"The world would change overnight"

(continued from page 1)

we were proposing to the Soviet Union that we don't test anything anymore — missiles, rockets, nuclear weapons — the world would change overnight.

Participants in the fifth and final seminar, "The Effects of Nuclear War" included MIT Professor Henry W. Kissinger, Chairman of the Union of Concerned Scientists; Dr. Helen Caldicott, President of the Physicians for Social Responsibility, Inc., and Mr. Douglas Forbes, Director of Nuclear Civil Protection Planning for the Massachusetts Civil Defense Agency.

Kendall's presentation consisted primarily of a presentation of slides of tests of nuclear devices, and maps illustrating the range of expected fallout and other effects of a Soviet pre-emptive strike against US military and industrial targets. According to Kendall's model, nearly the entire eastern half of the United States would be affected.

Soviet targeting of all American cities with populations of over 25,000 "would pinpoint much of the attack at severing the key links in the industrial infrastructure without which we could not get the system running again," claimed Kendall.

Caldicott, an instructor at the Harvard Medical School, reflected upon the absurdity of the public opinion institution against them they would still move towards [deployment] of the MX missile," Caldicott noted. "Until Dr. Kendall spoke, I hadn't heard anyone talk about anyone being killed. We've sat here all day almost dispassionately listening to the disputation talk about annihilating most of us."

She characterized the nuclear weapons as the creators of the "final epidemic for which there will be no cure," and as "Jehovah microbes."

"We characterized the medical effects of a 2-megaton blast over Boston. In the area of "a cruiser about a mile wide and three hundred feet deep ... everything in that volume would be turned to radioactive fallout. Now up to a radius of six miles from the center, every person would probably be vaporized. Up to a radius of twenty miles from the center, most people would be lethally injured or killed. If you were looking at the flash from forty miles away, just at that instant you'd see building ... it would create a fire storm of those thousand miles square miles where everything would spontaneously ignite, sucking in air with hurricane force winds to the center, and if you were in a fallout shelter you wouldn't survive because the fire would use up all the oxygen.

"We would die from synergistic combinations of infection, acute radiation sickness, scarring blindness, starvation, and grief. It would be the grief that 'would kill us.'

In order to help you determine which tire to buy, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has published standards by which manufacturers must now grade the performance of their tires. Sommer (conventional) passenger vehicle tires must now be rated in three areas: TREADWEAR, TRACTION, and resistance to failure caused by TEMPERATURE. The tire you buy will have such quality ratings molded in the sidewall (or temporarily indicated on a label.)

TREADWEAR: The standard for treadwear is 30,000 miles and graded at 100. If fewer miles are expected, the number is lower; for more miles, the number is higher. For example, 150 represents 60,000 miles and 150 represents only 15,000 miles. This standard tells you what you can expect when you change different types of tires. Road conditions and driving habits will cause variations in the performance of any tire; the road surface is rougher in some areas; "jack rabbit" starts. Here's a comparison of several brands of radial tires, all size P215/75R14 or equivalent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIRE BRAND</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>TREADWEAR</th>
<th>TRACTION</th>
<th>RESISTANCE</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>INSTALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEARS SuperGuard (GR78-14)</td>
<td>P215/75R14</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$69.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICHELIN XWX</td>
<td>P215/75R14</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>$91.69</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DELTA Radial 11</td>
<td>P215/75R14</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$64.31</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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by Lester C. Thurow

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