEE CORPORATION, ET AL  
(U.S.D.C., W.D. OKLAHOMA) CIVIL ACTION # CIV-76-088-Z  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO OKLAHOMA CITY, FEBRUARY 14, 1977.

ON FEBRUARY 26, 1977, [REDACTED] ATTORNEY FOR [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] WITNESS IN INSTANT CASE, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED THE  
OKLAHOMA CITY DIVISION REGARDING POSSIBLE THREAT TO [REDACTED] BY

[REDACTED] ATTORNEY FOR THE KAREN G. SILKWOOD ESTATE. UNITED  
STATES ATTORNEY [REDACTED] CONTACTED AND HE INSTRUCTED  
AGENTS SHOULD INTERVIEW [REDACTED]

20 MAR 4 1977

ON FEBRUARY 26, 1977, [REDACTED] INTERVIEWED BY SPECIAL  
AGENTS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] ADVISED

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FEBRUARY 24, 1977, [REDACTED] TOLD HIM SHE HAD A MEETING AT

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. AD Adm.	
Dep. AD Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Ext. Aff.	
Files	
Gen. Inv.	
Ident.	
Intell.	
Lab.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Spec. Inv.	
Training	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affairs	
Director's Sec'y	

*R. J. [Signature]*

*T. [Signature]*

*Bluffin*  
*7338*

159-4005-5  
117-2696-5  
MAR 8 1977  
ORIGINAL FILED IN

0007338

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

719

MAR 15 1977 BR



PAGE TWO, OC 62-4175 CLEAR

THE ST. HENRY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, WITH ATTORNEY [ ] ALSO PRESENT WAS HER HUSBAND, [ ] AND FATHER [ ]. [ ] REQUESTED MEETING WITH [ ] TO TRY TO GET OUT OF LAWSUIT. [ ] TOLD [ ] THAT [ ] TOLD HER HE HAD LEARNED HER LIFE HAD BEEN THREATENED BY SOME GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY. [ ] DID NOT REMEMBER WHICH AGENCY OR JUST HOW [ ] WORDED HER STATEMENT AND DID NOT KNOW IF SHE HAD SAID FBI OR NOT. [ ] SAID HE DID NOT TAKE THIS POSSIBLE THREAT SERIOUSLY, HOWEVER, SROUJI DID TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

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[ ] SAID HE MENTIONED THE POSSIBLE THREAT TO DISTRICT JUDGE LUTHER B. EUBANKS ON FEBRUARY 26, 1977, AND JUDGE EUBANKS DID NOT THINK IT WAS VALID BUT TOLD [ ] TO CONTACT THE FBI IF HE DESIRED.

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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY [ ] INFORMED OF RESULTS OF INTERVIEW OF [ ] AND STATED HE WOULD NOT CONTACT JUDGE EUBANKS SINCE EUBANKS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF POSSIBLE THREAT BY ATTORNEY [ ] AND [ ] DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WAS A VALID THREAT.

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[ ] IS IN OKLAHOMA CITY, THIS DATE, FURNISHING DEPOSITION AND IS RETURNING TO NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, 4:30 P.M.,

PAGE THREE, OC 62-4175 CLEAR.

INSTANT DATE.

OKLAHOMA CITY DIVISION WILL CONDUCT NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION

IN THIS MATTER, UACB.

BT

#

0572356Z H Q 1

*leg + 1 com.*

TELETYPE

ROUTINE

E F T O

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1 - Mr. Gallagher  
Attn:   
1 - Mr. Fehl  
1 - Mr. DeBruler  
Attn:   
2/11/77

FM DIRECTOR (117-2696, 117-2738, 117-2702, 159-4005)  
TO OKLAHOMA CITY (62-4175) ROUTINE  
BT

E F T O

KAREN G. SILKWOOD, ET AL., V.

KERR-MC GEE CORPORATION, ET AL.

(U.S.D.C., W.D. OKLAHOMA)

CIVIL ACTION NO. CIV-76-088-Z

REFERENCE IS MADE TO OKLAHOMA CITY LETTERS TO  
FBIHQ DATED 1/6/77, CAPTIONED, "KAREN G. SILKWOOD, BY THE  
ADMINISTRATOR OF HER ESTATE,  ET AL., VS.  
THE KERR-MC GEE CORPORATION; ET AL., (U.S.D.C. W.D.  
OKLAHOMA), CIVIL ACTION NO. 76-0888-E, MISCELLANEOUS -  
CIVIL ACTION," AND A 2/4/77 TELETYPE BEARING THE SAME  
CAPTION.

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NOT RECORDED  
20 FEB 22 1977

IN REFERENCED 1/6/77 LETTERS, YOU ADVISED THAT,  
AS OF 1/5/77, SPECIAL AGENT (SA)

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Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_ HAD NOT BEEN ADVISED AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE DEPARTMENT  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_ OF JUSTICE WOULD PROVIDE HIM REPRESENTATION IN CAPTIONED

Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgnt \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

CB:clh  
clh

CONTINUED - OVER

17 FEB 23 1977

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

PAGE TWO 117-2696, 117-2738, 117-2702, 159-4005

CIVIL ACTION. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION HAVE BEEN RESOLVED THROUGH CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY DEFENDING THIS CIVIL ACTION AND SA [REDACTED].

A SECOND 1/6/77 LETTER ADVISED THAT INASMUCH AS SA [REDACTED] ANTICIPATED THAT HE MAY BE CALLED TO FURNISH DEPOSITIONS CONCERNING HIS ACTIONS IN THE INVESTIGATIONS WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS CIVIL ACTION, HE WAS DESIROUS OF INFORMING HIMSELF AS TO BUREAU PROCEDURES, DEPARTMENTAL REGULATIONS, AND OTHER PROVISIONS REGARDING THE MANNER IN WHICH SPECIAL AGENT DEPOSITIONS IN CIVIL ACTIONS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED. YOU ARE ADVISED THAT SA [REDACTED] SHOULD MAINTAIN CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH LEGAL INSTRUCTORS IN YOUR OFFICE CONCERNING THE ABOVE. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE INSTRUCTIONS HAVING APPLICATION TO RESPONDING TO CIVIL ACTIONS ARE CONTAINED IN PART I, SECTION 18, OF THE MANUAL OF RULES AND REGULATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE EVENT DEMANDS ARE MADE ON YOU, OR SA [REDACTED], CONCERNING TESTIMONY, OR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS IN THIS CASE, MAY BE FOUND BY REFERENCE TO THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN TITLE 28, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, SECTIONS 16.21 THROUGH 16.26.

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PAGE THREE 117-2696, 117-2738, 117-2702, 159-4005

THE THIRD REFERENCED LETTER TO FBIHQ DATED 1/6/77, REQUESTED THAT THE CONTENTS OF SEVERAL CASE FILES RELATING TO THE VARIOUS SILKWOOD INVESTIGATIONS, WHICH FILES WERE TRANSFERRED TO FBIHQ IN MAY, 1976, BE RETURNED TO YOUR OFFICE. THE 2/4/77 TELETYPE ADVISED THAT SA  COULD BE DEPOSED, IN THIS MATTER, IN APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS, AND REITERATED THE REQUEST THAT THE SILKWOOD FILES BE RETURNED TO YOUR OFFICE.

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YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THE REQUESTED FILE MATERIALS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS WILL BE FURNISHED TO YOU UNDER COVER OF A SEPARATE COMMUNICATION.

BT

NOTE: See Legal Counsel to The Associate Director memorandum dated 2/11/77, captioned as above.

APPROVED:

Director *[Signature]*  
Assoc. Dir. *[Signature]*  
Dep. AD Adm. *[Signature]*  
Dep. AD Inv. *[Signature]*

*Tul*

Adm. Serv. ....  
Ext. Affairs ....  
Fin. & Pers. ....  
Gen. Inv. *[Signature]* ....  
Ident. ....  
Intell. ....

*m/ger*  
Leg. Coun. ....  
Plan. & Insp. *[Signature]* ....  
Rec. Mgt. ....  
S. & T. Serv. ....  
Spec. Inv. ....  
Training. ....

The Attorney General

July 30, 1976

Director, FBI

**ALLEGATION THAT FBI ORDERED  
SILKWOOD INVESTIGATION STOPPED  
AFTER FOUR WEEKS**

Reference is made to letter from [redacted] to Mr. Harold N. Bassett, Assistant Director, Inspection Division, of this Bureau, dated June 17, 1976, as captioned, wherein [redacted] requested that a determination be made as to the validity of a radio news broadcast reporting that the FBI had ordered Agents investigating the Karen Silkwood case to stop their investigation after four weeks.

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By my letter dated July 28, 1976, captioned [redacted] Theft of Government Property, Fraud Against the Government, Registration Act, "you were furnished the results of investigation pertaining to Srouji and her testimony on April 26, 1976, before the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment of the Committee on Small Business, House of Representatives. Her testimony related to the Karen Silkwood matter.

Concerning the radio news broadcast reporting that the FBI ordered the Agents conducting the investigation in the Karen Silkwood case to stop their investigation after four weeks, I have had reviewed the Karen Silkwood case, as well as three other cases involving Atomic Energy Act (AEA) matters at the Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, of the Kerr - McGee Corporation. In addition to the Silkwood case, two of the three investigations initiated by the FBI were directly related to the Silkwood matter. None of these three investigations were stopped after four weeks and no instructions were issued by any Bureau officials to this effect. These two investigations are captioned as follows:

"Unknown Subject; Unauthorized Possession of Plutonium Resulting in the Contamination of Karen Silkwood (deceased), Sherri Ellis and Drew Stephens, Kerr - McGee Corporation (KMC), Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma; AEA"

159-4005  
NOT RECORDED  
AUG 9 1976

1- Messrs. Adams, Gallagher, Leavitt, Mintz, Moore

1- (159-4005) 117-2696; 117-2701; 117-2702

JAC:jmh

5 AUG 19 1976

SEE NOTE PAGE 4.

DUPLICATE YELLOW

ORIGINAL FILED IN 99-5501-90

The Attorney General

"Kerr - McGee Corporation  
Cimarron Facility  
Crescent, Oklahoma  
AEA - OOOJ"

The fourth investigation is captioned "Unknown Subject; Scattering of Uranium Fuel Pellets, Kerr - McGee Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, December 16, 1974; AEA." This case, while not directly related to the Silkwood matter, was initiated by the Oklahoma City Office on December 17, 1974, upon receipt of information from the Kerr - McGee Corporation that it was discovered on December 16, 1974, enriched uranium 235 fuel pellets had been scattered around the plant grounds at the Cimarron Facility. The Kerr - McGee Corporation reported that a search had recovered some 15 pellets and the scattering of these pellets likely occurred during the prior seven to nine days.

On December 24, 1974, a letterhead memorandum prepared by the Oklahoma City Office dated December 19, 1974, was disseminated to the Criminal Division of the Department with the request that advice be furnished as to what further investigation, if any, was desired in this matter. Subsequent to this dissemination, [redacted] Internal Security Section of the Criminal Division, advised that if the pellets were scattered deliberately by Kerr - McGee employees, such act could constitute unauthorized possession of special nuclear material and would be a criminal violation of the AEA. [redacted] advised that prior to requesting additional FBI investigation it was desired to have available for review by the Department the results of any Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) investigation. Accordingly, our Chicago Office was instructed to contact the NRC, Region 3 Office, and obtain the results of their investigation for forwarding to FBI Headquarters for Departmental review. The results of the NRC investigation were made available to the Bureau and were hand delivered to [redacted] on January 27, 1975.

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Subsequently, by letter from [redacted] Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, dated February 14, 1975, captioned "Scattering of Uranium Fuel Pellets, Kerr - McGee Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, December 16, 1974; AEA," this Bureau was requested to continue investigation with the view of identifying the individual or individuals responsible for this incident.

The Attorney General

As a result of this instruction, investigation was continued and reports of Special Agent [redacted], dated March 19, 1975; May 12, 1975; and June 17, 1975, were disseminated to the U. S. Attorney in Oklahoma City, as well as to the Criminal Division of the Department and the NRC.

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Based on the review of FBI files, it would appear that the matter pertaining to the scattering of uranium fuel pellets may have given rise to the reported radio news broadcast referred to in [redacted] letter.

For your additional information, on June 2, 1976, [redacted] staff member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment (Dingell Committee), telephonically contacted Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Harold C. Swanson of our Knoxville Office and advised he is working with Congressman Dingell with respect to the Karen Silkwood investigation of several years ago in Oklahoma City. [redacted] indicated to Mr. Swanson that the Department of Justice and FBI Headquarters had ordered the Oklahoma City Division of the FBI to conduct certain facets of the investigation and he had developed information that there were contradictory orders concerning the scope of the investigation from FBI Headquarters in the latter part of December, 1974, or in January, 1975. [redacted] did not clarify for Mr. Swanson what these contradictory orders were, but did inquire if Mr. Swanson had any recollection of the matter. Mr. Swanson advised [redacted] that he had been transferred from the position of SAC of the Oklahoma City Office in December, 1974, and departed that same month to his current assignment as SAC in Knoxville. Mr. Swanson informed [redacted] that he could not recall any of the details of the Silkwood case nor could he recall any contradictory orders being given by FBI Headquarters at the time he was SAC at Oklahoma City. [redacted] indicated to Mr. Swanson that he might contact the Oklahoma City Division concerning this matter. Mr. Swanson suggested to [redacted] that he may desire to make any inquiry regarding the matter to FBI Headquarters..

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If any further inquiry is desired concerning this matter, please so advise.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

1 - [redacted]  
Office of Professional Responsibility

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NOTE: Upon receipt of [ ] letter of 6/17/76, the General Investigative and Intelligence Divisions were requested to review the investigations conducted by the Oklahoma City Office at the Cimarron Facility of the Kerr - McGee Corporation, Crescent, Oklahoma. Memoranda S. S. Mignosa to Mr. Leavitt dated 6/25/76, and L. E. Rhyme to Mr. Gallagher dated 6/22/76, set forth results of review of the Silkwood case and three AEA matters conducted by the Oklahoma City Office.

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Information concerning conversation of Peter Stockton with SAC Swanson, Knoxville, set forth in Knoxville teletype to Bureau, 6/2/76.

The response to [ ] letter was held in abeyance until the letter to the Attorney General dated 7/28/76, setting forth the results of the [ ] inquiry had been forwarded to the Department.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# The Silkwood Case

By Mark N. Whitney

Once in a while a news story comes along that refuses to die. When that happens it is most often because the facts surrounding the story are left shrouded with unanswered questions.

Those unanswered questions remain alive because either investigative agencies or the media default on their responsibilities and fail to pursue the truth in the face of confusion or persuasion. Once in a while such a story refuses to die simply because it is so controversial. That controversy meshed with unanswered questions creates an atmosphere of ongoing curiosity and doubt.

This is the story of such an incident and the part Oklahoma media played in answering the questions that surround it.

Karen Silkwood was an employee of Kerr-McGee Corporation. She died Nov. 13, 1974, in an automobile accident near Kerr-McGee's plutonium enrichment plant in Crescent, Oklahoma.

In the months since, questions about her death and the Kerr-McGee nuclear facility have remained unanswered. Furthermore, questions have arisen concerning the role of the Oklahoma media in dealing with this incident.

Silkwood was a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Worker's International Union and was trying to document certain safety allegations against Kerr-McGee.

According to union officials, on the evening of her death she was on her way to

Oklahoma City to meet with a union representative and David Burnham, a reporter for the New York Times. At least one witness has sworn Silkwood carried with her evidence concerning alleged safety problems at the plant.

Approximately one mile from Crescent her car left the road and apparently struck the concrete wing wall of a culvert.

Both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Oklahoma Highway patrol investigated the accident and failed to find evidence of foul play. The official report concluded that she fell asleep at the wheel.

State Medical Examiner Jay Chapman said her body contained "more than a therapeutic dose..." of methaqualone, a hypnotic drug she was using as a tranquilizer.

A private investigator, A.O. Pipkin, hired by the OCAW union, found evidence that Silkwood's car could have been forced off of the road.

Silkwood's death and the subsequent investigations and allegations were covered by several out-of-state newspapers, television networks and magazine. Both the CBS and ABC television networks carried the incident on the evening news. The New York Times covered the incident, and continued to run occasional stories on Kerr-McGee with regard to nuclear energy. Rolling Stone and Ms. magazines ran lengthy feature articles concerning Silkwood and Kerr-McGee.

ABC devoted a segment of one "Reasoner Report" to questions

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep.-A.D.-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep.-A.D.-Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Aff. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intel. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lab. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y. \_\_\_\_\_

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Oklahoma Observer  
 Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: March 25, 1976  
 Edition: Weekly  
 Author: Mark N. Whitney  
 Editor:  
 Title: Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,  
 Crescent, Oklahoma;  
 Karen G. Silkwood

Character:

or

Classification: 159-45  
 Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

NOT RECORDED

48 JUN 7 1976

56 JUN 09 1976

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 b7c

surrounding her wreck and Kerr-McGee's operations.

It noted that officials of Kerr-McGee had refused to talk with them, as they had also refused to speak with state media.

It also brought out that trooper Rick Fagan made the initial report for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. On the force for only a few months, it was one of his first fatality accidents.

ABC news correspondent David Schoumacker interviewed one of the Patrol's top accident investigators, Lt. Larry Owen.

Schoumacker: Why did his (Pipkin's) investigators find no trace of concrete in the dent?

Lt. Owen: I don't know. I really...it's a very good question. I had not had the opportunity to take samples. We didn't take samples that night.

Schoumacker: Why didn't you do it at some point since then?

Lt. Owen: We haven't had access to the vehicle mainly.

Schoumacker: But you certainly could ask for it.

Lt. Owen: We checked to see if there was a possibility of finding the vehicle and were unsuccessful in locating it.

Schoumacker: It's a little surprising to me that the Oklahoma Highway Patrol is so powerless to go out and get it if it wants it.

Lt. Owen: Well, it depends on how bad you want it.

Schoumacker: If you want the car bad enough to make two phone calls, which is all we did, you can find it?

ABC affiliates in Oklahoma City and Tulsa do not normally air the "Reasoner Report," and therefore did not air this particular segment. In the smaller communities of Ada and Lawton the show was aired. However, station representatives don't recall receiving any particular feed-back from the community as a result.

Frosty Troy, editor of the Oklahoma Observer, a newspaper of commentary, was asked if he thought the Oklahoma news media gave adequate coverage to the story.

Troy replied, "Good Lord, no."

Elaborating, Troy said that coverage in the Daily Oklahoman was good as far as it went.

Of the two major newspapers in the Oklahoma City area, Troy said, "Both papers were strictly (pro) Kerr-McGee editorially."

"KTOK (radio) was going," said Troy. But he was unimpressed with their coverage after Joe Pennington, their assistant news director, left.

Pennington, who had done most of KTOK's investigative reporting of the incident, when asked, acknowledged that he left the station partially because of disagreements over the coverage of the

Silkwood story.

Now working in Columbus, Ohio, Pennington stated, "Generally, I think the coverage was bad...or even worse. Not to pat either myself or KTOK on the back, I do feel our reporting of the matter was the best in the state.

"I feel it was handled well by KTOK...with good, solid research and documentation every step of the way. I don't know why other media in the city did not choose to apply the same resources that KTOK did.

"I know now that management influence was apparently exerted in some quarters."

Pennington hypothesized that perhaps because of the complex technical aspects of the nuclear process some journalists found it easy to shy away from the article. He suggested that perhaps some editors merely did not find the story of sufficient community interest.

He added that it was his personal belief that fear, lack of experience, personnel problems and intimidation all helped cause poor coverage of the story by most of the Oklahoma City media.

"I worked very closely with several national publications in the preparation of material for articles on the story. Without exception, every reporter with whom I consulted expressed consternation at the lack of proper coverage in Oklahoma City.

"Whatever the case," he concluded, "it is clear to me the story was not adequately revealed by any Oklahoma City media source other than KTOK."

Alan Bromley, the reporter who dealt most frequently with this incident for the Daily Oklahoman, said that it was his opinion that the Oklahoma Publishing Company provided the only really good coverage of the story in Oklahoma City.

"The paper gave me a lot of time," said Bromley. "I don't know if more coverage would answer more questions."

He said that it was just a matter of putting in time, and explained that very early in the coverage he was shut off by the union as well as Kerr-McGee.

### OPUBCO Defended

Jim Standard, managing editor of the Daily Oklahoman, was asked if he thought coverage of the Silkwood incident was adequate in his newspaper. His answer was that he thought it was covered as adequately as any story ever is.

"When we first broke the story, the articles did not put Kerr-McGee in a very good light," said Standard. "If a party is less than candid it will reflect in an unfavorable light. And there was little

response from them (Kerr-McGee) or an official source. Eventually, the weight of events turned to knocking down any murder allegation.

"We tried to tell the story...tried to cover Kerr-McGee fairly. There was no internal decision to slant the news.

"If they called this paper, information of it never reached this level, I can't imagine Kerr-McGee trying to influence us.

"However, I don't see how anyone could not have unanswered questions."

In the six months following Karen Silkwood's death the Daily Oklahoman and the Oklahoma City Times, its evening paper, published approximately 68 articles related to her or Kerr-McGee. Of those, 41 tended to reflect favorably on the corporation, while 27 did not.

John Clabes, managing editor of the Oklahoma Journal, the city's other major newspaper, was asked if he thought his paper gave enough information to its readers to allow them to have intelligent attitudes toward nuclear energy.

He replied, "We weren't trying to give readers an education. We tried to say 'without atoms you'll be cold.'"

The possibility of management influence and intimidation which Pennington spoke of, is perhaps the most serious aspect of the media's coverage on this story.

It is, of course, the right of a managing editor or news director to question or direct a reporter's coverage of a story. But why he does so can have ethical implications.

Bromley did not feel OPUBCO had buckled to any sort of pressure, pointing out that the story had been played on the front page for two and a half months.

John Clabes said he thought it was the Journal's responsibility to show the other side of the story, that OPUBCO was going all out to "get" Kerr-McGee and the Journal was showing people not only that Kerr-McGee was not at fault, but that he felt they had been portrayed falsely by OPUBCO.

He pointed to the story of the Atomic Energy Commission's final findings on the case, clearing Kerr-McGee. The Journal, he said, ran the story on the front page along with a related editorial. The Oklahoman ran it on an inside page. This, according to Clabes, pointed out that OPUBCO was ashamed of their earlier coverage of the story.

As to the possibility that pressure had been applied by Kerr-McGee, Clabes said, "No. Kerr-McGee just doesn't run that kind of a business."

Oklahoma City is served by three major television stations, all affiliated with different national television networks. Of the three separate news directors, only one was reasonably satisfied with the way his station covered the story.

As news director of KTVY (then WKY), the NBC affiliate, Ernie Schultz stated that he felt that his station gave the story the coverage it deserved.

KTVY was then the number one rated news station in its market. Schultz and his crew tended to give this story a very conservative play.

Third in the market is KOCO-TV, the ABC affiliate. ABC's "Reasoner Report" used a great deal of KOCO footage for their segment on Karen Silkwood.

Ron Hudson at KOCO explained that coverage of the story at his station continued for six months into April.

"I was not satisfied," said Hudson, "because the story never reached a conclusion. A conclusion hasn't yet been reached."

As a member of the KOCO news staff, Linda Cavanaugh spent a considerable amount of time on the Silkwood case.

Like Hudson, she was not satisfied with the coverage because it had no concrete conclusion. Although she stated that she had difficulty getting anyone to talk about the Silkwood story, her primary complaints were about television staff organization.

### Reasoner Report

She said, "The set-up in Oklahoma City television news is not conducive to investigative reporting. We have a staff of four or five people who are responsible for three or more stories a day. It's not like David Shoumaker who can come down here and work on a story for a week."

"It is a shame that with a big story like this, no reporters were allowed to break free of the regular routine."

Both she and Hudson stated that they experienced no internal or external pressure concerning the Silkwood story.

Roy Charles is the news director at KFTV, Oklahoma City's CBS affiliate.

Said Charles: "If you're saying the local media dropped the ball, I couldn't agree with you more. We were sitting on the story of the year and didn't have sense enough to know it."

"We got a particularly good break early in the story, and handled the first phases very well. But it was very disappointing."

"We got a good start, then, I suppose we were derelict in not following it up. But it was from sloppiness on our part, and not from any pressure."

"I wouldn't be surprised if some contacts were made between public relations people. There's nothing unusual about that. But I personally didn't experience any pressure."

Did Kerr-McGee successfully use its influence to control media coverage of the story?

According to Pennington, officials of Kerr-McGee notified KTOK vice-president and general manager Kenneth Gaines once, and perhaps twice, to express

displeasure with the presentation. Gaines allegedly responded with an offer of free broadcast time for a representative of Kerr-McGee with KTOK reporters questioning him. The offer was not accepted.

Gaines declined to comment on these allegations.

Frosty Troy related that the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce told officials at OPUBCO that Kerr-McGee was considering moving its corporate headquarters from Oklahoma City. He cited State Rep. Thomas Bamberger as his source.

### What Pressures?

When asked about this, Bamberger refused to either confirm or deny it.

Paul Strausbaugh, a member of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, was asked if there had been any confrontations between members of the Chamber and local newsmen regarding the Silkwood story.

He replied, "I'm not even going to touch that. No thank you."

Phil Van Stavern of KTOK stated that Strausbaugh and Chamber president Ed Cook used the press conference of an Oklahoma U.S. Senator to criticize reporters for their critical coverage of Kerr-McGee.

"Strausbaugh," he said, "told me he had always wanted to meet someone trying to ruin his country."

Pennington, on one hand, pointed out that it is unlikely that Kerr-McGee would really consider moving when they have so much invested in their present location.

Troy, on the other hand, stated, "It would be rather odd if they had power and influence and didn't try to use it."

What if the papers succumbed to the pressure?

Jim Standard admitted that initially at least the articles in his paper reflected unfavorably on Kerr-McGee. But after January 1, 1975, there was a turn-around, with 41 articles tending to favor Kerr-McGee in the next four months, and only eight tending to reflect unfavorably.

Standard attributes that to the story

having run its natural course.

Although the Journal initially covered the basics of the Silkwood incident, they appeared to be editorially pro-Kerr-McGee, publishing 26 stories tending to be favorable as opposed to nine tending to be unfavorable.

Included in their coverage was a front-page editorial and an article announcing that Dean McGee, chairman of the board of Kerr-McGee, was named as a member of an advisory board dealing with long-range energy problems for the federal government.

Did the abrupt turn-about by the Oklahoman and the lower news play by the Journal indicate that they were pressured into not covering the Silkwood story?

Alan Bromley stated that while he "assumed pressure was applied from Kerr-McGee, I never felt it personally."

Over one year after the incident, the Silkwood-McGee story has not died.

There have been lawsuits filed by a national women's organization and a broadcasters organization that demand information related to the incident.

Officially, Kerr-McGee's facility in Crescent is closed indefinitely because of economic problems.

As for the role the Oklahoma media played in dealing with the incident, it is shrouded like the incident itself in a veil of questions, allegations and little concrete proof.

From the transcript of the "Reasoner Report" it is evident that there are several points related to the incident that were not made available to the Oklahoma public.

One of the two major Oklahoma City newspapers (The Journal) admittedly took a specific side of the issue.

In addition, from the time the incident occurred, officials of Kerr-McGee have refused to speak with the local or national media.

Many local newsmen still find themselves with a feeling of dissatisfaction because the story never reached a conclusion.

If the media was unaffected by external or internal pressure, and yet still have unanswered questions, what about the public? Have they been informed?

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO :

[Redacted]

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DATE: 9/7/77

FROM :

[Redacted]

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST  
FROM THE NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, CONCERNING  
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

## PURPOSE:

To furnish to Legal Counsel requested documents processed under FOIA pertaining to plutonium contamination investigation of Karen Gay Silkwood, deceased (Bufile 117-2702).

## DETAILS:

Karen Silkwood, deceased, worked for Kerr McGee Corporation, Nuclear Products Division, Crescent, Oklahoma. She was involved in plutonium contamination incidents and also her apartment was found to be contaminated. She was active in union activities at the plant. She died the evening of 11/13/74 in a one car accident. The circumstances surrounding the contamination incidents involving Silkwood, her apartment, etc., have been the subject of much controversy and sensational publicity in the various media.

Information concerning her death, Bufile 159-4005, has been released under FOIA and information concerning our investigation into her contamination, Bufile 117-2702, has been withheld (this has been supported by District Court decision).

## Enclosure

2 - Mr. Mintz

Attn: [Redacted]

Attn: [Redacted]

1 - Mr. Moore

Attn: [Redacted]

DRW:dkg (6)

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159-4005-61

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FBI/DOJ

Mr. Bresson to Mr. Decker Memo  
Re: FOIA Request from the National Public  
Radio, Concerning Karen Gay Silkwood

On 8/24/77, SA [ ] Legal Counsel, advised that the Department's Civil Division desired to release information contained in the contamination investigation, and requested FOIA Disclosure Section to process Bufile 117-2702. As the investigation dealt with technical matters in the atomic energy field, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was consulted. NRC from 8/26/77 to 9/6/77 reviewed all material in file 117-2702 through serial 57 and advised material was not classified and suggested no other FOIA exemptions.

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In view of the public and congressional interest and wide news media coverage of this landmark case, maximum disclosure has been made. Many third party names have been released because of public exposure of these individuals or that disclosure would not be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. A very minimum amount of information has been withheld under FOIA exemption (b) (7) (C) (privacy). Attached for Legal Counsel are 406 pages. There is a duplication charge of 10 cents per page for a total of \$40.60 if material is released by Department's Civil Division.

Disclosure Section was informed that [ ] the deceased's father, is suing Kerr McGee Corporation and two FBI Agents involved in investigation. This release should be coordinated with SA [ ] Legal Counsel to determine if it will have any adverse effect on this current litigation.

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[ ] has obtained all available documents relating to the death investigation of his daughter. Contamination investigation documents to be released by the Department will be made available to Mr. Silkwood due to his FOIA request for all information in this matter.

ACTION:

None. For information.

*APW*  
*B*