

## **Nuclear power—status and outlook\***

When I spoke at the American Power Conference five years ago on the theme "Nuclear Power—New Member of the Energy Team," I said that nuclear energy was no longer "on the bench" and that it had moved onto the field to take its place among the other members of the team. We are all aware that many people doubted then that nuclear power had in fact left the bench to join the game since there were relatively few commercial nuclear plants operating or on order by the utilities. Actually, I was quite confident at that time that nuclear power had come of age and would grow to something like 75,000 MW(e) of installed capacity by 1980 in the United States.

You all know what has been happening over the course of the five intervening years. The nuclear plants now in operation, under construction, or on order by the utilities in the United States already exceed 75,000 MW(e) in combined capacity. We and others in the energy field have admitted to having been on the low side in previous predictions; accordingly, we have increased our estimate to something more like 150,000 MW(e) by 1980 [actually, we have hedged a bit by estimating a range of 120,000 to 170,000 MW(e)]. Underestimating energy growth patterns in the U.S. seems to be typical in these unprecedented times; so we need not be apologetic for our previous, and possible current, predictive failings.

At the time of this American Power Conference, there is wide recognition that nuclear power has become an important and rapidly growing member of the energy team both here and abroad. And there is greatly increased awareness of the benefits of nuclear power, such as providing competition for other energy sources, reducing air pollution, and essentially eliminating the problems of transporting massive quantities of fuel.

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*\*Remarks at a luncheon sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, American Power Conference, Chicago, Ill., Apr. 22, 1970.*