Nuke power: accept the risks?

(Continued from page 1)

The Nuclear Debate: Basic Issues for 1976

rectify the problems that occur.

"We have developed a technology that carries a significant advantage," Rasmussen told a nuclear industry meeting in Boston last month, "and we’re being forced to modify it and modify it until the positive economics outweigh the advantages. Society must decide what level of risk it will accept, and then set the standards and live with its decisions."

But how can the risk level be set, the opponents say, if the data isn’t all in and the costs aren’t yet known? And aren’t the modifications and delays which Rasmussen complains of a small price to pay if the risks turn out to be larger than expected?

The difference is an example of one of the basic splits in society today, the split between those who favor progress however it comes and those who want to take a second look at technological advances before they are implemented to see what effects they will have. While the split is not as black-and-white as that — the nuclear industry, for example, has worked hard to test and develop reactors safely — the advocates and opponents clearly fall into those two classes.

Man may conquer the air, but the birds will lose their wonder and the clouds will smell of gasoline. Similarly, the conquest of nuclear power will carry some risks and some drawbacks. Whether society decides to accept those risks will determine whether nuclear power will be the energy source of the future.

Bond: black equality is off

(Continued from page 1)

When asked which candidate he supported, Bond said it was too early for him to make a decision because it is too early to see who is running, but he listed Democrats Birch Bayh, Fred Harris, Morris Udall, and Sargent Shriver as possibilities, adding, "I am particularly fond of Harris." Those four, he said, "have been on the side of right more often than on the side of wrong" over the past 10 to 15 years.

Bond’s talk was part of the Presidential Politics ’76 series sponsored by the Citizens for Participation in Political Action, of which Bond, who has been a Georgia State Senator since 1965, entered the presidential campaign early this year, but was forced to withdraw when he ran short of funds.

Based on his experience as a candidate, Bond said, he has decided that "the Campaign Reform Act serves primarily to protect incumbents."

The bill, which sets a $15,000 maximum on the amount a person can contribute to a campaign, was adopted after revelations of abuses of campaign funds by Nixon’s campaign for reelection.

"A thousand dollars is just too little," Bond said, adding that "I hope the suit (against the candidates) will be held at 7:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Dec. 8-10, in Kerridge Little Theatres."

The MIT Community Players will present "Sleuth" at 8:30, three one-act plays by Noel Coward, on Dec. 4, 5, and 6, and "A Night at the Theatre," and "Mids and Mums. Tickets are $2.50. For reservations call 1-200 to reserve the world of the play.

* Twinkies for Debs. Tammany’s major IAP production, "Joe Jacobson’s The Alchemist," will be held at 7:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Dec. 8-10, in Kerridge Little Theatres. Productions begin Jan. 5. New members are welcome. If you can’t make it, call Debsco, 252-4242.

* A poetry reading by Dick Lourie, sponsored by the MIT Literature Sektion, will be held on Tues. day, Dec. 12, 8:30, in a combination of English and Chinese. For information call 1-200.

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