Weaver Criticizes AF On Titans

The U.S. Air Force has not answered the critics on the placing of missile bases around Tucson. City Councilman Ray Weaver said today:

"I feel we need more information before we can express our complete confidence in the Air Force and Defense Department," Weaver said.

"The issue has not been squarely met by the Air Force. They have not sought to answer the questions raised by Dr. (James E.) McDonald but have talked around them."

McDonald is senior physicist at the University of Arizona Institute of Atmospheric Physics and leader of a group of Tucson citizens calling the Committee Against Ringing Tucson With Titans.

This committee has appealed to the Air Force to consider radiation fallout and wind directions in selecting missile sites. It argues that missile bases will draw enemy nuclear fire resulting in radiation to be blown by prevailing winds—generally from the West.

"The Air Force has told us that there is no point in considering the placing of missile bases since we will be destroyed anyhow," Weaver said.

"Of course, if we accept this point then there is no need of any more discussion. But I cannot accept it. It does not make sense to me. It is a specious argument to camouflage whatever their real argument is."

"The Air Force has said the critics will be prime targets. I don't believe it."

One argument is that centers of populations will be hit to destroy the will to resist.

"Said much as any future enemy is anticipated to be overt within a few hours, the general attitude of the people and their willingness to resist would not be an element of defense policy," Weaver said.

"If it is all going to be in a few hours we have every right to expect that there would be no point in an aggressor's trying to decrease the population."

"Even in our war against Germany our primary targets were not civilian."

Another question is whether an aggressor would have missiles in "export" on cities. It would be censored immediately with knocking out our retaliatory power and this would take huge numbers of missiles.

"This is critically important," Weaver said. "If they don't have enough in waste they would not throw missiles at a community that is a relatively minor target."

The Air Force committed a breach of faith in not sending a team of experts to Tucson to explain its position, Weaver said:

"We would have come to grips with the real issues," he added. "As it is, the issues are being traded."

"Weaver called McDonald a highly motivated person."

"I think he is in a position to stand up and fight when many who are supposed to be concerned with the welfare of Tucson have not shown much concern," Weaver said.

Council Skips Decision At 'Missile Meeting'

City Council members listened over the weekend to a report of the Committee Against Ringing Tucson With Titans (CARTT), but came to no decision.

Pending before the council is a resolution expressing official municipal confidence in the Air Force to give full consideration to fallout dangers in deciding the locations of the missile complexes. The Air Force, headed by a University of Arizona physicist, Dr. James McDonald, is urging that Titan missile sites be located outside of the city to lessen the dangers from atomic fallout in the event of an enemy attack on the launching sites.

The CARTT members asked the special hearing in an effort to head off passage of the resolution. The matter will come to a head this afternoon when the council is scheduled to take a final vote on the resolution.

At least four council members, Ray Weaver, who has indicated he does not feel the Air Force has answered the arguments of the CARTT group, and at least two more council members say they are uncertain whether or not they will vote on the resolution.

Mayor Don Hummel went to Washington two weeks ago and gained agreement from the Air Force officials that a team would be sent here, but the move was later canceled after Washington officials began getting assurances of confidence from local individuals and organizations.

Hummel appeared astounded Saturday in his stand that the Air Force has considered the fallout problem and has good reasons for locating the missile sites where they are. He was critical personally in stating that the CARTT group, and indicated he would be overruled by the council for any of the committee's requests to be carried out.

At the recent CARTT press conference Saturday, Dr. Paul S. Martin of the university, pointed out there is disregard among top government scientists on the change of tactics and the dangers of casualties. He said that in locating

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