

April 11, 1978

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Representative Paul Rogers
 House Subcommittee on Health & Environment
 House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Representative Rogers:

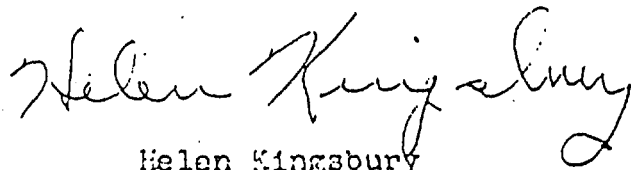
I believe you are conducting hearings on low level radiation and the effects of nuclear tests on Bikini.

Any accounts of this testing in the Bikini Islands which I have read leave me appalled that our government deliberately contaminates a beautiful area, leaving a people homeless, poisoning vegetation, water and all life.

What right does our government have to force people to leave their homes so that dangerous experiments can be made? Then after letting 100 inhabitants return to the island in 1975, radiation was still declared too high "in some parts of the island" for habitation. Then it was discovered that original reports were in error - that radiation levels in soil and water were above safety standards, and as a result the replanted food staples were contaminated. Then in 1977 the island was declared unsafe for human habitation and is to be totally evacuated again.

How could such a potentially fatal error happen? Can it be called an accident? I don't think so. I think our government cares little about the life of a few human beings compared with these "all-important tests" on the effect of radiation on every living thing. The men who are so bent on nuclear power should act as guinea pigs - they are scientists and can analyze themselves and their children for the long-range effect of radiation on the human race and environment. The experimentation on unknowing people is appalling.

I ask that not only underground testing be banned - as asked by Leonid Brezhnev - but that all radioactive and nuclear testing be outlawed. That we transfer that effort and those millions of taxpayers' money into solar experiments for the good of all humanity.



Helen Kingsbury

cc: Representative Henry Waxman
 Representative John Burton
 Senator Alan Cranston

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