

The central theme of his writing concerns the safety, cost-effectiveness, and benefits of nuclear power. About half is technical and half political.

Dr. Beckmann's writing is excellent. We suggest that you send a self-addressed and stamped envelope for a list of his books and other publications. Reprinted below are two condensed examples of his political commentary: one from his essay about nuclear war and one, "Why", from the last chapter of his book, *The Health Hazards of Not Going Nuclear*.

### **Sober Facts About Nuclear War**

*Petr Beckmann*

Yes, nuclear war would be terrible, and the facts below are in no way intended to belittle its horror. They are, however, intended to refute the myth that nuclear war means the end of civilization, making defense of the Free World pointless.

**CAN A SINGLE BOMB WIPE OUT A WHOLE CITY?** No, it can't. You would need 438 one-megaton bombs (the power of 22,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs) to destroy Los Angeles, and none of them could be "wasted on pulverizing the rubble."

**THEN HOW COME HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI WERE EACH DESTROYED BY A SINGLE BOMB?** They weren't. Earth-covered backyard shelters were undamaged at 100 yards from ground zero; and a woodframe house at exactly 1 mile from ground zero was badly damaged but remained standing. The day after the blast, the bridges were open to traffic; the second day, trains were operating; and the third day some streetcars resumed service. The people in those two cities had neither warning nor basements; yet in Dresden where they had both, about as many were killed in the non-nuclear air raid of Feb. 13, 1945 as were killed in Nagasaki.

**BUT TODAY'S H-BOMBS ARE 1000 TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN THE HIROSHIMA BOMB.** The distance of equal destruction varies as the third root of the released energy; 1000 times more powerful means the same destruction at 10 times the distance. An earth covered shelter would be undamaged at 1000 yards from ground zero; a wooden house would be severely damaged but remain standing at 10 miles rather than 1 mile. Grim - but not the end of the world.

**BUT THE RADIATION FROM NUCLEAR BOMBS WOULD LEAVE THE EARTH A RADIOACTIVE INFERNO FOR DECADES, AND THE SURVIVORS WOULD DIE OF CANCER, LEAVING GENETICALLY DAMAGED OFFSPRING.** The fact is that only a few hundred of Hiroshima's 70,000 dead were victims of radioac-