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## **Alternate energy source in 20 yrs.**

"Oil will be replaced by some other form of energy in about twenty years time," said Tom Chambers, engineer and MLA of Edmonton Calder, at an engineering seminar on campus, Thursday.

American oil production has peaked and is declining. Americans are becoming dependant on unstable imports.

"Do not underestimate American technology," he said. "They will have a new energy form to run cars and heat homes within 20 years. When they convert, we will too. Oil will then become an obsolete commodity."

In anticipation of this conversion, Alberta oil reserves must be developed quickly to take full advantage of the future demand.

Syncrude is one such project in the making. A very controversial topic, the project's aim is to refine synthetic crude from the oil sands in northern Alberta.

Chambers estimated that there are 500 billion barrels of oil in the tar sands, 80 billion of which can be extracted through surface mining techniques.

Development of the tar sands includes re-landscaping of the mined areas. This follows in the government's policy of insuring maximum benefits to Albertans from a depleting resource.

The easy pools of Alberta's oil have already been found. What is left is more difficult to find and to recover. Because of this, industry needs an incentive to go after these resources. This has been provided by the government's Drilling Incentive Scheme.

When asked by the *Gateway* reporter what the governments

long range plans were in view of oil losing its status as a major revenue earner, Chambers replied that the revenue now being received is being used to attract industry to the province. This is the only way to develop a strong industrial base over the next 20 to 30 years.

"If Alberta does not take these steps, it could foreseeably

be in the same position as Saskatchewan, relying on an agricultural economy."

Chambers also spoke of the challenge the tar sands present to Alberta's engineers and the place for engineers in public life. He said there is a real need for practical, technically aware people in government.

## **Australians experts in solar radiation**

(EARTH NEWS) - While U.S. government and oil industry officials complain loudly about the decreasing stocks of natural gas, propane, and gasoline, other countries are developing alternative means of energy. In Australia, the government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization has been working on solar energy for more than a generation.

Scientists say that Australia is likely to be the first country in the world to make large scale use of solar energy. That's no idle boast--10,000 Australian homes are already using sunlight for hot water and heating. It's estimated that solar heating saves the country 14-million kilowatt hours of electricity a year.

All new government employee homes and many private houses in Australis's semi-tropical Northern Territory are being equipped with solar

hot water systems. Scientists say that the solar heaters will pay for themselves in electrical savings within four years.

The Australian scientists are now working on larger units--for factories and for salt-water conversion plants.

But, even more impressive, the Australian scientists have been working on extracting the living cells that store solar energy in trees and other plant life. It normally takes millions of years before such cells develop into oil or coal and can be used. The scientists hope to shorten this process to hours by extracting cellulose and converting in to "synthetic petrol."

While Australian scientists admit that a vast amount of research still must be done, they claim they will have an economically feasible conversion process within a few years.

## **GFC Positions Open**

**The following positions are available on General Faculties Council--**

**Art s- 2**

**Science- 3**

**Education- 3**

**Nominations for the above positions will be accepted at the Receptionist between 9 am and 5 pm on Tuesday, November 13.**

**If an election is required, such election will be held on Friday, November 23, 1973.**

**Nomination forms and further information are available from the Students' Union Receptionist Desk, 2nd Floor, Student's Union Building**