

At a price of approximately £ 20, this is astonishingly expensive and could be better spent on further subscriptions to this journal.

DENIS D'AURIA

Time Bomb. LNG: The Truth about our Newest and Most Dangerous Energy Source by Peter van der Linde with Naomi A. Hintze, Doubleday & Company, Garden City, New York, 183 pages, \$6.95.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is an energy source of increasing importance to the U.S., to Canada, to England, and to Japan. Like any fuel, it has recognized hazards. It is difficult to believe that "LNG has an explosive force second only to a nuclear holocaust", or that the "industry was pushed too far, too fast by critical demands for energy".

Time Bomb is a very negative book which predicts, in graphic terms, the disasters which misadventures, such as ship collisions, could trigger-off in highly populated areas where LNG is stored. There can be no doubt that Mr. van der Linde has researched the subject; but, we do note serious technical gaps in his bibliography, including an in-depth review of engineering controls sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard under the work of the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Hazardous Materials, held in Boston, June 13-14, 1972. LNG is *not* an unknown or uncontrollable hazard.

While much of the material on which the book is based is doubtlessly factual, the tone of downgrading both technical knowledge and protection of investment (the LNG ships being built have a \$200 million price tag), hardly gives credit to incentives based on self-interest.

We recognize the many hazards, including sabotage, which Mr. van der Linde discusses; this reviewer cannot agree that the LNG industry, and the regulations, are as lax or careless as he suggests. Perhaps the book can be noted as an example of concern which is out of proportion to the problem. We pray Mr. van der Linde's fears are not realized, and that LNG will be prove to be a useful servant — not a destructive force.

H.H. FAWCETT