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**True Warnings and False Alarms about Technology, 1948-1971**

**Allan Mazur**

**Washington, DC: Resources for the Future, 2004**

**Review by:**

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The one hundred and ninety-one page great work consists of Preface, Chapter 1. True Warnings and False Alarms, Chapter 2. Technology as Friend and Sometime Foe: 1900-1947, Chapter 3 Lawless's Era: 1948-1971, Chapter 4. Why Experts in Technical Controversies Disagree, Chapter 5. Evaluating the Lawless Warnings: True or False?, Chapter 6. Coding the Cases, Chapter 7. Hallmarks of True and False Alarms, Chapter 8. Hindsight and Foresight, Appendix I. Summary of Cases, Appendix II. Case Studies, References, and Index. The treasured exhaustively researched investigative accolade is written by Professor Allan Mazur, a world expert on dangerous substances. Since 1971, Professor Mazur has been in the department of public affairs at Syracuse University Maxwell School. Mazur received a B.S. in physics from IIT in 1961. Dr. Mazur achieved an M.S. in engineering from UCLA in 1964. In 1969, Professor Mazur acquired a Ph.D. in sociology from Johns Hopkins. 150 articles and eight books have been published by Professor Allan Mazur. Mazur belongs to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Chapter one discloses there is evidence that fluoride in the water causes cancer. However, scientists suggested continuing use of fluoride because the benefits of tooth decay prevention outweigh the little amount of fluoride in the water that may cause cancer. Chapter three reveals the world wars are poisoning the earth's air and water. Chapter three speaks of bug spray spreading cancer. The famous book "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carsons is mentioned. A medicine that stops miscarriages strangely causes the daughters to have cancer. Chapter three makes known mercury occurred in tuna in Lake Michigan. Xrays in the 1940's for tonsils and measuring shoe size later cause cancer. Nuclear technology testing interferes with healthy grass for healthy cow's milk. President Nixon discontinued use of germ and chemical technology.

Chapter four makes known cranberries produce cancer. Hitler used fluoride in water for a less aggressive population. Chapter eight divulges the Delaney Clause eliminated food and products causing cancer in 1958. Chapter eight makes known baby eating products with monosodium glutamate hurt babies. Baby food producers proved it is not true. The famous Love Canal and Three Mile Island produced health problems. A chemical pluoria is in water in a small amount.

Appendix I Summary of Cases are discussions of certain cases like oral contraceptives, contaminated cranberries, des in livestock, cyclamate, msg, botulism, fish protein concentrate, fluoridation, salk polio vaccine, thalidomide, hexachlorophene, dmsa, shoe fluoroscopes, medical x rays, radiation from defective televisions, smog in donora, mercury pollution from industry, mercury in tuna, ddt, asbestos, taconite pollution, enzyme detergents, nta in detergents, plutonium at rocky flats, radioactive waste stored in Kansas, nuclear test on amchitka, poison gas released at dugway, nerve gas disposal,

elf radiation at project sanguine, chemical mace, and injuries on synthetic turf.

Nature of the warning, first public warning, type of news source, did source have identifiable preexisting bias?, risk assessment, did Lawless regard this threat as overemphasized?, media coverage, media score, and was warning derived?

Appendix II Case Studies detail four publications in *Risk: Health, Safety & Environment*.

The first is certain football turf not grass that results in problems. The second is a discussion of cyclamate. The third is a talk of x rays that are not necessary, In the 1920's, the medical staff were using x rays and getting skin conditions and dying. In 1896, Thomas Edison used x rays. Linus Pauling who in 1958 wrote the book "No More War" won a Nobel Peace Prize. Shoe x rays in 1940's stopped in 1981. Fluoride in households is in salt and added to household water. Fluoride in water is found in the United States, Europe, and South America.

Tables include Table 1-1 Selected Substances and Processes Generating Public Health Warnings, 1947-1971. A photograph shows a giant tree being cut in 1892 in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Earth day April 22, 1970 is unveiled in a picture from Good Housekeeping publicizing DDT bug spray. A newspaper shot of New York Times November 27, 1959 shows Arthur S. Flemming, Health, Education, and Welfare secretary plugging cranberries for Thanksgiving as a rebuttal to Flemming divulging cranberries may be dangerous from crop spray. October 17, 1969 issue of Time periodical pictures damaged prenatal chickens due to the artificial sweetener cyclamate. Table 4-1 reveals the amount of cancer from radiation and how often leukemia occurs from radiation. Table 4-2 discloses evidence that fluoride stops cavities. Table 4-3

communicates radium workers have cancer. Table 4-2 lists the scientists who believe in nuclear usage. Table 5-1 proclaims whether thirty-one substances are dangerous. Table 6-1, 6-2, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6, 7-7, and 8-1 broadcast whether matter listed by world expert, Edward Lawless, upon which Mazur based his book on, are dangerous or not.

*True Warnings and False Alarms Evaluating Fears about Health Risks of Technology, 1948-1971* is an excellently authoritative publication on treacherous material. Any researcher interested in perilous matter will improve his or her information bank from reading the best monograph on the subject.

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