



## Student Telephone Directories



photo Jim Connell

The infamous King Tut, who in this life is an engineer, exhorts his minions to build a pyramid in Quad for his queen

## Oil pricing debated at forum

by Peter Michalyshyn

Alberta's oil pricing policy was the subject of a Political Science Undergraduate Association (PSUA) debate between a politician and a political scientist Thursday afternoon.

Peter Knack, MLA for Edmonton Whitemud, and professor Garth Stevenson of the Dept. of Political Science participated in the debate, co-sponsored by the 1979-80 Alberta Legislative Interns.

Knack outlined the present Alberta government policy. First, he said, it agrees with federal plans to move oil prices

toward 85 per cent of the Chicago market price.

Second, "The Alberta government is prepared to overheat its economy to provide more oil for Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes," he said.

Third, according to Knack, the Alberta government supports small Canadian firms in the oil industry through incentives to keep them competitive with huge multinationals.

Knack, an economist and constitutional lawyer, and once president of the PSUA, added a footnote.

Although the federal government has constitutional

authority to set oil prices through its emergency powers, "I don't think paying a price the equal of every other industrialized country in the world is an emergency," Knack said. Alberta has constitutional ownership of its oil resources, he added.

Stevenson said he agreed the provinces have constitutional ownership rights of their resources, according to Section 109 of the BNA Act. He said the federal government also had broad jurisdiction in Section 91(2), under "The Regulation of Trade and Commerce."

However, Stevenson said these constitutional arguments were merely "bargaining points" toward an inevitable compromise between the provinces and the federal government.

"The real question is how high the price will rise and how the proceeds will be shared between the provincial and federal governments, and the oil companies," he said.

He disagreed with Knack on the question of ownership, saying he couldn't accept the "absolutist Alberta position." Stevenson said there were certain "moral" claims against absolute ownership rights of any province in a Federal state.

"The case for giving Alberta the major portion of increased revenues is rather weak," he said.

"A stronger case could be made," Stevenson said, "for giving more of the increase to oil companies," who would turn the money toward exploration and research and development. He also said the Alberta government might use its revenues to artificially lower taxes and gas costs in the province.

But, "an even stronger case can be made for giving more revenue to the federal government," Stevenson said.

He said especially in the area of social policy the federal government could use the revenue to offset particularly distressing effects of higher energy costs.

Friday's PSUA forum will discuss the political situation in Afghanistan.

## Pandas, from 13

serve reception can easily be corrected.

The Pandas are a young team and are susceptible to inconsistency. However, later in the season they will probably overcome this difficulty. Generally, Baudin is optimistic and feels playing experience will help the team to become confident and more familiar with the new playing style.

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