

TMI radiation effects disputed

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

LANCASTER — The number of cancer deaths and genetic defects among offspring of Three Mile Island cleanup workers may be higher than the Nuclear Regulatory Commission originally reported in its study of cleanup alternatives for the crippled plant.

The NRC, in its draft environ-

mental impact statement, predicted less than one or two deformed children would be born to parents who had assisted in the \$1 billion cleanup after the 1979 accident.

Using figures released in the NRC's final report, however, Dr. Thomas Cochran, a physicist on the NRC's citizens advisory panel to the TMI cleanup, said Thursday night the number could be nine or

as high as 18 over the next 10 generations.

Genetic abnormalities can, in part, cause certain forms of sickle-cell anemia, one type of diabetes, schizophrenia, epilepsy and Down's syndrome, according to Frank Congel, an NRC radiological physicist who was present at Thursday's meeting of the citizens

panel at the Lancaster City Council chambers.

The revised number of possible cancer deaths could be as high as three, Cochran said. The NRC had originally suggested it could be less than one.

After some discussion, NRC officials attending the meeting concurred that Cochran's arithmetic was correct.

Cochran told reporters the federal nuclear regulators had used an optimistic figure for the possible risk workers faced during decontamination. Since the risk cannot be predicted with certainty, Cochran said the worst possible cases of radiation dosage and odds of genetic defects also must be calculated.

The new data could prompt

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Mob linked to nuclear plant security

Peach Bottom, TMI, Salem union targets

□ A Delta pastor has been elected shop steward for the striking Peach Bottom security guards. Page 4A.

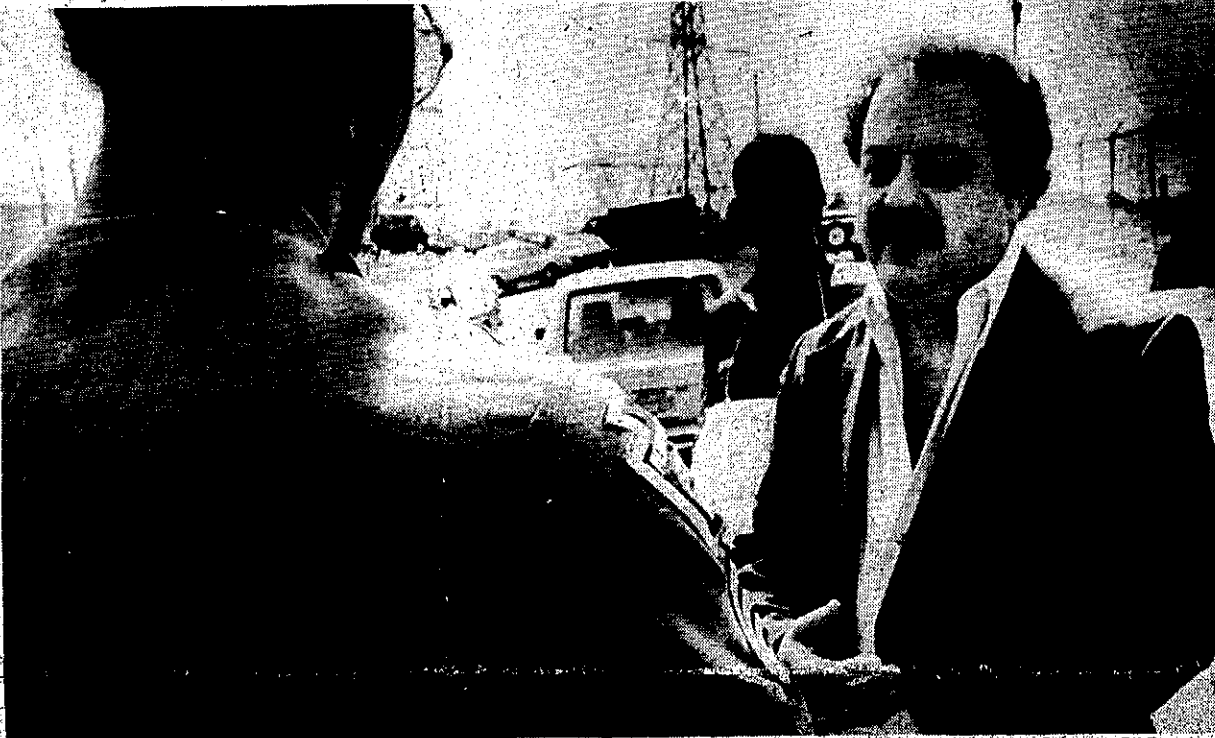
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By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

A labor union with suspected ties to a New York mafia family has found a potentially lucrative source of income — security guards at Atlantic City casinos and East Coast nuclear power plants including Peach Bottom in York County.

With favorable results in numerous current campaigns, an umbrella union called the Federation of Special Police & Law Enforcement Officers could increase by 16 percent its 15,000 members.

But employers have blocked — with appeals to federal labor mediators — the union's recruiting drive at five casinos and eight nuclear power plants.



Record Photo by Bill Bowden

Anthony Tomasso on picket line when Peach Bottom strike began.

Managers of both industries say they are worried the Federation could exert undue influence over the shore resort's gaming houses or disrupt operations at nuclear facilities.

"The danger's inherent," said

Jack Geraty, vice president of labor relations of Burns International Security Services Inc., the New York firm under contract to provide security at Peach Bottom.

"What could be more sensitive than a nuclear plant? It's a power-

ful thing over which to have control."

Peach Bottom Atomic Power Plant is one of 24 Burns' nuclear clients around the country. The Federation currently is striking

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N.J. casinos fear security unionization

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

Casino-watchers fear a mob-tainted union will organize its way right into the cash boxes of Atlantic City gaming houses by recruiting their security guard employees.

Guards who routinely escort gambling proceeds to back office vaults could be replaced by syndicate-picked guards who might pilfer the funds instead, according to New Jersey law enforcement officials.

More significantly, unionized guards might attempt to influence the lucrative casinos through work stoppages, according to Lt. Col. Justin Dintino, chief of intelligence of the New Jersey state police. New Jersey law prohibits casinos from operating during a guard strike.

Payoffs for labor harmony have not been ruled out either, according to other law enforcement officials.

So far, the Federation of Special Police & Law Enforcement Officers has collected enough signa-

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Peach Bottom, in Delta, to gain recognition as a bargaining unit. Last Aug. 7, it won a union election, 54-21.

The union also has tried to organize guards of at least seven other nuclear power plants, none of which is under contract with Burns. The plants include: Three Mile Island; Oyster Creek, N.J.; Seabrook, N.H.; James E. Guina, Ontario, Canada; Connecticut Yankee, Haddam Neck, N.Y.; Salem, Lower Alloways Creek, N.J.; and Indian Point, Buchanan, N.Y.

Burns objects to what it calls the union's "amorphous, changing structure," its organizing tactics, and alleged connections to organized crime figures, according to Geraty.

TMI officials also have objected to the Federation's petition for an election at the crippled facility. TMI officials have drawn federal labor mediators' attention to reports about the character of the union.

The NLRB is powerless to police unions, according to Philadelphia regional director Peter M. Hirsch.

Allegations of ties to organized crime are "ridiculous" tactics by management to keep the union out, says Anthony Tomasso, Power Plant Police Local 1 vice president and a Federation organizer. He was a principle organizer of the Peach Bottom union.

"We're in the union business because we see a need to professionalize the (security guard) industry," said Tomasso in an interview near New Jersey's Salem nuclear plants, the site of another Federation Local 1 strike. "Guards are underpaid and absolutely at the mercy of management."

"The minute they hear the word union, people draw an association with organized crime — it's ridiculous," said Tomasso, a 41-year-old resident of Hamden, Conn.

Tomasso disagrees with union critics who say an organized force could disrupt operations at nuclear plants. "National security is at stake," he says.

Prolonged strikes could affect a reactor's security — particularly those such as Peach Bottom and Salem that contract all security

guards, according to Jim Devlin, a security chief for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Burn's case against the Federation is currently before the NLRB. The regional office in Philadelphia rejected the company's first round of objections and referred the subsequent appeal to arbitrators in Washington.

Whatever the outcome, NLRB's Hirsch says the board cannot regulate nor police unions.

For their part, nuclear generator and casino operators are watching closely a federal grand jury investigation of the Federation's use of union funds, according to New Jersey police investigators and the Brooklyn Organized Crime Strike Force.

Daniel Cunningham, president of the umbrella union, is bearing most of the brunt of the federal investigation, according to a Strike Force investigator.

The Federation locals include Power Plant Police Local 1; Casino Police and Security Officers Local 2; and Brotherhood of Police and

Security Officers Local 3. They are run by an almost interchangeable set of officers, according to U.S. Labor Department records.

All the locals list the same Great Neck, N.Y., address.

Last year, the union and its affiliates collected about \$446,000 in dues and fees and collectively paid its officers about \$173,000 in salaries and expenses, according to U.S. Labor Department records.

Tomasso said he earned about \$20,000 as president of Local 3 and vice president of Local 1.

Law enforcement investigators say Cunningham, whose salary is \$135,000 annually, has been observed meeting with Genovese crime family members in New York.

The Genovese syndicate is a powerful New York crime family believed to be involved in the stolen securities market and interested in casino service-supply industries, according to the 1980 Pennsylvania Crime Commission report.

Tomasso denied ties to the Genovese or any other organized crime family.

However, former Federation or-

ganizer Frank Salvatto allegedly remarked to a guard at New Jersey's Salem nuclear power plants that, "You'll hear we are Mafia but if we make a dollar and you make a dollar, who cares?" according to testimony before the NLRB.

Salvatto no longer works for the Federation, according to Tomasso and New York law enforcement authorities.

Tomasso, overseer of the Peach Bottom and Salem organizing efforts and strikes, also is under law enforcement scrutiny.

According to the Connecticut Labor Department, Tomasso failed to pay a portion of unemployment compensation insurance due in 1978-79 while he owned a detective agency in New Haven.

Tomasso acknowledged the delinquent account but said, "I think if you check into it, you'll find most companies hold back on their unemployment insurance payments."

The Federation's push to organize casino guards and other Atlantic City security employees, which began in 1977, is not without heavy-handed tactics.

One detective agency manager allegedly was threatened with physical abuse unless he signed a union contract, according to NLRB records.

Law enforcement officials say the Federation has the best chance of any union vying for lucrative turf in New Jersey's "Queen of the Resorts."

The Federation has gathered petitions for union elections at Atlantic City's Bally, Golden Nugget, Resorts International, Caesars Boardwalk Regency and Greate Bay (Brighton) casino/hotels. Only Playboy and Harrah's casinos remain uninvolved.

Nuclear plant guards have not been as responsive. NRC's Devlin said that's because nuclear plant security guards are better paid than guards in other industries.

Thirty of Salem's 100 guards are walking the picket lines, Devlin said. And about 15 of 80 guards remain on strike at Peach Bottom.

Tomasso disagreed with the government's headcount. "I'll show you 115 striking guards at Salem," he said.

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tures for guard union elections at five of the shore resort's seven casino/hotels.

But employers have blocked balloting with protests to federal labor mediators about the union's push for East Coast security guards. They say Federation affiliates also have enlisted non-guards in violation of federal labor law.

The National Labor Relations Board is weighing that charge in a test case involving Bally's Park Place casino. Its outcome will determine the union's future in the growing security guard industry, law enforcement officials say.

Despite the controversy, authorities say the Federation, whose leaders are under federal grand jury investigation in Brooklyn for misuse of union funds, has a good chance of representing almost 1,600 casino guards — if elections are ever held.

The New York-based Federation has not enjoyed a monopoly of the casino guards' attention. Since 1977, it has had to spar with Atlantic City unions for organizing leverage.

Competition with Security Officers Local 40B, an Atlantic City union sanctioned by the late Philadelphia mobster Angelo Bruno, was particularly fierce after Bruno's slaying March 21, according to law enforcement officials.

The struggle came to a head last spring when organizers from the

Federation's Casino Police and Security Officers Local 2 got into a fistfight with the homegrown Local 40B, which was founded by a few ex-policemen from Atlantic City. The NLRB had ruled Local 40B was ineligible to represent security guards because of its ties to trade union and other non-guard affiliates.

Local 40B's organizing efforts dwindled further after its backer, John McCullough, a Bruno protegee, was shot six times in the head Dec. 16, 1980, police sources say. Two of its founders have since rejoined the Atlantic City police force.

A lot of speculation rose immediately after McCullough died that the union competition was in part responsible for his execution. But New Jersey police officials say there's no indication the Federation was involved.

That's not to say the Federation hasn't been linked to strong-arm tactics, though.

In 1977, Federation president Daniel Cunningham and vice president Herman Jaffe (who organized a guard election at Peach Bottom atomic power plant in Delta) allegedly threatened to break an Atlantic City detective agency manager's legs if he didn't sign a contract with the 15,000-member labor group.

"They came into my office and wanted me to immediately join the Federation," Al Black testified before the NLRB. "They brought a

contract in. The only thing, they were a little different than Mr. LaMaina (Joseph LaMaina, a founder of Local 40B). They told me they were going to break my legs and my secretary was to go home early if I didn't sign contracts with them."

On cross-examination, Cunningham denied Black's accusation. "That's totally false. He has a good way of over-exaggerating."

The Federation also has denied allegations that it is connected to New York's Genovese crime family or to any other crime syndicate.

Cunningham also said the Federation recently has divorced itself from the Casino Police and Security Officers Local 2, of 245 Great Neck Road, Great Neck, N.Y.

But New Jersey law enforcement officials say Federation organizer Anthony Tomasso has moved to the forefront of the union's casino operation, that he is about to take the reins of Local 2.

Tomasso is an officer of two other Federation locals, Brotherhood of Police and Security Officers Local 3 and Power Plant Police Local 1. He is overseeing the current strike at Peach Bottom.

The Federation has gathered petitions for elections at Atlantic City's Bally, Golden Nugget, Resorts International, Caesars Boardwalk Regency and Greate Bay (Brighton) casino/hotels. Only Playboy and Harrah's casinos remain uninvolved.

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strong advice from the panel about the number of people used to complete cleanup and the extent of their training, said panel chairman John Minnich. Minnich is also president Dauphin county commissioner.

"There was a lot of press during the accident that no one was hurt by the accident at TMI," said Cochran. "But these figures show the real effects of the accident are coming later — during the cleanup and they could be significant."

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A union supporter to the end

DELTA — Dewey Ashby isn't the kind of man you'd expect to see on a picket line. Surrounded by a stack of Bibles, the Delta pastor looks more at home behind the Faith Tabernacle Church pulpit in his home than among fellow striking Peach Bottom security guards he so adamantly supports.

Ashby alone has been manning the late night picket shift on Atom Road, ever since a York County Court injunction knocked the spirit out of the month-old walkout. When the going got rough financially, all

three years, considers himself one of the few remaining "hard-core" union supporters. He's driven to seeking social justice for the working man and considers strikes a last-resort tactic, but permissible, nevertheless.

All this has taken its toll, but Ashby feels compelled to support this union drive to the end. In fact, the heartbeat of the fledgling Delta unit palpates regularly upstairs in Ashby's Main Street home-turned-church.

Ashby describes himself as a

Apparently the Methodist Church was not comfortable with Ashby's style of religion, though. They stripped him of his Methodist minister's credentials in the late 1970s due to "problems with theological compatibility," according to the Rev. Tom Springman, of 2090 Crescent Road. Springman is a Methodist denominational district supervisor.

If ever the National Labor Relations Board certifies the Peach Bottom guards' union, Ashby will be a shop steward.

hour, with no benefits and little security."

Ashby is aware of what he said that the Federation of Security Officers and Law Enforcement Officers is connected to a New York organized crime family.

"But we guards have no firsthand knowledge of that," he said. "I would hate to see people who voted for an organization get representation. If it were backfire, it would be a tragedy."

However, Ashby said, he wouldn't be surprised to find