

These and related myths have not only induced unreasoning fear in scientifically illiterate Americans, but also have completely obscured the positive facts that nuclear power is cheaper and safer per kilowatt than are its logical competitors such as coal and oil.

The environmentalists used these myths to create an artificial "perceived risk" from nuclear power which was great enough to prevent its further development in the United States. No new construction permits for nuclear power plants have been issued in America during the past twelve years. Civil defense could have removed even that perceived risk, but it has not been deployed.

As you follow events in the Middle East - events that this time or perhaps next time could easily precipitate the carnage of a World War - remember this environmentalist victory over nuclear power. That victory has ensured American dependence upon Arab oil.

The Middle Eastern countries may well be fated to decimate their populations and civilizations by continual warfare as have European countries during many centuries. It was, however, not necessary that America should be dragged into this irrational maelstrom.

The next time you see an "environmentalist" working against energy production in the United States, thank him on behalf of the Americans who may die in the Middle East. They, unfortunately, will probably not have an opportunity to express appropriately their appreciation for his work.

SHELTERS IN THE SAND

President Bush has said that "a line has been drawn in the sand" of Saudi Arabia. He has also said that he will rid the world entirely of chemical weapons during his administration.

In this second objective he will certainly fail. He cannot erase modern chemistry from the world. Chemical weapons can be made too easily from starting materials that will always be easy to obtain. To paraphrase a comparable slogan: 'When all nations agree that the possession of chemical weapons of terror will not be allowed in civilized nations, then only terrorists will have chemical weapons.' They will make them in basements from universally available agricultural and industrial chemicals.

With regard to his line in the sand, I hope that America has better luck than did a belligerent acquaintance of my great, great, great grandfather in Ohio. According to newspaper accounts, one day, egged on by some relatives and friends, he challenged my great, great, great grandfather to a fist fight. When his challenge was not accepted, he drew a line on the ground and stated that my great, great, great grandfather was a coward if he would not cross the line and fight.

Whereupon my great, great, great grandfather stated that he did not want to fight and he was willing to acknowledge that the other fellow was the better fighter. Never-the-less, he would step across the line to show that he was not a coward. As he did, the challenger leaped forward and pummelled him with his fists. At this point, my great, great, great grandfather regained his balance and hit the challenger once with his fist -- and killed him.