

Gov't to clamp down on polluters: Kerr

By JOHN KING

If pulp and paper companies refuse to install anti-pollution devices "they're going to be shut down," George Kerr, the Minister of Energy and Resources Management, warned last Friday.

Speaking to about 350 students at a forum on pollution in The Winters junior common room, Kerr said his department was trying to use the "cooperative approach rather than litigation" to enforce Ontario pollution laws, but if industrial polluters did not cooperate "we will not hesitate to initiate court action."

"In the past we weren't tough enough on industry," Kerr said.

All pollution control in the province was coordinated under his ministry last summer.

Kerr said the province had prosecuted 45 companies under anti-pollution legislation last year, and that 21 of them had been convicted. The others, he said, are still in the courts.

The Ontario Water Resources Commission Act sets fines of up to \$5,000 per day and six months

imprisonment for water pollution in the province.

When asked how many companies are now polluting Ontario waters and liable for prosecution, Kerr estimated 1,000.

"You can't tell polluters to stop polluting tomorrow, or shut down," the minister explained. He said the government sets a time limit for industries to install anti-pollution devices.

He said some polluting companies "are squealing" about Ontario's pollution legislation.

Kerr said the government will clamp down on pollution at Ontario Hydro generating plants.

Referring to the Hydro plan to replace their eight smokestacks at the Hearn generating plant with one 700-foot smokestack, the minister said: "Every expert we have consulted... insists that the stack will have a beneficial result."

The new Hearn smokestack, which would continue spewing out 80,000 tons of poisonous sulphur dioxide each year, would spread the pollution over a wider area.

Kerr said he hoped modern technology will develop a pollution device which will eliminate all the sulphur dioxide from the 2.36 million tons of coal the Hearn plant now consumes each year.

"The air quality around Toronto is going to get better before it gets worse," Kerr said. "In other words, it's going to get better. Period."

"Just by enforcing these rules (the anti-pollution legislation) we are bound to better the air in Toronto," he said.

Fred Burr, a new Democratic Party member of the Legislature, charged the government was not being tough enough in its anti-pollution war.

"What is ecologically good for all mankind is usually economically bad for some," he said.

"At almost every attempt to clean up pollution there will be interference from some vested interest," he said. He said companies with a vested interest in slowing down anti-pollution legislation are "one of the most serious problems" in the anti-pollution war.

James Courtright, the coordinator of the environmental control division of Shell Oil of Canada Ltd. said people shouldn't be putting the blame on industry for pollution.

"Since we all pollute," Courtright said, "we all have obligations and we should point our fingers at ourselves, nowhere else, whatever your position in society."

"The only way to eliminate pollution is to eliminate life," he said. "For every pound consumed at least a pound of wastes results."

Moderator Stanley Burke asked

Kerr why the government wasn't taking more action sooner in Sudbury, where the International Nickel Company's smelters have killed off most of the plant life around the city with poisonous sulphur dioxide.

Kerr said the government had "no good excuse" for not clamping down on pollution in Sudbury sooner, but said pollution is "a global problem."

"We have abused our environment," Kerr said, "and it may be a matter of limiting population in some areas."

Ontario polluter gets \$484,000 gov't loan

Domtar Limited, a chemical company recently fined \$1,000 for pollution of Lake Superior by dumping effluents into streams and rivers, has been awarded a \$484,000 "forgiveable loan" by the Ontario Development Corporation.

The ODC awards the loans periodically in amounts of more than \$50,000 to deserving large industries, as part of a campaign to encourage private enterprise and foreign investment in the province.

Companies are not required to repay the loans if they can prove they made no profit from the money.

The loan to Domtar will go toward the construction of another

chemical plant at Cornwall, Ont.

Domtar is affiliated through its directors with the Argus Corporation, Standard Broadcasting, Massey-Ferguson and subsidiaries, Avco Corporation, Hollinger Mines, Canada Cement, Wabasso Towels, W.I. Molasses Co., Prudential Life Insurance, Sun Life Assurance, United Aircraft, Hawker-Siddeley, Dominion Stores, Simpson's Sears, Claude Neon, Gillette, Noranda Mines, Canada Permanent Trust, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Royal Bank of Canada, Bank of Montreal, Toronto Dominion Bank and other firms. —(CUP)

York Progressive Conservative Student Federation

is Holding a General

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

on THURSDAY MARCH 12, — 2 P.M.

in the Grad Colloquim Room, Stedman

Canada Briefs

Queen's asks Edwards to quit

KINGSTON — Four-fifths of a special Queen's University investigation committee agreed Feb. 26 that chemical engineering professor Henry Becker was "utterly innocent" of charges of political blackmail leveled at him by one of his graduate students.

The other one-fifth, student Terry O'Hara, was bodily ejected from a meeting of the Queen's senate after a five-minute shoving match. O'Hara had insisted that PhD candidate Charles Edwards — who accused Becker of the blackmail — be allowed in the senate chambers to hear the committee's verdict.

Edwards, a member of the Queen's Free Socialist Movement, triggered the inquiry with a charge that Becker, his doctoral supervisor, gave him an ultimatum Nov. 8 to choose between his studies and his radical politics.

The committee's report recommended that "an informal note" Edwards sent to Becker be regarded as a letter of withdrawal or that the graduate students committee ask Edwards to voluntarily withdraw from his doctoral program and his duties as a laboratory demonstrator.

Immediately following presentation of the report in senate, dean of applied science J.H. Brown moved that Edwards — and any student who declared membership in, or publicly supported, the FSM — be suspended for one year. The motion failed because Brown had not given a week's notice of presenting it.

Edwards described the situation as "just so ludicrous. This is blatant repression."

Guelph prof charges racism

GUELPH — Charges of racism have been raised at the University of Guelph in the case of a black professor denied tenure at the university last November on grounds of "incompatibility." Spanish professor D.K. Gordon has filed charges with the Ontario Human Rights Commission over the action by the tenure committee of the Guelph languages department Nov. 3, 1969. Gordon said he was given a "verbal rationale" by department chairman Rex Barrell immediately following the action, which included claims that: Gordon was "an element in departmental disunity;" he left courses unfinished "because of too much digression on political matters;" senior faculty within the department and in other sectors of the university were concerned with Gordon's political views; Gordon should have finished his PhD degree four years ago, and was appointed assistant professor in the department on the understanding that the degree would be completed immediately. Gordon has now finished his PhD. He is the only member of the Spanish section of the department with a PhD.

Ottawa admin. gets token voice

OTTAWA — In an effort to head off possible unrest among campus administrators, the student council at the University of Ottawa last Wednesday offered to grant their administration a voice in student union affairs — but only a token one. In a "Pink Paper" on student government at the self-styled "bilingual" university, councillors proposed that administrators be given representation on the four commissions handling student affairs on the campus. Campus authorities, says the paper, "have shown themselves worthy of this responsible role" — but councillors gave the statement a hollow ring by further declaring they could not "justify parity representation for the administrators." Although student council executive members swear their proposals are serious, the "Pink Paper" bears a strong resemblance to administration announcements earlier in the academic year, which offered students four seats on the 40-person U of O academic senate.

Canadian University Press



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