

EDITORIAL

Petro con job

Albertans should not be fooled by Peter Lougheed's insistence that he is fighting for them and their rights in his battle with the federal government over energy policy.

Lougheed's request last Thursday that Albertans back him rather than "turn on their own government", as he says the federal government wants, was really a request for mindless loyalty to the Alberta Conservative party. It is unfortunate a great number of Albertans seem to fall for this appeal.

The central issue, according to Lougheed, is oil pricing. But Lougheed is not complaining that the price structure is unfair. What Lougheed objects to is the unilateral imposition of this new structure: "The Ottawa government has, without negotiation, without agreement, simply walked into our home and occupied the living room."

But why couldn't Lougheed and the federal government reach agreement? The price structure imposed by the Liberals is at least as favorable to Alberta as is the Clark government's plan of last year. Lougheed agreed to that plan, yet he has rejected this one.

What the budget really does is attack the foreign-owned portion of the oil industry. Not only will they effectively be taxed at a higher rate than will Canadian companies, but their share of oil revenues will fall from the current 45 percent to less than 35 percent.

In addition, the federal government has declared its intention to "Canadianize" the oil industry by having Petro-Canada buy up foreign companies.

The Liberals have promised this before. But this time it appears they may have taken real action to squeeze out the multinationals.

Naturally, Calgary's oil industry hacks are upset at the prospect. But why should Albertans care? Development of conventional and heavy oil and tar sands will continue, whether by multinationals, private Canadian firms or Petro-Canada. Alberta wants this development; Ottawa wants it. Albertans will continue to benefit, as it were, from this development. The Heritage Fund will still reach enormous proportions within a few years.

If Lougheed were acting in the interests of the citizens of Alberta, he would have reached agreement with the federal government instead of forcing it to act unilaterally.

The Alberta government was elected by the citizens of the province, not by Mobil, Gulf and Exxon. Albertans should not allow it to pretend otherwise.

Mike Walker

the Gateway

If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

VOL. LXXI NO. 17
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1980
SIXTEEN PAGES

Editorial Staff
EDITOR - Keith Krause
MANAGING - Jim McEginn
NEWS - Mike Walker and Nina Miller
PRODUCTION - Peter Michalyszyn
ARTS - Ken Daskewech
SPORTS - Shaune Impey
PHOTO - Kathy Kebarle
CUP - Jim McEginn
ADVERTISING - Tom Wright
MEDIA PRODUCTIONS - Margriet Tilroe-West
CIRCULATION - Mike McKinney

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a circulation of 18,500, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB. Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7

Newsroom 432-5168

Advertising 432-3423

/page Four Tuesday, November 4, 1980.



I am just ever sooo grateful

Dear God:

I am writing in deep gratitude with respect to your loan, and am about to explain how I was rendered breathless by your overwhelming generosity. I knew you would see that loaning me an exorbitant amount of money like two thousand dollars would make me soft and weak, but by your inimitable judgment you are about to make a man of me.

With three hundred dollars to invest you will teach me how to make wise decisions so as to maximize present benefits as I receive my education. For example, I can pay for one month of room and board at a government-subsidized housing complex, or possibly I can pay for a third of my tuition and fees at the University. Or then again, perhaps I may pay for books and supplies for four months of my classes.

Now, I am being silly, for who eats or sleeps while they are receiving an education? I can make my home in the library where I will find all my books, so I shall not need to buy any. Thus, my decision is made easy on the road to becoming a tax-paying MAN. I can spend the loan on my tuition and fees for three months.

Alas, there is yet more to this rocky road — I have a car in which I invested part of my summer earnings. What can I do? I pondered in despair, when suddenly I recalled that striking verse from the Good Book, where you said: "Have I not given you two good legs with which you might propel yourself?" I knew then that the automobile was making me weak, and I knew my choice was clear — I will donate the car to the government car pool!

And then another thunderbolt struck me. As you said yourself in your merciful decree, my parents should contribute more money. I should have realized that because they love me and call me their son, they are duty-bound to provide for me all the money that I need. After all,

they fed and clothed me for eighteen years. Surely that act constitutes tacit consent to support me for the rest of my natural days.

I really wonder what came over me when I summoned up the audacity to request two thousand dollars from you this year, well knowing that my father is earning an average Canadian middle-class wage, paying for a new house, a new automobile, and supporting the rest of the family.

You have guided my youthful

Puppet rules the roost

It is in a state of complete and utter shock that I find myself as I write this letter concerning the Alberta government's reaction to the proposed federal budget.

Any reasonably sane person with an I.Q. of 0.2 (± .1) which is roughly equivalent to the cumulative I.Q. of the Alberta P.C. caucus or one (1) mentally retarded wombat, should be seriously considering selling his soul to one of the multinational oil companies.

Or better yet, let King Peter do it for you: he's had enough practice at it. Our beloved leader's reaction to the budget, and more specifically the energy pricing proposals therein, is to recommend that we minimize the losses which are to be Alberta's by reducing the amount of oil sold to Eastern (read: Ontario/Quebec) Canada.

What he fails to consider (or perhaps only to mention) in his infinite wisdom (?) is what the budget and the corresponding increase in oil prices actually does for the people of Alberta. It seems interesting to note that Alberta will receive \$31.2 billion over the next four years (1980-83), which is at least equal to that which was guaranteed by the former Clark government, according to figures contained within the budget. Yet Lougheed wants to reduce our profits by reducing the amount of oil which we export under the guise that it will reduce our losses. This is logic?

and uncertain steps to the final and simple solution. I might simply roll my old man and collect the insurance, and thereby insure a rosy financial future, or I can fuck the whole world and have one hell of a party with three hundred dollars and spend the rest of my life in the role of a fiscal burden as I continue my education in the Big House.

Written by: B. Babar
Engineering II
Edited by: C. McGill
Arts IV

Apparently then, Lougheed's main concern is the large increase in the federal government's share of the revenues (from 10% to 24%), almost entirely at the expense of the multinational oil companies (Shell, Imperial Oil, et al). If this is indeed the case, one must wonder why our exalted leader and his flunkies are so anxious to shoot the bull and enter into a confrontation with the federal government. It isn't an election year, so that can't be it.

Well, perhaps he is on the lookout for campaign funds (they do come in handy, and who is better equipped to make large donations than oil companies who seem to have a vested interest in keeping a puppet leader in power?)

Bruce Pollock
Arts II

LETTERS

Letters to the Gateway should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters must be typed, though we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.