

There's something rotten here

Nick Taylor, Provincial Liberal leader, has called for an immediate all Party Committee to be struck by the Provincial Legislature to investigate utility rates in Alberta.

"There is something rotten in Alberta," he said "when utility increases have exceeded the 11% guideline by 200% to 800%."

"In the case of natural gas, asking Albertans to pay Eastern export prices when the people of Alberta own the gas in the first place, is like asking a farmer to pay for eating his own potatoes."

Taylor stated that in the

case of Rural Gas Co-ops, the Lougheed government have broken their world. "Most co-ops were initiated on promises of gas," he said, "one third of what the Lougheed Government says they'll have to pay."

The Liberal leader said that in the fields of electricity and phones, "I have a feeling that a great deal of the expansion costs necessary for Lougheed's industrial dream is being saddled on present day users."

Taylor pointed out that he has always opposed industrialising on a non-renewable resource base but "if we can't stop the Premier's

power trip, at least we can ask him to finance utility expansion at the cost of the new users not the old customers."

Taking off the Provincial government "front end load of royalties on oil and gas could reduce wholesale prices of natural gas and gasoline by up to 50%," Taylor concluded.

U of A salutes foursome

This May, the University of Alberta will pay tribute to four Canadians by awarding them honorary degrees during its spring convocation.

During the convocation, which begins May 26 and lasts three days, three persons will be awarded honorary Doctor of Law degrees and the fourth will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

T.C. "Tommy" Douglas, former premier of the province of Saskatchewan and a past leader of the Federal New Democratic Party; Fred Jenner, an active Edmontonian and former chairman of the University of Alberta Board of Govern-

Beer scandal brewing

WASHINGTON (ENS-CUP) - As more multinational corporations reel under disclosures of international bribes and kickbacks, a major pay-off scandal also is brewing at home. It involves the American beer industry.

According to Business Week magazine, the Justice Department, Treasury Department and Securities and Exchange Commission are on the verge of exposing a major

scandal in the brewing industry. Government sources are saying that beer companies and their distributors have made millions of dollars in illegal payments to gain favoured positions with such big customers as airplanes, hotel and restaurant chains, and sports stadiums.

The Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company already has stated publicly that it has been under investigation by the SEC for allegedly improper payments. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. According to Business Week, Anheuser-Busch (the makers of America's top-selling brand - Budweiser), Millers and other manufacturers and distributors are being investigated by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The widescale investigation will not be limited to the beer industry. Although brewers are the initial target of the pay-off probe, the government also plans to look into both the vending machine and construction businesses.

Canada definitely not making time

Direct time-loss resulting from the 213 work stoppages due to strikes and lockouts in November 1975 is up nearly one million man-days from the same month of the previous year.

Man-days lost in November represented 90 man-days per 10,000 worked compared with 30 in November 1974.

The time lost includes five work stoppages under federal jurisdiction amounting to 33% of all man-days lost during the month.

In November 33 work stop-

pages involved 500 or more employees each and accounted for 75 percent of total time lost. Twenty-seven of these larger stoppages were in manufacturing, and two each in transportation and utilities, trade and services.

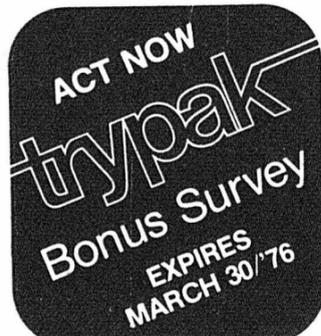
For the first 11 months of 1975 direct time lost amounted to 10,362,070 man-days, which represents 55 days per 10,000 man-days of total time worked. The corresponding figures for the same period in 1974 were 8,938,110 man-days lost and 48 days per 10,000 man-days worked.

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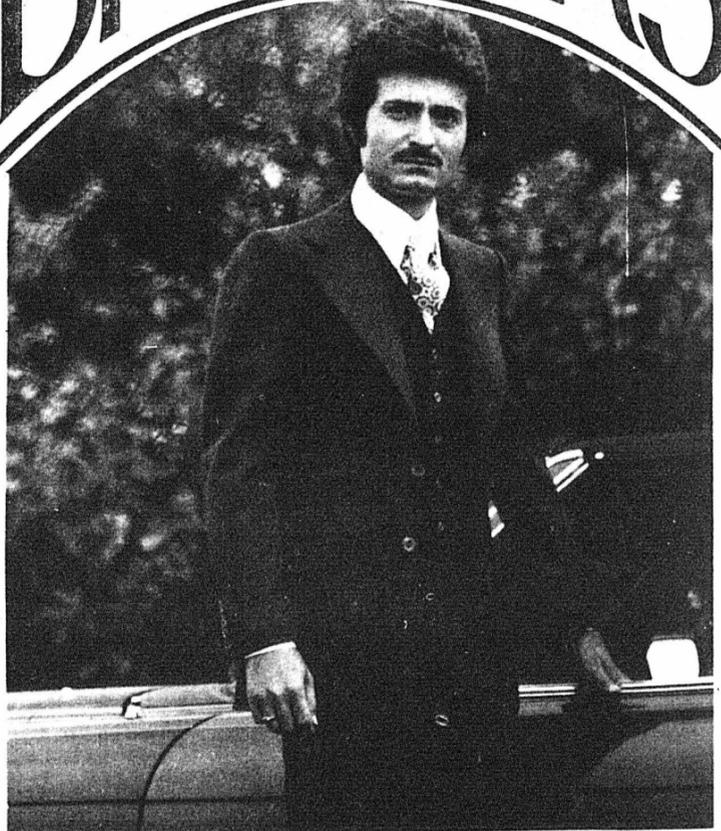
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