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TREATED AS HANDWRITING NO BLUE CARD MADE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 14, 1975

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached for your information is the
latest Reagan column.

Don

RRY

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *dy.*
APR 14 1975

THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN
(For Release In Papers On Friday, April 11, Or Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

Most Americans are conservationists and environmentalists to some extent. Few want to see our scenic wonders spoiled, our waters polluted, our natural resources wasted.

Yet, from time to time, some environmentalists go overboard in efforts to protect a view, preserve a recreational area or save the natural habitat of the native American mosquito.

Take, for instance, the case of the Trident base at Bangor, Wash.

Trident is the follow-on to the Polaris and Poseidon missile systems.

Basically, it consists of a multiwarhead, 4,000-mile (eventually 6,000-mile) missile launched from a nuclear submarine cruising beneath the surface of the ocean.

The Navy Department declares that a Trident base must be located in the Pacific because it "gives the Soviets another whole ocean to worry about." It goes on to say that strategically there is no alternative in the Pacific to the Bangor location.

For most Americans that would be enough. Few would object to construction of a desperately needed national defense base anywhere, especially when every effort is made (as it is in the case of Trident) to minimize its impact on the surrounding environment. And especially, also, when such a base will provide much-needed jobs in a state where joblessness is high.

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Yet, an organization called Concerned About Trident (CAT) has been formed specifically for the purpose of halting construction of the Trident base on the grounds that the Navy has failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

To this end CAT has brought suit in federal court. Its avowed aim is to preserve the pristine beauty of the Bangor area at all costs, including the defense of the United States.

Well, fortunately, it looks as if CAT is not going to be successful. A major reason is the involvement in the suit on the side of the Navy of a small, relatively new public interest law firm, the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF).

PLF has made some devastating points against CAT.

Among them are these:

1. That CAT is merely a corporate shell founded solely for the purpose of stopping in the courts the construction of the base.

2. That the actual people behind the suit have yet to be disclosed.

3. That undisclosed persons or organizations are funding the suit "by laundering funds to plaintiffs' attorneys through various tax exempt charitable organizations in possible violation of Internal Revenue Service guidelines."

4. That there are serious legal questions regarding CAT's right to sue.

Although the suit is still in the courts, federal Judge George L. Hart has already denied a motion for a preliminary injunction to stop construction, largely on points made by PLF.

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PLF lawyers are now confident of final victory for the Navy. This, alone, will be good enough reason to cheer for Americans who worry, with much justification, that America is falling behind the Soviet Union in defense capabilities.

Another good reason is the discovery that at least one public interest law firm is working on behalf of the public instead of, as so often is the case with such firms, working for left-wing special interest groups at the expense of the public.

I will come back to the subject of the Pacific Legal Foundation in other columns. It is chalking up quite a record.