promise and problems. The book covers the height of her career extensively. It contains precise statements of her principles and motivation — see especially page 491. It also illustrates the complexity of her character. Yet Foner's work leaves us with major gaps. No material antedates 1897 and even the many letters give only indirect insight into Mother Jones's personal life. Still *Mother Jones Speaks* is required reading for anyone who wishes to understand one of America's most remarkable women.

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*Crisis Contained: The Department of Energy at Three Mile Island.*

The accident at Three Mile Island in 1979 provided a demanding test of the mechanical and human safeguards associated with nuclear power. Various of these safeguards having failed, the Three Mile Island accident further tested the emergency and management capabilities of federal, state, and local government agencies. These organizational capabilities proved barely equal to the task of monitoring and responding to the accident within the reactor, while largely failing to provide consistent and reliable information to the media and the public at large.

Cantelon and Williams provide a detailed analysis of one federal agency's role in the tasks of monitoring and assessing the dangers of the Three Mile Island accident. The Department of Energy (DOE) shared control with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of most of the federal expertise concerning civilian nuclear power generation technology. This divided control stemmed from the reorganization of the Atomic Energy Commission in 1975. While the NRC was the more visible bureaucratic actor by far, the Department of Energy also played a key role at Three Mile Island. Indeed, a central goal of the authors, not coincidentally sponsored by the Department of Energy, is to argue for the importance of the DOE role at Three Mile Island.

The authors restrict themselves to the period of crisis (late
March and the first weeks of April) at Three Mile Island. During this period, the Department of Energy was charged primarily with responsibility for monitoring the damaged reactor for radioactive emission. The establishment of this monitoring operation, according to the authors, led to the creation of a substantial emergency headquarters unit near Harrisburg, which played an important role in coordinating a wide range of federal and state agencies' responses to the accident at Three Mile Island.

As a careful account of crisis management by career civil servants, this book is unique and valuable. One could argue, however, that the most significant period of DOE involvement with the Three Mile Island power plant followed the crisis period, with the effort to clean up the crippled facility. One wishes the story had been carried forward. The DOE agency and staff were largely peripheral to many of the key events and decisions during the period of the history.

In view of this, the level of detail in the narrative (virtually an hour-by-hour account) seems excessive, especially by comparison with the very modest or nonexistent analytic discussion provided by the authors. The authors are also rather uncritical in applauding the efforts of the DOE monitoring operation to remain out of public view. Their conclusion that "the most effective response turned out to be one which operated free of public scrutiny, but in the public interest" speaks volumes about the political naivete that lay behind the failure of self-regulation and the resultant crisis in the nuclear power industry.

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