

Energy Shortage

Dalby defends corporations

by John Kenney

"The public is being told that the energy shortage in the United States was brought about by the irresponsible action of those large multi-national corporations who control the world's energy supplies, but this is not true."

These are the words of Ronald N. Dalby, Secretary Vice-president of Canadian Utilities; who is Chancellor-Elect of the U. of A. The story unfolded in the higher echelons of the Tory building with an adequate portion of academia in attendance.

There were graphs and figures to support Dalby's

contentions.

He pointed out how an energy shortage could be created, an indirect way of pointing to the causes of the current energy crises.

Among his points:

- First, you set a ceiling price on natural gas despite the rate of inflation. "This will discourage exploration for new gas supplies and increase use."

- You ban the use of high sulphur coal, "then ban strip mining in recognition of the pressures of the environmentalists." - You thwart the construction of atomic plants "because of environmentalists' suits."

- You also restrict heating oil supplies, decrease efficiency

of the auto engine, set up rigid environmental standards for refineries, block the Alaskan oil pipeline "through arguments on the cosmetic affects in uninhabited and unreachable regions" and stop offshore oil drilling.

- And finally, you "misinform" the public.

Dalby suggested that we get on with the exploitation. Among other things he believed the government should develop a "general policy that will enable industry to make its decisions."

The government should also "develop an atmosphere that will encourage private investment in the exploration for, and development of, our energy supplies."

Legal services

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Some of the best work of SLS has been done by individuals or small groups of workers. As well as Andy Sim's Craig Report, Kip Wilson helped the Kenora Tenants Association battle land developers to a standstill.

SLS has helped a Metis Women Group organize and submit a brief to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Some work has been done on welfare appeals, food co-ops and with the social planning council.

At the moment Student

Legal Service is working with the Department of Consumer Affairs on the condemned housing problem in Boyle Street. Placarded, empty firetraps, used only by transients are now left standing next to occupied homes.

Student Legal Services has aided people in matters of family law, divorce, landlord and tenant disputes, some Criminal Code (summary) offences, some minor narcotics offences, labour law, commercial law, contracts, creditor's rights, tort, and provincial offences.



Desirable Residences

Complete with Ghosts

There used to be a time when anyone selling a house would never dream of mentioning that there was a ghost lurking in it. Owners preferred not to tell, and real estate people certainly did not want to know -- and what the new owners were not aware of could not worry them!

Things have changed, and a few intrepid realtors have been known to list houses with a ghost thrown in for good measure along with the "ultra-modern kitchen, three-car garage and magnificent landscaping." Ghosts are much more acceptable today than they have ever been, and for the man or woman who has everything and is bored with Neiman Marcus Christmas catalogues, a house with a ghost is just the sort of thing to appeal. In fact, there are so many people yearning to have their own ghost around the house that realtors are rapidly running out of such desirable residences.

Of course if you have a lot of money, you are entitled to shop around to find a house which has the type of ghost that specially appeals to you. It is becoming a case of "each to his own." A small, modern house in southern California has a minute garden through which a galloping, ghostly stage coach thunders several times a year. The present owners of the home were intrigued by the idea of a ghost, but the slick realtor forgot to tell them about the coach!

On the other hand, one could buy a house which ought to have a ghost and then find nothing at all happens. Scotland has its fair share of Celtic ghostly goings-on, but Boleskine House, overlooking the home of the Loch Ness monster, was once owned by Aleister Crowley. He was famed as a magician and his special brand of mysteries included some weird and wonderful things during his lifetime at the turn of the century. Alas, the present owners have never had one scary night, but I suppose if one cannot have a genuine ghost there is always the chance that the Loch Ness monster might take another peek at the world -- and what a view Crowley's old house has when this event takes place!

Everyone takes it for granted that I must have a ghost or two lurking around one of my own houses. I never buy a house just for the ghost because those I would really like to know all about haunt royal property. I could go for Hampton Court, complete with the ghost of Anne Boleyn, one of the wives of Henry VIII, but unfortunately the reigning monarchs of England cling to their historic mansions. However, I did have a miserable ghost in my house in Houston. She was German and hated both myself and my son, but she had amazingly good taste in paintings and always recommended the right ones for us to buy. We had an art gallery at the time, so her presence was useful. But apart from that, she was mean -- causing innocent, unsuspecting visitors to be bounded out of their beds. We found the quickest way to lose friends was to invite them to spend a night with us. They never asked to come again. We had great difficulty in selling that house, but now it would be popular among realtors.

Recently I bought an historic landmark house in Florida; it is a lovely, serene seventy-five year-old home which once was the sole guardian of a particular stretch of the Indian River in Brevard County. We bought it knowing that it had a ghost, a sweet middle-aged lady who seemed to want us to have the house -- and, indeed, it became ours through a series of peculiar unbusiness-like incidents. My son and his wife already seem to be on friendly terms with our gentle lady, and I hope to become better acquainted with her when I spend the winter in Florida. I think perhaps we paid too much for the property, but who could resist a friendly ghost who assures us we are all welcome in HER house?

If I cannot have Hampton Court and Anne Boleyn, I am willing to settle for the gentle lady of Indian River. All I hope is that she continues to be as quiet as she is at the moment. I simply could not face a noisy ghost around the house.

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