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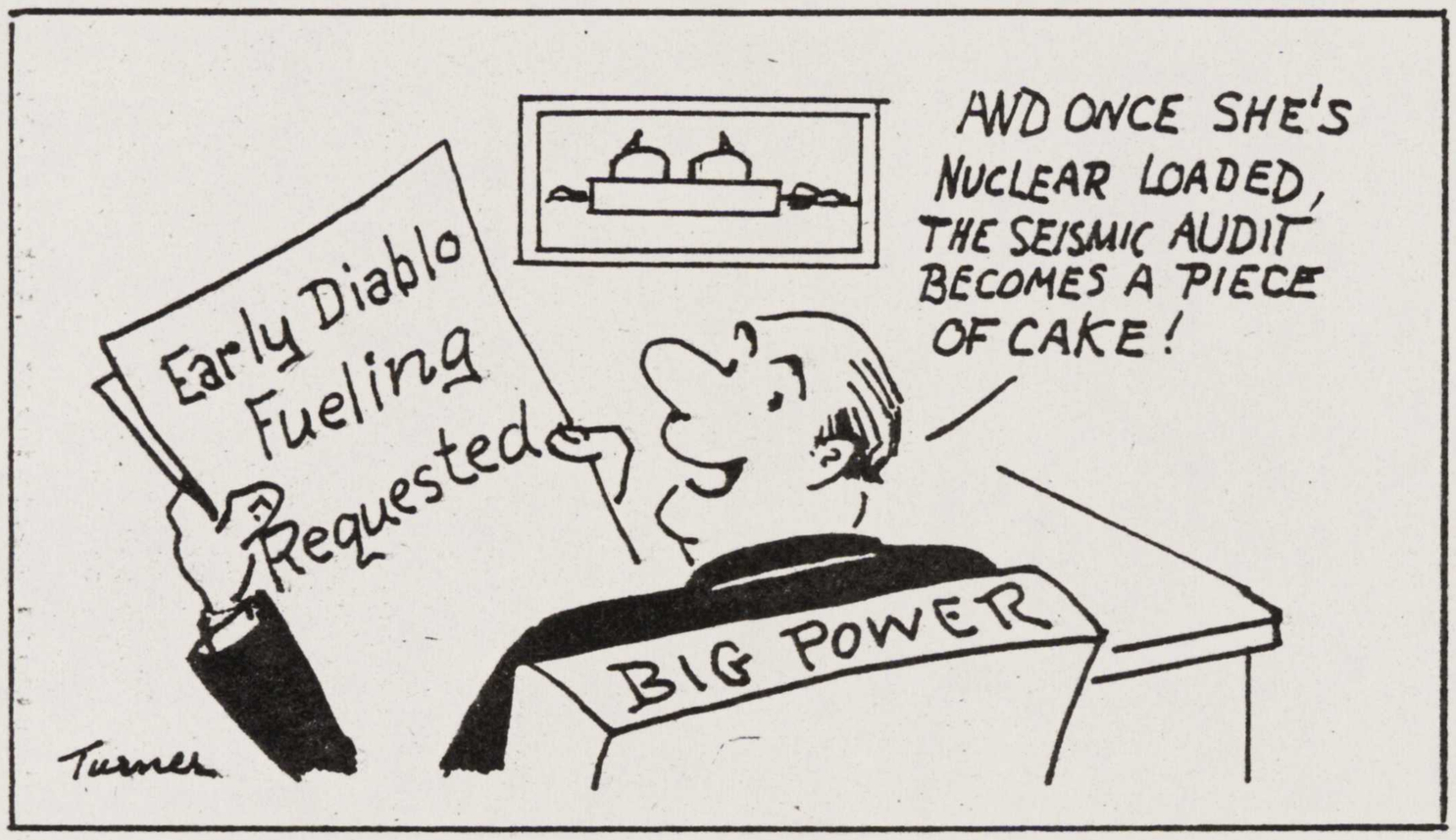

Was the "camel's nose" nuclear?

Editorial

This first step is premature

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission this week bought a PG&E timetable and agreed to allow loading of fuel at the utility's Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

That's the first step toward allowing the plant to operate.

And it is being taken before a review of the plant's safety features, including those involving earthquakes, has been completed.

The NRC decision clearly will save PG&E a bundle of money. It will cut a month and a half off the time needed to get the plant operating. A PG&E vice president estimates this could save the company $50 million.

That's dandy for PG&E and its stockholders.

But what about the men, women and children who live near the plant which is located near an earthquake fault?

Their health and welfare can't be measured in dollars.

No step, not even the first one, should be taken toward the plant's operation until all safety investigations have been completed and any defects remedied.