

# Lockheed given go-ahead

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1-24-79

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The Santa Cruz County Planning Commission voted Monday to approve the application of Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. for a permit to expand its facilities in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Another large crowd — perhaps 1,500 at the outset — was present at the hearing in Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium to observe and take part in a process that had begun as a simple land use issue and evolved into a debate over American nuclear arms policy.

There was a lot of cheering, booing, clapping and shouting during the four-and-a-half hours of testimony and comments, but there were no serious incidents.

The crowd was a study in contrasts. In the majority were the ardent opponents of the application, which they viewed as an effort by Lockheed to expand its ability to manufacture nuclear weapons components.

A sizeable contingent of people who supported the Lockheed application were present, too. They were mostly middle-aged, mostly conservatively dressed, and almost unanimously invoked such traditional arguments as the need for a strong defense and the economic value of the county of the Lockheed facility.

The audience and planning commissioners heard 32 speakers — divided precisely into those for and against Lockheed's application. It was often difficult to detect any relevance to the issues involved in a number of instances. Among the more intriguing presentations were:

—The reading by a young woman of a poem she said she had written after the last hearing. The poem seemed to be about a man watching the nuclear destruction of the earth while sitting on the toilet.

—A rambling discourse by a young man in which a point was difficult to discern but which included numerous references to the Book of Job, which the young man pronounced to rhyme with cob.

—The reading of a letter which was purportedly written by an Indian chief to President Franklin Pierce (circa 1852) and which was a lyrical evocation of the Indians' reverence for life and the land as opposed to the rapacity and insensitivity of the white man.

It was a demonstration of the intimate relationship of politics and the theater.

Perhaps the same could be said of the appearance of a Japanese man, who said he went into Hiroshima as a member of the Japanese Navy the day after the atomic bomb devastated that city during World War II. Speaking in Japanese, with a woman providing the translation, the man told of how radiation poisoning had turned his life into a living hell and urged the planning commissioners to join the anti-nuclear crusade by turning down the Lockheed application. He was ardently applauded after his presentation by the anti-Lockheed forces, but he had created obvious resentment among some others, many of whom were old enough to have fought in the war and whose feelings were perhaps summed up by a statement from a

subsequent speaker that "Pearl Harbor came before Hiroshima."

Essentially, there were no new arguments introduced in last night's hearings, the fourth held by the Planning Commission on the matter in four months. The opponents of granting the Lockheed permit reiterated their arguments that the Lockheed facility would be engaged in manufacturing components for a nuclear weapons system that would give the United States a "first strike" nuclear capability in contravention to proclaimed American defense policy, not to mention international law. Opponents also argued that granting the application would violate the county's land use regulations.

Lockheed's supporters denied that the Trident system on which the aerospace firm is working constitutes a first strike system but, in any event, they said that the formulation of defense policy is left to the Congress by the Constitution and is not an issue a county planning commission ought to be involved in. They also, with the support of the recommendation of the county planning staff, denied that granting the permit would violate the county's land use regulations.

The Planning Commission made it clear at the outset that it was determined to make its decision at last night's meeting and voted to cut off the public hearing as of 10:30. This met with objections from Lockheed opponents who contended it was a violation of the public hearing process. But, with Deputy County Counsel Dwight Herr giving

them legal support, the board held firm on the cut-off time.

The commissioners themselves didn't waste much time after the hearing was closed in revealing their sentiments. Chairman Stan Nielsen and Commissioners D. W. Gotthold, Ivan Eberly and John Dixon quickly indicated they saw little merit in the arguments of the anti-Lockheed forces. On the nuclear weapons issue, they agreed that it was not a policy to be decided by a planning commission, and on the land use issue, they agreed that granting Lockheed the requested permit would not violate county regulations.

Only Commissioner Ceelia Von der Muhll came down on the side of the anti-Lockheed forces. She agreed with the contention of People for a Nuclear Free Future — the organization that is spearheading the opposition — that a planning commissioner's duties transcend simple land use matters where such a critical national policy as nuclear weaponry is concerned. She said she had written Rep. Leon Panetta asking a series of questions about our nuclear and defense policy and until she got answers to them, "I'm not ready to approve this application."

In addition, Ms. Von der Muhll said she believed granting the application would be a violation of the county's Parks, Open Space and Recreation (PROs) plan and that Lockheed had not met all the demands of the Environmental Impact Report.

But she was a minority of one. In the end, the Planning Commission approved the application.