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perhaps a "very few" injured or killed sea otters. But no earthquakes or tidal waves, no radiation release, no damage to commercially valuable fish in surrounding waters, no major harm to the sea otters.

Not everyone was willing to accept the AEC's assurances. Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), who has been battling the AEC over Amchitka since he took office in 1969, submitted a 10-page statement that was highly critical of the agency.

In the first test, says Gravel, "the odds were against damage or injury. That does not mitigate against the fact, however, that there was risk involved to all who live in coastal areas and beyond, along the Pacific rim."

Dr. Marvin Kalkstein, a nuclear chemist who teaches at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, agreed. No one, he told the committee, is in a position to come to an "unequivocal conclusion" that the potential hazards of nuclear testing on Amchitka are negligible. "Though the probability is small, you should consider the awesome dangers if what you're concerned about comes to pass," he said.

NEWSBRIEFS

NSF; Water pollution

The White House has announced the end of a half-year search for candidates to fill four newly created assistant directorships of the National Science Foundation. The posts were created as part of a reorganization of the administrative structure of the Foundation mandated by amendments to the National Science Foundation Act.

The four candidates, whose names will be sent to the Senate for confirmation, are:

Dr. Edward C. Creutz, vice president in charge of research and development at Gulf General Atomic in San Diego, Calif.

Dr. Lloyd E. Humphreys, professor of psychology at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Louis Levin, now executive associate director of the Science Foundation.

Dr. Thomas B. Owen, a rear admiral in the Navy, who is now chief of naval research. □

A new water pollution control bill that provides clear assignments of liability without proof of negligence is the source of an oil spill (SN: 3/14, p. 263) was signed into law by President Nixon last week.

The new law also provides staffing for the President's new Council on Environmental Quality. And it would add pesticide levels to the factors involved in formulating all new water quality criteria. □

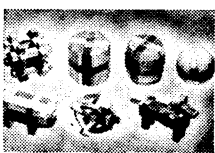
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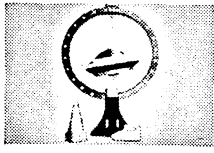
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