

October 14, 1962

PLAYLET

(Scene playing in a Philadelphia Barroom)

by Leo Szilard

A. I don't think I'm going to vote tomorrow. I must catch up with my work.

B. I'm going to vote and I am going to vote for Van Zandt.

A. That's the guy who wants us to send the Marines into Cuba and to tear down the Berlin wall. If he had his way, we would have war.

B. What's so terrible about war? The Russians have tested most of the bombs they had. Maybe they have half a dozen hydrogen bombs left; They are not going to waste them on Pittsburgh or Philadelphia. Maybe they will drop a couple of hydrogen bombs on Washington and New York.

A. If they bomb Washington and New York, what will happen to us in Philadelphia?

B. Oh, maybe there will be a few broken windows and some fallout. Fallout is nothing to be afraid of; you can have a fallout shelter built in your back yard for \$1,000.

A. I think I am going to vote tomorrow after all and I'm not going to vote for Van Zandt.

B. Well, I told you I'm going to vote for Van Zandt and I'm going to vote for him not once, but three times.

A. If you do that, they will send you to jail.

B. That is the only safe fallout shelter there is. Those back yard shelters are not worth the money they cost.