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Laxer claims no shortage

By RON ROSENTHAL

Oil corporations are creating an artificial oil shortage and "there will be no shortage of fossil fuel in the world in the near future," Jim Laxer told a York audience recently.

Laxer, author of Energy Poker Game, spoke to 100 students on the policies behind the current energy crisis, at the invitation of the York Waffle.

He reported that the world's oil supplies should peak between 1990 and 2000, and last until 2030, at which point coal, the "ultimate source," could be substituted. It is estimated that 88 per cent of the total world supply of fossil energy is crystallized in coal.

Only five to 10 per cent of recoverable coal has been discovered to date, said Laxer. He estimated that the coal age will not peak until the 22nd or 23rd century, and that it will last for up to 300 years.

He felt the villains in the current crisis are the oil corporations, the largest of which, Exxon (formerly Standard Oil of New Jersey), controls 20 per cent of the known world oil supply.

Last year, Exxon absorbed \$25 billion in sales and earned a profit of 2.5 billion dollars, he reported. Seventy million of this was used to change the corporation's name.

Laxer said the oil giants, far from facing a shortage, are actually faced with an oversupply of easily recoverable oil which prevents full

monopoly control of the business. The magnates, he continued, are making a deliberate effort to restrict exploitation of oil sources to turn an oil buyers' market into an oil sellers' market.

The small companies are making the most of the new finds, but known sources are still sitting unexploited, he reported. The largest American source, 60 billion gallons worth, lies under Colorado, while many children in the state cannot be driven to school due to lack of gas. Laxer quoted a report which stated that the American multinationals spend more on advertising than on exploitation.

He added that the current state of

Land Lord

REGINA (CUP)—In Regina The Roman Catholic Church is now in hotel business.

Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation, one of the many organizations that make up the Roman Catholic Church, holds 24 per cent of the shares in Cavalier Enterprises, a company building a major hotel complex in downtown Regina.

Cavalier already owns a hotel in Saskatoon and one in Prince Albert. Neither of them employs union labour.

The Roman Catholic Church owns far more than slums and hotels. It ranks as one of the world's richest corporations.

"artificial crisis", is being maintained by the practice of creating a shortage of oil tankers, buying up future energy sources (such as coal), and preventing the use of alcohol or other sources.

On the subject of the proposed Mackenzie pipeline, Laxer said the line is clearly not designed to fit Canadian needs, and that if Canada exhausts its supplies now, the future energy needs of Canadians will have to be imported when the price is much higher.

He concluded by calling for the nationalization of the oil resources without compensation. He argued that compensation acts as a new variety of depletion allowance which finances the development of better sources in competition with the nationalized industry.

Police under investigation

By GARFIELD M. PAYNE

An investigation of police testimony given during the trials of persons charged at the Artistic Woodwork strike, is now being conducted, according to Metro police chief, Harold Adamson.

Adamson was speaking to about 200 students in the Osgoode Hall Law School moot court on the Police and the Courts, Feb. 13.

When asked if he would object to a public inquiry into police conduct at Artistic, Adamson replied that he would have no objection, but he would not support a call for one.

Alan Grant, professor of Law at Osgoode, asked Adamson why there was not a more open disclosure of the complaints and investigations of police officers.

Adamson replied that the results of the investigations were available, but the press had not reported them.

Prior to Adamson speech approximately 20 people protesting the police conduct at Artistic demonstrated outside the main entrance to the law school.

"From
Way back, when you were in grade ten high school, if you had been able to look ahead to the amount of work that you had to do to get where you are today, you might have been tempted to throw up your hands and say, 'no way baby, not for me', or whatever the idiom of the day was. And yet here you are..."

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