

Federal pricing policy will hamper industry

by Andrew Sinclair

The federal government's decision to keep the price of Canadian oil below the world level will delay the introduction and development of conservation measures and alternate energy sources, and will ultimately make our industry less competitive, says Susan Holtz, Research Coordinator for Ecology Action Center.

Condemning the recently released National Energy Program as a "political document rather than a serious attempt

Holtz was also upset by the style of the federal report, saying that "as government documents go, this is possibly the most offensive document I have ever read." Rather than make straight forward assessments of and recommendations about various possible solutions to the energy problem, as for example does the Nova Scotian Provincial Government Energy Program, the report, she claims, "pussy-foots around everything it says" and "seems to have been written with one eye on the voter."

energy efficiency. Thus, as conservation is implemented and investigated on a large scale, the scope for conservation gets bigger and bigger. In fact, according to current projections, it is conceivable that in fifty years Canadians could use half the fuel they use now on a per capita basis. The report, however, devotes little space to conservation, concentrating instead on supplying the current demand and projected increasing demands. Even this, according to Holtz, is lopsided, in that the whole lengthy report, a mere three



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Susan Holtz, right, says the document is most offensive,

to grapple with the energy problem", Holtz said that its biggest single problem was its pricing policy, in that as long as oil remains cheaper than other forms of energy, it will be used, even if other sources are more secure. This, she said, is because it is almost always price, and price alone, that is used as the basis for evaluating various energy sources.

Another problem with the program, says Holtz, is that it is almost totally supply oriented, and, within this limitation, devoted almost entirely exclusively to oil and gas. What most people don't realize, she said, is that conservation, rather than being a one-shot deal aimed at curtailment of energy use, is an accumulative process having as its goal increased

pages, are devoted to renewable resources such as wind, water and solar power.

Holtz did feel that the federal governments approach to making its own buildings more energy efficient by first conducting an energy audit, and its new crown corporation, ENERTECH, were good ideas, but said that these constituted merely "a drop in the bucket."

CAPITOL STORES LTD.



Photo / Simkins

Capital update

The Capitol store unionized members of the Burnside warehouse are still on strike. The strikers are picketing, distributing pamphlets, and gaining support from other unions.

The Retail Clerks union has filed an unfair labour practice charge against Capitol Stores

Ltd. on behalf of these strikers. The hearings take place November 18 and 19. The charges were made because several of the unionized Capitol employees were allegedly fired for reasons that were fictitious in an attempt to bust the union.

Thornhill— behind the Development portfolio

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economically self-sufficient industry."

"There is just no comparability between the traffic handled by the post office and the railways. Postal traffic consists largely of letter mail. . . Railways, on the other hand, handle approximately 10,000 different traffic moves. . .", he wrote.

Scott added, "I frequently receive proposals for new ways of pricing rail traffic. This beats them all."

Although James McNiven, executive vice-president of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC) felt it was time to "rethink our transportation costing policy," he considered Thornhill's idea "mind-boggling."

"I'm not sure how practical using the post office analogy would be. . .", he said.

Another project Thornhill

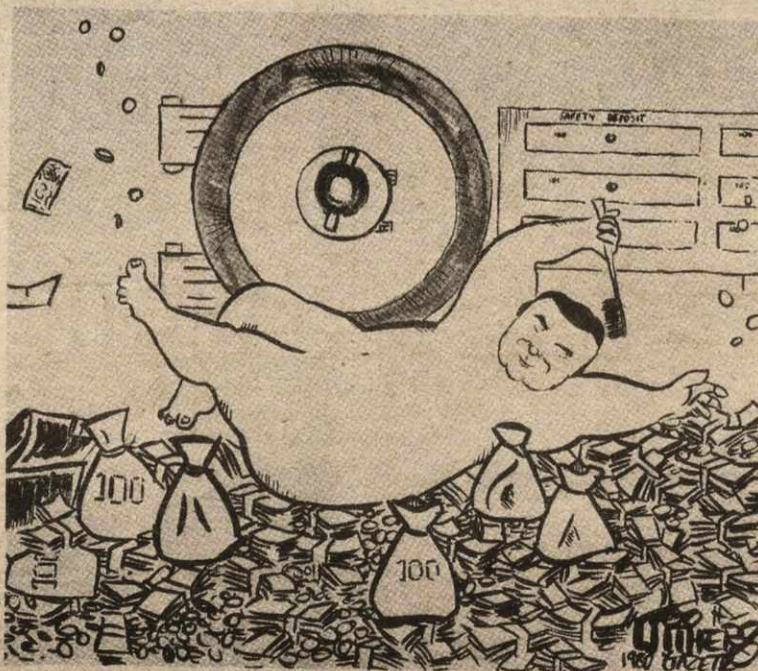
proposed was an exchange of oil for fresh water between the Middle East and Wreck Cove, Cape Breton.

Under Thornhill's plan, ships would transport oil from the Middle East to the Strait of Canso would carry fresh water from Wreck Cove back to the desert countries.

This project would use fresh water from Wreck Cove which poured into the ocean after it was used by the local power-plant, explained Thornhill. A pipeline would be necessary to carry the water from Wreck Cove to the Strait of Canso, he argued.

Both Nova Scotia Premier Gerald Regan, and New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield condemned such a plan.

Since there are many hills in Cape Breton, some type of pressure would be needed to push the water to the Strait of Canso. Regan also argued that there were many fresh water areas in the surrounding Strait



of Canso area far greater than those in Wreck Cove.

Neither Thornhill's postage stamp or water transport plans

were implemented.

Following his experience as financial critic, Thornhill became the development min-

ister of Nova Scotia in November 1978.

As aldermen Gerald Wambolt and Tom Davis recalled Thornhill's days as mayor of Dartmouth, they saw no connection between Thornhill's personal debt with six Nova Scotia banks now and his previous public record.

"He was a very good mayor. I don't have the knowledge to judge the man now," said Wambolt.

"It came as a surprise to me that he would be involved in a personal debt to that extent. Through politics you can spend a lot of money through campaigns, maybe he had to go into some personal deficit himself", reflected Wambolt.

Davis said, "Over the 20 years I've known him I've never suspected anything wrong whatsoever. It wouldn't line up with the background, but I never would have thought Patty Fitzgerald guilty of a crime and sent to jail for four years. . ."