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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, February 14, 1978

Who's getting to your legislator? (and what are they saying?)

by Marjane Ambler

Lobbyists. The word itself has all kinds of sinister connotations for most people. One freshman legislator in Wyoming, Rep. Steve Cranfill, says he imagined ogres descending upon him, flashing \$100 bills.

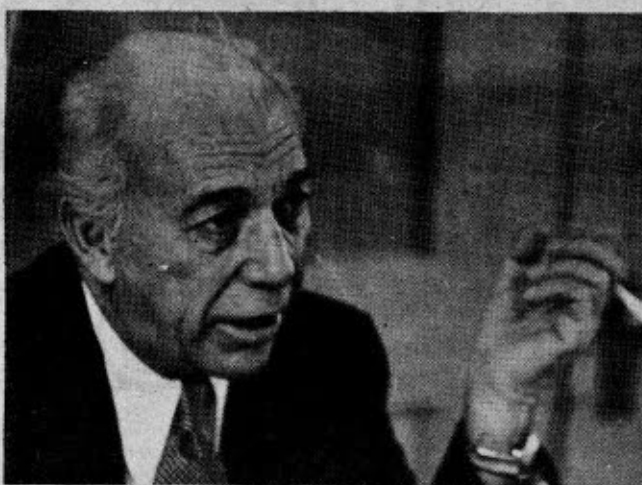
Not surprisingly, lobbyists do not perceive themselves that way. When interviewed at the Wyoming State Capitol in Cheyenne, without exception they told the **High Country News** that the most important qualities for an effective lobbyist are honesty and credibility. They emphasized the informational service they provide and played down the use of money for effective lobbying.

"You have to answer their (the legislators') questions with absolute candor — even if it hurts, even if it costs you the bill," according to Bill Budd, lobbyist for the Wyoming Mining Association. Other lobbyists agreed that if they were to give inaccurate information one time, the word would quickly be spread, and no legislator would request their information again.

The legislators themselves quickly discover that the lobbyist does not fit the stereotyped image that they expected, according to the comments of three Wyoming representatives interviewed. They recognize that lobbyists' information is necessary in consideration of the relative merits of legislation. However, that doesn't mean that they absolutely trust them. "The lobbyists are not going to lie," according to Rep. Nels Smith of Crook County, speaker pro tem of the House. "But there are some things they won't tell you," he adds quickly.

One reason lobbyists are needed as sources of information by Wyoming legislators is that the available research staff is very limited. State senators and representatives can turn to the Legislative Services Office for research on specific topics, but there are only six attorneys plus clerical help available there. Only a handful of legislators have personal assistants, and the number of bills they must decide on is "insurmountable," in the words of one representative. A total of 755 bills have been introduced so far in the 1975 session in Wyoming.

Lobbyists serve as sources of technical and specific information in other states' legislatures which have larger staffs. Although Rep. Smith believes a larger research staff would be helpful, he says, "You can't operate on the premise that you can replace lobbyists as a source of information." One reason for this is that the state can't compete with the salaries received by professional lobbyists. Smith doesn't know specifically how much the lobbyists receive, but he assumes they're "getting a bundle." Taking a hypothetical example, he said that if an organization knows a guy is talented, they

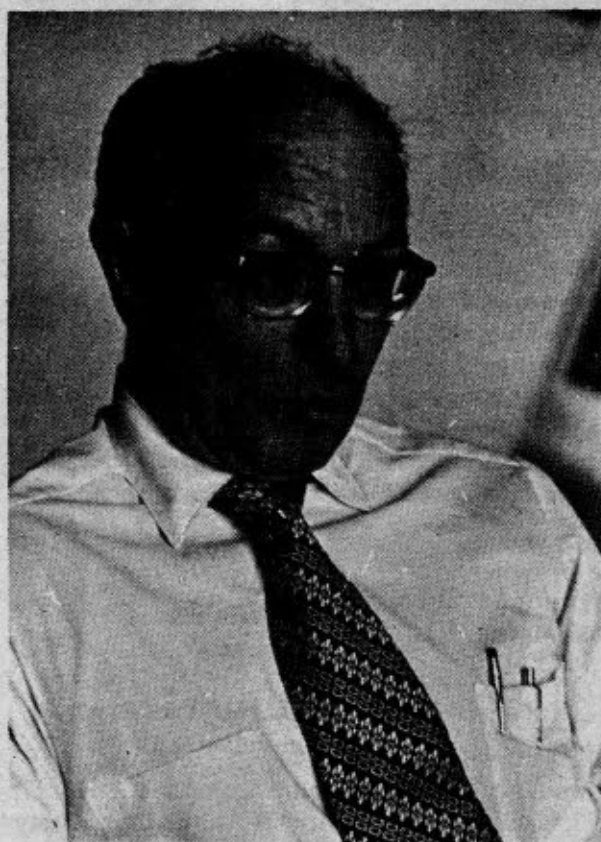


Glenn Sweem
AFL & CIO and
United Transportation Union

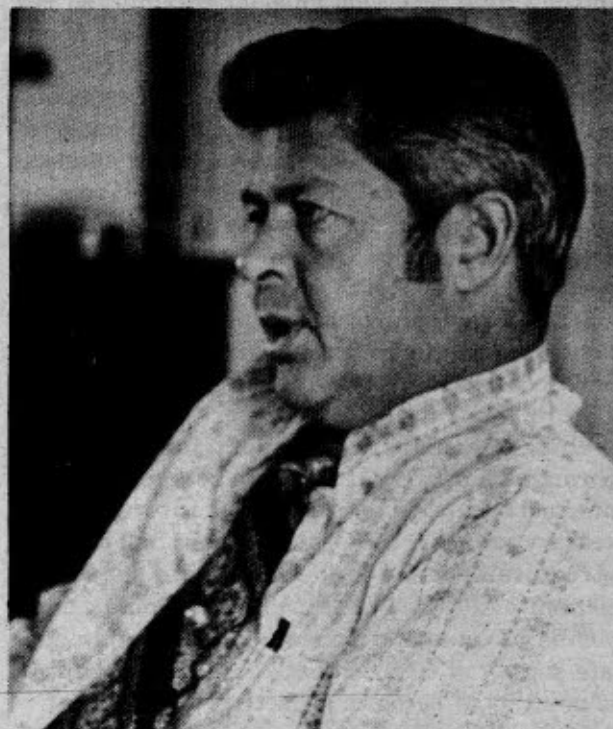
"At least 90% of the lobbying is done at the Hitching Post (where most of the legislators stay)."



Lynn Dickey
Common Cause and
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"All the legislators I've had contact with seemed to appreciate the fact that we're here."



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"I never knew it (the slurry pipeline proposal) would be such a hornet's nest. . . ."



Bill Budd
Wyoming Mining Association
"The legislature is changing — but I'm not afraid of it."

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HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

The vast coal deposits in Montana, Wyoming and adjacent states loom very large in just about everybody's energy future. The question now seems to be, how will the coal be taken and used with the least amount of environmental damage? And that question leads to another, who is to determine what is minimal, acceptable damage to the environment?

Proponents of the old full-speed-ahead, growth-at-any-price philosophy would waive all restrictions and prohibitions on coal development and use. Their argument is that America's capitalistic system is dependent upon profits derived from the production and use of raw materials. Anything which inhibits profits impedes the system. They say environmental controls only add to costs without increasing production.

On the other side of the spectrum are those who insist that social and environmental costs have been too long ignored; that these costs must be assessed as part of production costs. (All costs are eventually paid by the consumer. Hence, the recent dictum that the days of cheap energy are gone forever.) Those who hold this view point to energy conservation as the only viable alternative.

In between are a wide range of views, held by people of all political persuasions. One which recently came to light was put forth by a Portland, Oregon, city commissioner, Francis J. Ivancie. In an article in *The Sunday Oregonian* (Feb. 2, 1975), he made some interesting observations.

Ivancie was taken to Wyoming as a guest of Pacific Power & Light Co. PP&L headquarters are in Portland and the company is one of the larger private utilities in the Pacific Northwest. It is now building the huge, coal-fired Jim Bridger power plant near Rock Springs, Wyo., to serve its customers as far away as Oregon.

Ivancie was impressed. He said, "What I saw in PP&L's coal fields in Wyoming is an opportunity for Oregon to retain a standard of living and an economy that was built and still depends on abundant and economically reasonable energy." Earlier he had said, "Availability of large amounts of cheap, low sulfur coal in Wyoming and Montana presents Portland and the State of Oregon with an opportunity to develop a hedge against power generation costs that are estimated to escalate from less than 1 cent per kilowatt hour to 2½ cents in the next 15 to 20 years."

Ivancie describes the coal mining areas he saw as a "wasteland." He said, "Land that has no value for farming and at best is marginal for grazing, and as a sparse habitat for a very limited population of antelope and rabbits, should be more productive." He obviously wasn't told that both the Red Desert and the Powder River Basin are the ancestral homes of the world's largest remaining pronghorn antelope herds. Nor was he told that northeastern Wyoming was at least as productive for wheat and cattle grazing as most of eastern Oregon.

Anyway, he goes on to say, "One way for Oregonians to take advantage of the coal that lies beneath this barren land is to form a partnership between PP&L, local and state government agencies and the public. PP&L controls the coal reserves and the only way that Oregonians can preempt it for Oregonians is through PP&L. Local and state governments are concerned because their support and intervention is necessary to insure reasonable rather than prohibitive requirements for the mining of coal and its use to generate electricity. Meanwhile, the public must be made to understand the importance of an adequate supply of electricity at a reasonable cost. At this point, coal becomes attractive."

And there you have it. In one man's view, Wyoming and Montana should be ripped off so that Portland, Oregon, can continue to exist in the manner to which it has become accustomed. Thank God, not everyone believes as he does.



Letters

EPC SENDS THANKS

Dear HCN,

Thanks for giving us help when we needed it so much. And we were given a lot of money by people around the country who decided that if people in the Rockies and Northern Plains are trying to keep the Environmental Policy Center operating, then we must be worth supporting.

All together, we got enough to carry us through the end of 1974, pay our phone and other bills, and get us started on this year's work. Now that we are into a new year (our fourth), we should get enough help from our regular contributors to keep us operating for the next few months. So, I think we will be in pretty good shape for a little while.

A couple of people who responded to the *High Country News* appeal sent us cash, and forgot to put their return addresses on the envelopes, so it would be nice if you'd put a thank-you in the paper for us, since I won't be able to write to them.

Regards,
Joe Browder
Environmental Policy Center
Washington, D.C.

JUDGE WAS THE MISTAKE

Dear Mr. Bell,

I was incensed to read your column in the Jan. 17, 1975, issue of *High Country News* on the travesty perpetrated by the "honorable" U.S. District Judge Ewing T. Kerr in declaring the sagebrush spraying by the Diamond Ring Ranch "an honest mistake."

Evidently a mistake was made, and the wrong should be righted. The mistake to which I allude, however, is not that of the irreparable harm done to public land but that of placing men of the caliber of

this honorable judge on the bench. It is indeed unfortunate when such persons somehow feel omnipotent and unaccountable for their actions.

I have always admired your candor and forthright news reporting and therefore assume you are able to attest and substantiate the allegations made in your article. It is hoped you will be afforded such an opportunity!

By photo copy of this letter and the entire above referred issue, I am requesting the National Wildlife Federation to publish the accounts of this travesty after making a full investigation.

Sincerely,
H. A. Nelson
Omaha, Neb.

GRAZING SUIT NO THREAT

Dear Editors,

I am unable to reconcile Lee Catterall's comments in HCN of Jan. 17 with the recent decision of a federal court in Washington, D.C., ordering the Bureau of Land Management to evaluate and report upon the impacts of livestock grazing on public lands. Catterall reports, "A court decision . . . has threatened the future of livestock grazing on federal land" and ends his comment by quoting a lawyer that it would "put a lot of ranchers in the West out of business."

A real frightening situation if it were true. I do not believe the decision will be harmful to the livestock industry, although I am led to that conclusion in reading the Catterall column.

As I interpret the court decision, it only asks the BLM to describe the impacts of grazing upon the land. If the impacts are not harmful to the environment, there will be no need to make changes in livestock usage of the land. No rancher will be put

Editorials



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Wyoming air clean-up costs distorted

Tough sulfur dioxide regulations on coal and oil burning equipment were passed by the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council last month. They "compare favorably with what other states around us have done," according to Robert Sundin, director of the council's staff, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The regulations were passed after a grueling round of hearings in December at which all industry representatives spoke strongly against the proposed regulations and all other speakers spoke enthusiastically for them.

The Environmental Quality Council's vote showed no division of feeling about the matter, however. Six of its members voted for the regulations and one member, Paul Godfrey, abstained.

The regulations are less stringent on existing equipment than on new equipment, and less stringent on small plants than on large ones. They will require that sulfur abatement equipment be installed on the Jim Bridger plant and on one unit of the Naughton plant. Because of their size, the Dave Johnston plant and the one unit at Wyodak will not need sulfur equipment, Sundin says.

Now, long after the hearing record is closed and the regulations are about to go into effect, some

representatives of industry are prolonging the debate. They have used harassment of the DEQ and distortions in the press in a last ditch attempt to get their point across.

Basin Electric officials have been "rather adamant with Randy Wood's people" (the DEQ's air quality division), Sundin says. He adds that the Air Quality Division has had to endure complaints and "abusive language" from representatives of Basin Electric, which plans to build a power plant near Wheatland, Wyo.

Pacific Power and Light Co.'s division manager, Bob Moench, has issued statements to the press saying that power rates in Wyoming will rise 30% as a result of the new sulfur dioxide regulations. Sundin calls this claim a "distortion." He says the figure is "more like 10%."

Sundin says PP&L's figure is based on revenues from the power the company produced in the last year. Presumably, increased revenues from PP&L's

large planned increases in power capacity would help offset the costs of sulfur abatement.

Sundin also claims that the 30% rise in electric bills is based on installing sulfur equipment not only on the Jim Bridger plant, but on the Wyodak and Dave Johnston plants as well. The new regulations don't require the installation of equipment on the latter two, Sundin says.

"They (PP&L) are being very forward-looking in requiring more than is required by the standards," Sundin says. But he adds that the public should know that the added expense is not required by the state's sulfur regulations.

We think it is time that these representatives of industry stop grousing and start cooperating with a state that has decided to protect its clean air and its people's health. Public hearings have been held. If the utilities have a legitimate battle to fight now, let them fight it in the courtroom.

The state is ready. "It would be fine if a clarification through the courts is needed," Sundin says. "We have taken a middle-of-the-road approach. We are assured that the technology is here." —JN

Guest editorial

Western governors upstaged and outgrinned by Interior Department

by Carolyn Johnson

The Rocky Mountain West has been the fiefdom of the Department of the Interior and the mining interests it serves for over a century. If the meeting in Denver with the 11 western governors on Jan. 24 is a sign of the future, Interior will continue to exercise that control for a good while longer.

At the meeting, Secretary of Interior Rogers C.B. Morton laid out "the orderly response from this part of the world to the energy crisis" — increase coal production about 500% by 1985 to meet President Gerald R. Ford's energy program. He made it clear that the states may have a say in how that increase is achieved, but not if that much coal is to be dug.

Though the meeting was billed as a "dialogue" between the governors and Interior (called at the request of the governors who are attempting to assert an independent, unified voice on energy development in the region), it was Interior's show. The governors were upstaged and outgrinned.

Flanked by the two Asst. Secretaries for Land and Water and Energy and Minerals, Morton brought a simple message to the governors: Dig coal, "continue the dialogue we have begun here today," and no state can pre-empt the national interest. This message was synchronized with flip charts, smooth presentations by the Assistant Secretaries, and thick hand-outs of President Ford's state of the Union message.

In contrast, the governors were philosophical and non-specific and seemed over-awed by the Interior show. Many of their attempts to question Morton on the states' prerogative were thrust aside and evaded.

Primary among the governors' concerns were: 1) federal usurpation of state regulations governing air, water, land, facility siting, and utility rates and 2) adequate funds to prevent run-away boom town social dislocation.

Gov. Cecil Andrus of Idaho strongly stated the first concern in reply to Morton's assertion that the national interest must come first (meaning the feds would usurp the states):

"Rather than a short-term solution, I would urge you to recognize that this will compound, as the world goes on, the need for energy. I would hope that

we would begin looking at some of the other sources. I would like to set the record straight on one thing: the possibility of the federal government and or the agencies usurping the rights of states in any areas. Mr. Secretary, we in Idaho have absolutely no intention of reducing our air and water standards simply to participate in the race to ruin under the guise that we must do it today." Andrus' emphasis)

Morton's response to concern about social dislocation was that he felt there was adequate funding now, though he would back allowing the state's share of federal lease revenues to go beyond uses now allowed, which are only for roads and schools. He also repeatedly pointed out that the increase in production expected of the western states would not be catastrophic (environmentally and socially) because "that's about the same total production that we are now getting from about 20 counties in West Virginia and Kentucky."

Has anybody taken a look at those states lately? Want to imitate them?

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10¢ ANDREW JACKSON



out of business if his livestock are causing no damage to the land or other valuable resources. On the other hand if grazing is carried on in harmony with other uses that are all adjusted to eliminate damage, livestock grazing becomes one of the most stable uses of the land.

The decision of the court simply opens the door and makes visible to the public previously undisclosed conditions. Actually, the information that is requested from the BLM is nothing more than the voting public should receive from federal bureaucracies all along.

It is surprising then that just seeking factual information concerning the impacts of grazing should provoke misleading comments about the court decision and attempts to misinform the public about the meaning and true purpose of the decision.

Wyomingites, particularly, should not be concerned about the decision as their livestock industry leaders are already in the forefront in protecting Wyoming's environment from uses that damage the land, as reported in "Who Owns Big Sky," July-August 1974, **Sierra Club Bulletin**.

Earl D. Sandvig
Portland, Ore.

P.O. CARRIERS LIKE PAPER

Dear Editors:

I work at the post office and I was told by the carriers not to let my subscription lapse as they would miss many of the photos and articles you have in your paper. We all like them. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Inez Ustruck
West Bend, Wis.

4 Lobbyists. . .

(Continued from page 1)

might pay him \$25,000. "The state can't compete with that," he says.

Rep. L. J. Hunter, a freshman from Campbell County, says, "There is no question that a lobbyist can be helpful. In some instances, he is the only source you have for some kinds of information." He likes the new legislative requirement that lobbyists wear identification badges. He also tends to support the concept of requiring lobbyists to disclose their expenditures if over a certain amount per legislator. A bill with that requirement has been introduced by Rep. Cranfill. "If legislators have to go through that (financial disclosure), then everyone else should, too," Rep. Hunter says.

Rep. Cranfill, a freshman from Washakie County, agrees that lobbyists have a very useful role, despite his suspicions when he first came to Cheyenne. He now considers them "just concerned people who want to express the interests of their group." However, he does believe that if they spend over a certain amount in excess of the normally extended courtesies, the public has the right to know about it and know who it was spent on.

Although he believes every lobbyist — even the consumer advocate — represents a vested interest, Rep. Smith thinks that as a group, the lobbyists do represent the people of the state because of the diversity of the lobbyists' interests.

On the list of 310 lobbyists registered in Cheyenne, diversity is evident. It includes the Wyoming Optometric Association, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the Farm Bureau, Common Cause, Wyoming Beer Wholesalers Association, the Contractors' Association, Exxon Co., the Wyoming Stock Growers, Utah Power and Light, and the League of Women Voters.

LEGISLATURE CHANGING

The Wyoming Legislature has changed through the years, according to most of the lobbyists who were asked. "Rural guys have traditionally dominated . . . Their slogan has been, if you can't milk it, ride it, or rope it, then it's not worth talking about," according to Glenn Sweem of the AFL-CIO. Now he believes there is more of an orientation toward industry and business. However, representatives of one farm organization, the Farm Bureau (FB), do not fear this changing percentage. Farm Bureau State Legislative Director Gail Anderson says that they still find the legislators cooperative.

Gary Reed of Pacific Power and Light thinks the trend away from having small businessmen as legislators is unfortunate. "We're getting more attorneys, more professional people, and not the small guy who knows what the sound of a cash register is like," he says. "They're getting more complex, younger, more leaning toward the environment," according to LaMar Day of Utah Power and Light.

Rep. Cranfill also thinks more legislators are environmentally aware than previously. He says many of them found they had to campaign on the environment as an issue. Rep. Cranfill himself defeated an incumbent candidate who had a zero environmental rating, according to the Wyoming Outdoor Council.

Bill Budd, alluding to both environmental and agriculture interests, also says the legislature is changing. "But I'm not afraid of it," he adds quickly.

Although many of their motivations are parallel, lobbyists' methods differ radically when it comes to the use of grassroots support. Most of the lobbyists interviewed said they discouraged members of their organizations from coming to Cheyenne. Sweem says AFL-CIO members aren't asked to come to Cheyenne. "I hate to have our own people come in and lobby if they're not familiar with the procedures. I'm always afraid someone will blow it on me by using abusive language or something. . . Anything can happen," he says. He also does not believe

"Rural guys have traditionally dominated (the legislature). . . Their slogan has been, if you can't milk it, ride it, or rope it, then it's not worth talking about." — Glenn Sweem of the AFL-CIO.

in using letters or telephone calls for mass pressure.

Budd, a former legislator himself, agrees. "I think most legislators will say, 'Deliver me from the amateur lobbyist.'" He thinks the amateur is more likely to get into an argument. "The professional lobbyist knows there's another session coming next year and doesn't put all his eggs in one basket."

The Farm Bureau and the League of Women Voters, on the other hand, encourage grassroots participation.

Gail Anderson explains that policy resolutions are born in the county organizations and voted on by members at the state annual meeting before becoming official Farm Bureau policy. County Farm Bureau organizations are encouraged to meet with their legislators before the session and to follow-up after the session.

Just because they follow the daily proceedings of the legislature, the Farm Bureau staff in Cheyenne doesn't believe that they are the only ones qualified to talk with the legislators.

The League of Women Voters is similarly dependent upon members' support. League positions are developed after local members across the state study the topics and arrive at a consensus agreeable to all. "To us, lobbying is the culmination of years of effort," according to Jane Maxwell, one of the 12 registered league lobbyists. "All of our members are well-grounded in each subject before the action begins." She gives as an example the work on election laws, the study for which began 16 years ago.

STRENGTH FROM THE ROOTS

When help is needed on a particular bill, the league issues a "Call for Action" which results in members writing letters, telephoning their legislators, and coming down to personally lobby. Many of the members have already talked with their legislators since each legislator is interviewed by one or two league members prior to the session. At that time the league member writes down the legislator's attitudes and explains to him or her the league positions.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council, The Powder River Resource Council, and the Wyoming Citizens' Lobby also utilize grassroots citizen support. The two councils are now sponsoring a petition cam-



Gary Reed
Pacific Power and Light
"I doubt whether we're going to build anything else in this state."



Gail Anderson
Wyoming Farm Bureau
"We don't have the percentage of agricultural representation we had when they called it the Cowboy Legislature, but we still have many who understand our concerns."

paign to demonstrate citizen support for a coal export policy resolution introduced in the Wyoming House last week. The resolution calls for shipping coal to power plants out of state if the energy is not needed in Wyoming. The Citizens' Lobby uses a statewide telephone tree to keep citizens in touch.

In interviews with the **High Country News**, each of the lobbyists explained what legislation they are interested in, how they plan to approach influencing the legislators' vote on them, and the problems they face.

The only lobbyist who refused to be interviewed was Jack Gage who said, "My clients would not want me to represent them except in the legislature." Gage would not say whom his clients were, but referred this reporter to the Legislative Services Office where all lobbyists must register. There he was listed as working for the Wyoming Association of Realtors, Inc.

GLENN SWEEM AFL-CIO and United Transportation Union

Glenn Sweem's main interests in the 1975 session of the Wyoming Legislature are "impact, people, and labor." He is concerned about the impact of massive energy development because he knows it will affect the way of life in Wyoming. However, he says he has trouble getting that point through to some of the people he represents who are interested "only in the buck." He says he can't talk to some of the young men about the need for this type of legislation.

To influence legislators, he doesn't believe in using either lots of money or pressure. "I've never found that pressure really accomplishes anything. If you're going to be there the next session, you can't afford to make him mad at you."

Sweem thinks it is important for anyone interested in particular legislation to "nail the legislator down. . . Some legislators say they'll vote one way and then get down there and get rabbit blood — they run." One change that he thinks will help this problem will be an electronic board to show votes, which is planned. Now most votes are taken by verbal ayes and nays. "Legislators can voice vote to gut a bill, and then vote for the final reading (when the vote is recorded) to make themselves look good," Sweem explains.

The lobbying itself — at least 90% of it — is done at the Hitching Post Motor Inn where most of the

legislators stay, not at the capitol, according to Sween.

FRANK ODASZ
Energy Transport Systems, Inc.

When Frank Odasz began working on the slurry pipeline project in May of 1972, he says he had no idea it would turn out to be such a hornet's nest. (The 1974 legislature allowed Energy Transport Systems, Inc. (ETSI) to tap Wyoming ground water for a coal slurry pipeline from the Powder River Basin near Gillette, Wyo., to Arkansas. The water-for-slurry bill was approved pending the state engineer's okay, which was subsequently granted.)

"The idea seemed so rational to me — the national need is so great, the whole country is in jeopardy. . . This would let the conversion of coal to energy problems be elsewhere," he explains. Since then, he has discovered that people of the state are very emotionally involved in the issue.

His role, as he sees it, is just to present factual information and to let people make their own judgments. Odasz, a design engineer, makes himself available to legislators and to groups and organizations across the state for talks. "I'm a low profile lobbyist. . . I want certain people to know I'm here with my slide rule and my slides to present information," he says.

The two bills related to repeal of last year's pipeline legislation are his main interests this session. He is also interested in the minerals excise tax and in the industrial siting bills.

LYNN DICKEY
Common Cause and
Powder River Basin Resource Council

Common Cause is primarily interested in an ethics and disclosure law which deals with public officials trying to influence decisions when they have a financial interest in their outcome. The law would require legislators to disclose any business from which they gain over \$1,000 per year.

The Powder River Basin Resource Council was organized by the people who live at the center of the most intense energy development in the state of Wyoming. In October of 1973, the council wrote a questionnaire on possible coal and water related legislation for consideration in the 1975 legislative session. The legislative candidates' responses were released to local newspapers throughout the state. The council also sponsored several meet the candidates programs with state and local candidates.

The council helped prepare the first draft of one of the plant siting bills which is now being considered in the legislature. Legislation to protect agricultural water, to assure proper land reclamation, and to protect air quality is being pushed by the council.

Dickey says she does all of her lobbying in the capitol building. Since she grew up in the Powder River Basin, she knows all the representatives and can find them in between committee meetings and regular sessions to talk to them. Legislators who need information sometimes call her at the Wyoming Citizens' Lobby house, where she is staying.

BILL BUDD
Wyoming Mining Association

Bill Budd comes to the capitol building with a first-hand knowledge of how legislators react to lobbying since he once served as a legislator himself. He thinks legislators resent being buttonholed when in the capitol building, so he prefers talking with them after working hours at the Hitching Post. He thinks it is very unfortunate that the public "castes a jaundiced eye" on the practice of lobbyists buying a legislator dinner or a drink. "I don't think there is anyone in the legislature who can be bought for the price of a dinner," he insists. Instead, he believes that when he buys a senator a dinner, he is only buying an hour of a busy person's time.

He also does not believe the legislators should have to spend their time on public hearings. "Hear-



Rep. Nels Smith

ings aren't bad if it's not a controversial issue. However, if there are two sides, hearings make it difficult during short sessions. You get all kinds of testimony; you get emotional testimony. . . I prefer informal means."

Budd believes he personally is at an advantage when lobbying because of his experience as a legislator and several years as the mining association lobbyist. However, he perceives the coal industry as being at a disadvantage in the legislative process. "We never have had any legislators from the mining industry, and we still don't have any. . . That's one of the real problems. The environmental lobby, the agricultural lobby — almost any group has someone to speak for them that knows the issues and has knowledge of the subject." Budd says that he can talk to individuals and at committee meetings, but when the bill is being discussed on the floor, he can't present information from the halls or the balcony.

The impact bills concern him. "Coal catches all the flack," he believes. "Coal didn't cause the oil and gas boom in Gillette." He thinks that before anyone can deal with impact, he must define who is causing the impact and to what degree and then collect from those who are making the impact, returning the money to the area where the money was paid.

GAIL ANDERSON
Wyoming Farm Bureau

The Wyoming Farm Bureau finds that it is well enough established as an information source that the legislators come to see them rather than the staff members having to search out the legislators. In contrast to several of the industry lobbyists, Farm Bureau lobbyists spend about two thirds of their time at the capitol building. They try to reach legislators in the morning — "when they're fresh, before the pressures of the day have gotten to them," Gail Anderson says. They also work at committee meetings.

Doug Gibson, research director, says the Farm Bureau's interests go beyond their members' own economic interests. "We have a keen interest in government at all levels." The Farm Bureau works with other agricultural lobbying groups in an organization known as the Ag Unity Group. The meets weekly during the session but does not take group stands unless all members unanimously support a position. Occasionally, Gibson says, they also work with environmental interests or economic interests.

GARY REED
Pacific Power and Light
LAMAR DAY
Utah Power and Light

The Pacific Power and Light (PP&L) representative and the Utah Power and Light (UP&L) representative met with the High Country News together during the relatively calm period at the

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Rep. Nels Smith sums up the attitude of most of the legislators toward lobbyists by quoting a popular saying around the capitol building, "The first session you avoid them. The second, you listen. And by the third session, you seek them out."

Hitching Post before the legislators returned from the capitol. They, too, believe that the lobbying should be done at the Hitching Post, rather than at the capitol building. "I feel that those people are up there to do a job, and I shouldn't bother them there," explains LaMar Day of UP&L.

Both Gary Reed of PP&L and Day of UP&L believe integrity is much more important than money for effective lobbying. "I think these guys will listen to anybody's information. I don't think they would turn lobbyists away because of race or the way they dress," Reed says.

"There's a free and relaxed style there (at the capitol). That's the beauty of this state. . . You hate to see this state change," Reed says. He is interested in the legislation on taxing coal and in the siting bills.

One of Reed's objections to current trends in legislation is that technology is not moving as fast as the pressure for change. Implying that Wyoming regulations are getting too strict, Reed says, "I doubt whether we're going to build anything else in this state." (PP&L now has coal-fired power plants at Jim Bridger, Wyodak, and Dave Johnston.)

JANE MAXWELL
Wyoming League of Women Voters

Jane Maxwell finds that the legislators knew the League of Women Voters well since the league has been around for a number of years supplying information. In fact, several legislators, both men and women, are members of the league, which makes lobbying them on league positions unnecessary, Maxwell says.

The league is monitoring legislation on state aid, election reform, reform in criminal corrections, tax

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LaMar Day
Utah Power and Light

"I feel that those people are up there (at the capitol) to do a job, and I shouldn't bother them there."

Lobbyists. . .

(Continued from page 5)

changes, and environmental quality, including plant siting, land use planning, and stream preservation. Maxwell says the league attends committee meetings and provides fact sheets on league policy to all legislators. Most of her work and that of the other 11 league lobbyists is done at the capitol building during the session. The 12 are paid only for their own expenses.

Maxwell believes it is important for a lobbyist to have enthusiasm, an ability to get along well with people, an ability to take opposition graciously, and a knowledge of the subject matter.

WALT KINGHAM

Wyoming Association of Municipalities

All but four of the 89 cities and towns in Wyoming are members of the Association of Municipalities. Walt Kingham, the executive director, finds that this in itself makes the legislators come to him for information. He can say, "Here's the bill, and here's 52 towns that want it." Wyoming state government is more apt to listen to the problems of the communities now than they were a few years ago since 75% of the people now live in incorporated cities and towns, Kingham says. He has worked with the legislature for 15 sessions. Another advantage, he says, is that many of the legislators are aware of the problems of the cities and towns because many once served as local officials.

The association's objective is to help cities and towns in the most critical areas. "Right now, it's revenue. They have a double-barrelled problem — inflation and impact on the local level. . . . Although Rock Springs did plan, it was caught. There isn't a community in this state that isn't going to feel the impact, no matter how small," Kingham says.

To tackle the impact problems, Kingham worked with the interim committee which studied impact. Asked about the bills the committee came up with, Kingham said, "We support them 1000%. Some places we feel they should have gone a little farther, but we're tickled to death."

Kingham believes the revenue raising bills are essential. "You can't depend upon industry to voluntarily pay anything," he says. The association also supports the land use planning bill. Much of Kingham's lobbying is done at committee meetings and between eight and ten in the morning. "Then I get out. I never want to be on the floor when one of my bills is being voted on. . . . I let the bill stand on its own merits," he says.

JOHN JENKINS

Wyoming Citizens' Lobby

The Wyoming Citizens' Lobby was organized this year and is, according to John Jenkins, state coordinator, a "first time attempt to provide information and analysis to citizens on a statewide basis so that the people of the state can lobby themselves." The Citizens' Lobby has eight full-time staff members in Cheyenne who monitor floor and committee action. Citizens who want information on the status of legislation can call a toll free telephone number in Cheyenne.

In addition, the lobby group prepared information sheets on industrial siting, export policy, hunting and fishing, water protection, land use planning, and the Department of Environmental Quality. These sheets were distributed to legislators and to others interested.

Asked why the sheets dealt only with environmental legislation, Jenkins says, "The greatest threat in 1975 to the general way of life of the people of Wyoming is making itself felt in that arena. Wyoming is eminently perfectable but is very imperfect now."

Staff members are also watching the Human Ser-

vices Reorganization Act and good government legislation. Calls on the toll free WATS line have ranged from licensing procedures for various professions to the probate code to child abuse measures.

LOBBYISTS' "UNDUE INFLUENCE"

Lobbyists are, after all, people — people who believe they are serving the state as well as the group that hires them. The public tends to distrust the lobbyist's relationships with the legislators in direct proportion to how much money the lobbyist has behind him, according to the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures. The conference, in its book called *The Sometimes Governments*, says the people should be concerned — but not about blatant payoffs.

"It is rare for the legislator's vote to be corrupted by the exchange of money. . . . What is wrong is that legislators must lean so heavily upon the arguments and information that lobbyists supply them. Legislators cannot adequately represent the overall public interest, because they are too often incapable of independently gathering their own information or evaluating that of others. The information that a lobbyist presents may or may not be prejudiced in favor of his client, but if it is the only information the legislator has, no one can really be sure. . . .

"Public policy, as a result, tends to reflect unduly the desires and ideas of the interests these lobbyists represent. It is the convergence, or sometimes the clash, of these interests that often determines public policy. Other interests, including the overall public interest, tend by comparison to have little impact on that policy," the Citizens Conference says.

The Wyoming legislature was ranked 50th of the 50 states when the Citizens Conference evaluated legislatures in 1970 on how informed they were. Since that time, Wyoming has made some of the changes recommended by the study and possibly changed its ranking. (Arizona was ranked 38th for being "informed," Montana 31st, Idaho 29th, New Mexico 28th, Colorado 21st, Nevada 19th, North Dakota 17th, Nebraska 16th, South Dakota 15th, and Utah 8th.)



Jane Maxwell

Wyoming League of Women Voters

"To us, lobbying is the culmination of years of effort."

"What is wrong is that legislators must lean so heavily upon the arguments and information that lobbyists supply them. . . . It is the convergence, or sometimes the clash, of these interests that often determines public policy. Other interests, including the overall public interest, tend by comparison to have little impact on that policy." — The Citizens Conference on State Legislatures

SOLUTIONS

To solve the problem of lobbyists having undue influence, the Citizens Conference suggests:

- 1) Make sure the lobbyists operate in the open by requiring them to register, to file annual itemized accounts of their expenditures, and to file annual accounting of their salaries by client and amount.
- 2) Have a professional staff of sufficient size and skills to provide information to legislators.
- 3) Provide long enough sessions for legislators to be able to gather, sort out, and assess the information they need.
- 4) Have a well-developed program of interim activities.
- 5) Provide a specialized staff and other resources necessary for making informed judgments about the fiscal aspects of legislation.



John Jenkins

Wyoming Citizens' Lobby

"Wyoming is eminently perfectible — but very imperfect now."

Illegal construction?

Basin may be jumping ahead of permit

Basin Electric Company may be in violation of Wyoming law, according to Robert Sundin of the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

In a telephone call to DEQ to complain about state sulfur dioxide regulations, Basin told the agency that they were in the midst of construction. Basin is planning a 1,500 megawatt power plant near Wheatland, Wyo.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported Jan. 8 that Basin has entered into a \$94 million contract with Babcock and Wilson for the "design, fabrication, and construction" of two steam boiler systems.

Sundin says that while the state has no specific definition of what constitutes "construction," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency interprets a utility's entrance into any binding agreement as "commencing to construct."

Any emission "point source" such as a coal-fired power plant is required to obtain a permit from the DEQ prior to construction. No such state permit has been issued to Basin Electric.

A saga of Steamboat Springs

by Joan Nice and Bruce Hamilton

Local interest in land use in Routt County, Colo., was sparked around 1970 when the Mt. Werner ski area base development activities began to boom at the county seat — Steamboat Springs. A recreation development subsidiary of LTV Aerospace Corporation bought the hill in 1966. Corporate expansion and promotion of Steamboat Springs brought dramatic signs of growth.

By 1970 events in the area had changed rigid opposition to zoning into concern about large developers. Subsequently, the nine-member Routt County Regional Planning Commission was formed. They adopted subdivision regulations and mobile home park regulations in September of their first year. In the same year, they hired the Denver consulting firm, Charles Gathers and Associates, to draw up a schedule for planning in the county — "a program design."

With Gathers and Assoc.'s help, a zoning resolution for Routt County was passed on February 7, 1972. The document described "an innovative system which responds totally to the county's environmental character," Gathers and Assoc. said.

TOO LATE

Once planning began, the planning commission acted as efficiently as laymen could to bring things under control. Some observers say that development activities beat the planners before they began, however. "Most of the boom took place between the time LTV came in 1966 and the day countywide zoning was passed in 1972," says real estate appraiser Jerry Moore. "Where Routt County went wrong was in not beginning long range planning immediately after the ski area came in."

Up until the summer of 1972, every development brought before the commission had been approved. By the end of 1972, Routt County had platted 9,624 dwelling units — enough to raise the county population of 7,000 by almost 34,000 people.

S. B. 35

In May of 1972 state legislation was passed which marked another turning point in the county planning group's history — Senate Bill 35. According to the state Land Use Commission, the law was intended to give local officials the tools to ensure orderly growth. It redefined the term "subdivision" to include more proposed land activities. It required counties to develop, adopt, and enforce subdivision regulations by September 1, 1972. The act also established more stringent minimum standards for subdivision development than had been required previously.



This agricultural land along the Yampa River in Routt County, Colo. is slated for development. A recreational reservoir and second home community are planned which will take this land out of agricultural production. What authority does the county have to influence this change in land use?

Because of S.B. 35, developers in Colorado now have to show that they can provide adequate water and sewage facilities and that their proposed use of the land is compatible with soils and topography.

While it gave counties the right to review, S.B.35 never explicitly gave them the authority to disapprove a subdivision. In subsequent actions, Routt County has ignored the legislation's lack of clarity on this point, however.

"We have taken the authority (to disapprove a subdivider's plans), whether we had it or not," says a member of the county planning staff. "S.B. 35 has been a catchall for us."

In response to the new law, Routt County passed revised subdivision regulations in August of 1972. Land divided into two or more parcels of less than 35 acres each was defined as a subdivision. Included in the design criteria for projects was a restriction on developments in flood plains, or steep slopes, near fire hazards, or on poor soils. The regulations also made it the planning commission's responsibility to discourage the subdivision of lands which are far in advance of the needs of the county or which can't be served efficiently by public utilities.

The year 1972 was a big one for planning the county. In addition to zoning, S.B. 35, and revised subdivision regulations, the planning office staff

was organized. Today Charlie Jordan, a young man with engineering background and a law degree, is the zoning administrator. The staff includes three other full-time members in the Planning Division and four full-time and one part-time employee in the Building Inspection Division. Although each city has its own planning commission, they all share the county's planning staff.

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

To strengthen the county's position in another way, the planning commission contracted with Gathers and Assoc. to write a \$42,000 comprehensive plan for land use in the county. Gathers began that study in February of 1973.

"Without a comprehensive plan we have a lot of conflicts," says Jordan.

When such a plan is approved, the county's development goals will become a part of the law. Then subdividers will not only have to show evidence of sound planning for an isolated project, but they will have to also fit into a pattern of growth that the county has determined desirable. County goals will become enforceable principles of land use planning.

HELP FROM THE STATE

Decisions on land use in Routt County are backed by the nuisance law, says Jordan. If one landowner's plans for his land may make trouble for his neighbors, then that landowner's plans are the business of county government, Jordan says.

"We're not trying to regulate development that doesn't have impact on other people," Jordan says.

A piece of legislation that gives the counties "full authority to plan," according to Jordan, was passed in the 1974 Colorado legislative session. The law is House Bill 1034, "The Local Government Land Use Control Enabling Act of 1974."

H.B. 1034 states that local governments may:

- regulate development in hazardous areas.
- protect lands from activity which would endanger significant wildlife habitat or wildlife species.
- preserve areas of historical and archaeological importance.
- regulate the location of activities and develop-

(Continued on page 10)



Land use planning can be used to restrict developments in the floodplains of major rivers. In the late spring of 1974 the Yampa River did its own zoning on this stretch between Hayden and Steamboat Springs in Routt County, Colo.

8-High Country News
Friday, Feb. 14, 1975

Ski



Frost on the pines.

Photo by Judy Sumner.

All photos from The Regnery Guide to Ski Touring.



Heading out for an overnight.

Photo by David Sumner.



Patterned texture of branches and hoarfrost. One of nature's many beauties awaiting the winter photographer.

Photo by Judy Sumner.

Ski Touring

The Regnery Guide

Review by August Dailer

Both the advanced and the beginning cross country skier will enjoy and value **The Regnery Guide to Ski Touring**. It is a complete handbook to the sport. Starting with warm-up exercises, it goes through basic techniques, and finishes with refinements that save energy and increase efficiency.

"Ski touring is only an extension of one of the most essential movements we know: walking," the Regnery Guide says. Touring is only the remaking of the walk into the glide.

From the basic exercises to the Telemark position (a sort of downhill, suicidal, marriage-proposal pose) the reader gets good advice and simple, clear instructions. Drawings and photographs illustrate each exercise and technique. There are appendices on ski touring organizations, instructors, and touring areas.

The authors are Sven Wiik, a former Olympic ski coach, and David Sumner, a well-known outdoor writer, conservationist, and frequent contributor to **High Country News**.

All aspects of the sport such as ski construction, equipment purchase, waxing, winter photography, compass reading, overnight touring, and safety are discussed. The skier must match his equipment to his skiing. This matching-up is simplified through the information given in the guide. Materials from wood to synthetics used in the construction of skis, boots, and bindings are evaluated for strength and durability.

The photographs alone will convince even the casual reader that he should be experiencing ski touring.

by Sven Wiik and David Sumner. Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, Ill. 1974. Hard cover, \$7.95. Illustrated.



Twilight — homeward bound.

Photo by David Sumner.

10-High Country News
Friday, Feb. 14, 1975

Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

Irritated by growing criticism about the condition of grazing land, the Bureau of Land Management has told a Senate Committee of its plans to improve much of the land and discontinue grazing on millions of acres.

BLM must report back to court soon to face what may be an order to do even more.

The report to the Senate committee acknowledges more than 80% of land BLM leases for livestock grazing is in "unsatisfactory" condition. It recommends Congress provide more money for BLM to increase the federal role in improving range conditions. And it proposes "withdrawing" 10 million acres from grazing, because the land is "not suitable for continued grazing by livestock."

BLM director Curt Berkland told this column the 10 million acres to be withdrawn are "scattered" throughout the West.

"Some of these lands are now very low yield lands, not supporting very many head of livestock," he said. "Some of these are in critical watersheds for municipalities. Others are areas that will be mined in the near future. Others are of other critical concerns from an erosion standpoint, but there isn't any large area that we can identify at the present time."

A BLM spokesman said the area where mining would be allowed to cut off grazing is an "insignificant" part of the 10 million acres. "Hardly worth mentioning," he said. Indeed, nowhere does the report to the Senate committee mention mining as a factor in deciding whether land should be used for grazing.

Berkland complains the land is not in such bad shape as BLM's critics say. BLM rates only a third of its grazing land as being in "bad" or "poor" condition. It rates half as "fair," but defines that as "unsatisfactory." He says the unsatisfactory land isn't all that bad.

"These are areas in the high desert country that are fragile, and they're in a condition right now where they could go either way. If we have overgrazing from livestock or uncontrolled grazing for wild horses and burros," he said, "fire, drought, anything at all could set these lands back into a poor condition. That's why we list them as unsatisfactory."

BLM officials believe they can improve the condition of the land and at the same time increase the amount of livestock grazing on it — a seeming anomaly.

The recently-adopted policy calls for "heavier use in certain pastures through a pasture rotation system, allowing for rest for some, grazing for some during certain parts of the year, and heavier grazing for some in other parts of the year," said Berkland's deputy, George Turcott.

It also requires Congress to funnel money into the program to help build dams and fences.

More money may be needed so BLM can comply with a court order that the agency prepare dozens of environmental impact statements detailing the effect its livestock grazing program is having on particular areas of the country. Some officials are estimating the cost of merely preparing all those statements at \$40-50 million.



Downtown Steamboat Springs, Colo. with the Mt. Werner ski development in the background. The ski development has stimulated growth in the area which forced the city and the county to get serious about land use planning. Today the county feels it has most of the tools it needs to see that growth is orderly.

Steamboat ...

(Continued from page 7)

ments which may result in significant changes in population density.

—provide for phased development of government services and facilities.

—regulate on the basis of a project's impact on the community.

—regulate the establishment of roads on public lands, except mining access roads.

—regulate and plan to provide orderly use of land and protection of the environment in a manner consistent with constitutional rights.

STRIP MINING

Despite the emergence of these legal tools, Jordan says that the county still lacks the clout to regulate strip mining activities. In Colorado Jordan says that it is the legal prerogative of the state to regulate reclamation.

"Colorado must have the worst strip mining reclamation law in the country," Jordan says. "Fortunately the coal companies are doing a better job than the law requires."

The county's only control over strip mining activities is through zoning. All areas that had not yet been stripped were classified as agriculture and forestry when countywide zoning was enacted in 1972. Now coal companies must come before the planning commission and apply for a zoning change before they can expand their operation.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The spectrum of feelings in the county about land

ROMCOE workshops

Region considers alternative futures

Participants from throughout the region will be discussing alternative futures for the Northern Plains at a workshop to be held March 1-2 in Billings. A similar workshop on the same subject was held in December. (See HCN Jan. 3, 1975)

The workshops stem from a concern about the impacts of coal development in the Northern Plains. The Rocky Mountain Center on Environment (ROMCOE) is sponsoring the workshops.

Discussion at the first workshop was mostly theoretical: What concerns you most about the future of the region, and how should the resources be used?

At the second workshop, participants will get to the practical and try to find ways the desired futures can be obtained.

The three primary alternatives which the majority of the group thinks desirable are:

1) Emphasize and enhance recreation and

use planning are reflected in the ideas of the three county commissioners: Dr. J. A. Utterback of Steamboat Springs, Kirk Crowner of Yampa, and Sumner Hockett of Hayden.

Sumner Hockett, among other things, farms 4,000 acres. He lived through a depression in Routt County. "I've seen it here when there just wasn't enough to keep things going," he says. "I think development is good to a certain extent. I don't think you can stop it. If a rancher or a farmer who owns a chunk of ground wants to sell, I think that's his business — as long as he doesn't interfere with his neighbors. . . . Maybe some of this isn't good progress, but that's what you've got to try to weed out."

Hockett says he was put into office by some big farmers who told him, "We're going to put you in so you can stop that land use planning."

Now Hockett says "I think land use planning is probably needed." And he thinks some of his backers in the election are coming around to the same view.

Hockett says that he and Kirk Crowner usually see eye-to-eye on most issues. The dissident commissioner is usually "Doc" Utterback. Utterback wants every bit of development stopped, Hockett says. Utterback, a veterinarian, describes his position as opposition to over-development with lack of planning and forethought.

"If a developer comes in saying he bought so many acres and wants to put up a condominium or whatever, then he's zoning the county for us," Utterback says. "As I told a developer the other day, 'Sir I think you bought a cattle ranch. You didn't buy a development. . . . For three generations it's raised fat calves, fast horses, and good people. Why should you cover it up with blacktop and put 4,000 people in 10 acres?'"

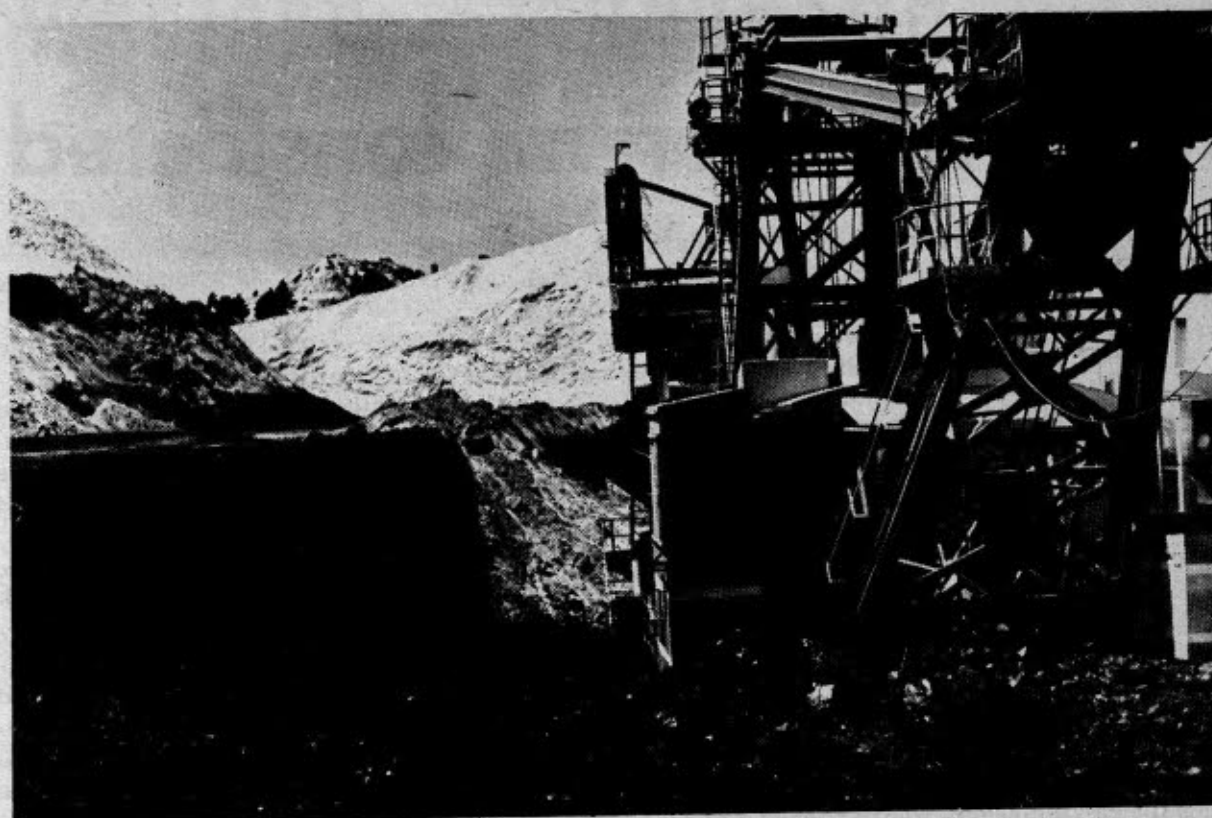
tourism potential by preserving wildlife habitat and encouraging only prudent development.

2) Build a more diverse economic base by increasing clean, small, light industry such as agricultural processing plants and human resource-oriented businesses.

3) Put increased emphasis on a stable agricultural economy, striving for maximum agricultural efficiency with consideration given to net energy returns.

Since the first workshop, each of the three major alternative futures chosen has been analyzed by ROMCOE staff, consultants, and advisors. This includes a detailed economic analysis of the constraints on each.

Anyone who wants more information about the workshop should contact ROMCOE at 4260 E. Evans Ave. in Denver, Colo. 80222. ROMCOE is helping to defray participation expenses for representatives of some organizations in the region.



NEW FEDERAL ACTION ON STRIPPING

Since President Gerald R. Ford's veto of the strip mine bill late last year, the Interior Department has come up with its own regulations. Interior's regulations, printed in the Jan. 30 **FEDERAL REGISTER**, closely follow the substance and language of the vetoed bill, but include major changes in certain sections which the Ford Administration found objectionable. Sections concerning mining on alluvial valley floors, siltation of streams, and the location of impoundments "have been softened somewhat," according to Interior. The rules would just govern mining on public lands. The public has until March 3 to submit comments on the proposed regulations to Director, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Va. 22092.

In the meantime, President Ford has sent to Congress a weakened version of the strip mining bill he vetoed saying, "it must be reconsidered in the context of our current national needs." Major changes that Ford proposes from last year's bill include: limiting citizens suits, allowing some siltation of streams, allowing mining in National Forests, reducing the coal tax from 25-35 cents a ton to 10 cents a ton, reducing protection of alluvial valley floors, and eliminating the surface owner veto power provision.

Pictured above is the Western Energy Co. strip mine operation at Colstrip, Mont. Photo by Carol Harlow.



Emphasis ENERGY

in the Northern Rockies and Great Plains



TRAILER TOWN. Douglas, Wyo. Mayor Gene Payne says most of the people moving into his town are living in mobile homes. The 1970 population of 2,600 has swelled to 4,600, according to utility company figures. With all that growth, Douglas is not receiving much more tax revenues, Payne says. The town's assessed valuation has increased by only a half a million dollars. Payne says Douglas residents are the most highly taxed in the state.

IN SITU SHALE. Occidental Petroleum Corp., a pioneer in an underground method of extracting oil from oil shale, may be producing 30,000 barrels of oil per day by 1977 at their DeBeque, Colo. site, company researchers estimate. Their process, a modified in situ technology, involves mining out a small room near the bottom of a shale outcrop. Explosives are detonated in the shale above to create a large, rubble-filled room. The rubble is then set on fire and the oil collected.

GASIFICATION PLANT POSTPONED. Construction of a gasification plant in Beulah, N.D., once scheduled to be the nation's first, has been postponed for another year. Reasons cited by American Natural Gas Co. of Detroit included questionable profitability and uncertainties in government planning, according to a *New York Times* story. A spokesman for the firm says it will cost

them more than \$4 per thousand cubic feet to deliver the synthetic gas, and natural gas from domestic wells is now priced to household consumers at about \$1.20 per thousand cubic feet.

AIR BASE TO BE ENERGY PARK. The federal government has awarded a \$92,000 contract to study the possibility of turning Glasgow Air Force Base, Mont., into an "energy park," according to *The Plains Truth*. The idea is to take two sections of land and turn it into strip mines, power plants, gasification and liquefaction plants and then use that energy for producing plastics, cement, iron, cinder blocks, and bricks. But the Northern Plains Resource Council says they have a better idea. They would like to turn Glasgow into an alternative energy park crammed with windmills, solar arrays, solar panels, and methane converters.

STRIPPING GRASS CREEK. Full-scale coal mining at Grass Creek, Wyo., will begin late in 1976 according to W. Paul Schmechel of Northwest Resources Co., a division of Montana Power. Grass Creek, is located near Meeteetse, Wyo., where an open pit copper mine is planned. The coal mine will produce a maximum of 700,000 tons of coal per year, which Schmechel said is a "relatively small mine." The life of the mine will be about 15 years and about 325 acres will be disturbed, according to a report in the *Cody Enterprise*.

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Friday, Feb. 14, 1975

The Hot Line

energy news from across the country

ENERGY CONSERVATION DOESN'T SELL. Westinghouse researchers have developed a system that senses frost buildup on refrigerators and so defrosts only when necessary, unlike most automatic defrosting refrigerators. The system would add seven dollars to the price tag, so the company has not seen fit to use it. "Of course, the consumer gets his money back in a few months' operation, and perhaps as the consumer becomes more conscious of operating costs of appliances, this type of feature will sell," says one researcher.

EPA ASKS OFFSHORE LEASING DELAY. The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a two-year delay in opening up untouched offshore areas for oil and gas leasing and an indefinite ban on leasing off the Alaska coast. The EPA sent the recommendations to the Interior Department, which was directed by past-President Richard Nixon to lease 10 million offshore acres in 1975, more than triple the 1974 leasing schedule.

FEDERAL ENERGY DATA TERMED "ABYSMAL." Current federal energy data is "abysmal and in immediate need of drastic improvement," according to the Subcommittee on Activities of Regulatory Agencies of the House Permanent Select Committee on Small Business. The subcommittee's report (93-1648) concludes that deficiencies in all forms of energy statistics have adversely affected formulation of federal energy policies. These deficiencies cost the taxpayer over \$1 billion in 1974.

CLUB OF ROME BACKS COAL CONVERSION. The Club of Rome, the prestigious international association that produced *Limits to Growth* study, says that in the short term the most important development in the energy economy is the conversion of coal into gaseous and liquid fuels. Club spokesman Dr. Manfred Siebker says the long-range potential for energy is limited by environmental effects, and there is serious doubt about the wisdom of binding mankind to a nuclear technology based on plutonium.

23 NUCLEAR PLANTS CLOSE. For the second time in five months, nuclear reactors have been ordered to shut down to check for dangerous pipe cracks in their emergency safety systems. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission ordered 23 reactors to close and check pipes after Commonwealth Edison reported the discovery of five pipe cracks in its Morris, Ill. nuclear plant.

BILL TO KEEP OIL OUT OF COAL. Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) has introduced legislation (S 489) to prohibit oil or natural gas producers from owning or controlling coal operations. The bill, an amendment to the Clayton Anti-Trust Act, would also keep oil and gas producers from holding interests in oil shale, uranium, nuclear manufacturing, geothermal, or solar energy businesses.

BIG CAR BAN. Citing the need for energy conservation, Rep. Frank Evans (D-Colo.) has proposed a ban on the manufacture of all but small cars by 1980. Under Evans' bill, cars built after 1980 would have to achieve at least 20 miles per gallon, weigh no more than 3,000 pounds, and have 200 horsepower or less. Between 1976 and 1980 Evans' bill calls for a graduated tax on big cars to discourage the manufacture of gas-hungry models.

12-High Country News
Friday, Feb. 14, 1975

Montana environmental legislation

Four year subdivision moratorium considered

One-third of the way through the session, Montana legislators are facing about 1,100 separate bills. Some of those which would have an effect on the environment are mentioned below.

A bill that would **halt the development of subdivisions on agricultural land** for four years has been introduced by Rep. Herb Huennkens (D-Billings). During the lull, the governor's office would develop long-range goals for land use. "This business of local governments doing their job is part of American mythology," Huennkens says.

Two Montana bills call for a **"coal export policy."** HB 511, the stronger of the two, allows the siting of only those coal conversion facilities which meet Montana's energy needs. HB 453 suspends action for six years on permits under the Utility Siting Act for facilities supplying energy for out-of-state needs, pending a comprehensive policy and plan for state energy facility siting.

A democratic representative from Helena, Paul Richards, has introduced HB 433, which would prohibit construction and operation of **nuclear power plants** in Montana. The bill would also outlaw storage in Montana of radioactive wastes from nuclear energy conversion plants. The prohibitions could be removed, Richards says, if the legislature is presented with evidence that proves the plants and the wastes "will not result in harm to the safety and health of the people of Montana."

HB 349 would allow the state to prohibit coal **strip mining in valley floors** suitable for irrigated farming. Modeled after a provision in the proposed federal strip mining bill, the Montana bill was introduced by Rep. William M. Day (D-Glendive).

The **Billings Gazette** reports that the proposed **Montana Family Farm Act**, which would prohibit non-agricultural corporations from owning agricultural land, is stymied in the Senate.

To stop a situation "where freedom of expression seems to be based on willingness to pay," Rep. Dorothy Bradley (D-Bozeman) has introduced a bill which would require that the state set up **public debates** when there are at least two opposing parties on plans for construction of **major industrial facilities**. Montana Power Co.'s \$100,000 advertising campaign defending the construction of a third and fourth coal-fired electrical generating unit at Colstrip inspired the legislation.

Sen. Thomas E. Towe, a member of the interim committee on Taxation of Fossil Fuels, has introduced a bill which places a **25% tax on the sale**

price of the coal. This method, instead of charging a set amount per ton, allows the tax to increase or decrease with the coal market, sponsors say. The extra revenue, which could amount to \$20 million a year, would be used to bring relief to impacted communities.

Sen. Bill Norman (D-Missoula) has introduced a bill which would expand state air pollution laws to include **"indirect" pollution sources**, such as the traffic generated by a new shopping center. At a hearing before the Senate Natural Resources Committee, the bill came up against a "veritable armada" of industry lobbyists, says Richard Klinger, a health department attorney who supports the bill.

Sen. Carroll Graham (D-Lodge Grass) has introduced legislation which would **do away with the Montana Environmental Policy Act** because he believes the Environmental Quality Council which

it spawned hasn't done its job. Sen. Frank Dunkle (R-Helena) is also behind the bill to squash the council.

Senate Bill 128 requires the use of **re-usable containers for beer and soft drinks.**

A bill to allow cities and towns to set up **public utility districts** has been introduced by House Majority Whip Mike Meloy. Hawaii and Montana are the only two states that do not specifically permit the formation of public utilities.

A bill which requires a city or county permit to **subdivide land** designated as a **"prime agricultural area"** has been introduced by Sen. George McCallum (R-Niarada).

The Montana House has given tentative approval to a **resolution opposing President Ford's recent veto of federal strip mining legislation.** "Why waste the taxpayers' money and time to do this useless act?" asked one representative. "It's important that every step of the way we indicate our displeasure," said Dennis A. Lester (D-Great Falls), the bill's principal sponsor.

A bill to **protect shoreland areas**, HB 153, has been introduced by Rep. Francis Bardanouve (D-Harlem). Under the bill, counties would be required to zone within 500 feet of low-water elevation around lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. If they refused, the state would take over.

Idaho Gov. Andrus wants seven land use bills

Idaho's Gov. Cecil Andrus is pushing seven separate land use bills this year. If Idaho solons can agree on all or any part of the bundle, Idaho will finally be on the road toward a state land use program — a goal which Andrus has sought since 1971.

The bills presented by Andrus are stronger than measures considered and rejected by the state legislature last year. The seven parts of the 1975 package are designed to function independently, in case not all measures are passed. The bills are:

1. **The Local Planning Act of 1975**, requiring all cities and counties to develop and implement comprehensive plans according to state guidelines.
2. **The State Assistance Bill** provides for technical assistance to city and county governments. It requires state review of local plans, but gives no veto authority.
3. **The Regional Impacts Bill** requires hearings on large scale developments which affect more than a local area. The locality would rule on the development on the basis of regional impact. The ruling is subject to appeal.
4. Critical areas would be designated through **The Areas of Statewide Concern Bill.**
5. To protect agricultural lands, **The Definition of a Subdivision Bill** redefines "subdivision" to mean three lots — not five. An exemption for large lots of five or more acres is eliminated under this bill.
6. **The State Planning Process Bill** designates the state Division of Budget and Policy Planning as the agency to co-ordinate the state land use program.
7. **The Local Planning Timetable Act** gives localities until Jan. 1, 1977 to submit a draft plan and until Jan. 1, 1978 to submit a final plan. If a locality fails to act, the state would step in.



regional legislative review

Colorado

Land use bill is attempted again

A raft of environmental legislation has already been introduced in the Colorado legislature.

The **Land Use Planning and Urban Service Area Act of 1975** is similar to a bill that was introduced last year, but killed by intensive lobbying. The bill would control incompatible development within areas that a municipality or a county ultimately expects to service. Another goal is to "encourage comprehensive planning while discouraging a case-by-case approach." The bill, HB 1092, is sponsored by Rep. Charles Howe (D-Boulder).

HJR 1006, should it pass, would request the President of the United States to **relax the prohibition on the use of predator poisons.** The bill is sponsored by Rep. Clarence Quinlen (R-Antonito).

Sen. Joseph Schieffelin's SB 37 **promotes solar energy.** The bill would establish a program for solar research at the Colorado Energy Research Institute. Another bill, SB 75, would encourage use of solar power through **lowered tax assessment.**

HB 1003 would instruct the Public Utilities Commission to evaluate the effect of their **rate structure on energy conservation.**

HB 1167 is a **returnable bottle bill.** It requires soft drink and beer containers to be returnable and provides for a minimum deposit.

For more information on Colorado legislation:
1) Bill information: 892-3055 at the State Capitol.
2) Environmental Hotline: for recorded message call 893-5883.

3) Colorado Open Space Council Environmental Caucus: meeting of the COSC legislative workshop at Tuesday noon, Room B in the basement of the Capitol. If you want to participate in the citizen lobby, come to this meeting or call COSC at 573-9241.

Wyoming considering coal export policy

Sixteen Wyoming legislators are cosponsoring an coal export policy resolution. The bill is now in serious trouble since it came out of committee with a "no pass" recommendation.

However, two Wyoming environmental groups hope to convince legislators that the people of the state support a policy which would favor shipping coal to urban centers where the energy will be consumed. The Wyoming Outdoor Council and the Powder River Resource Council are now circulating a petition throughout the state and hope to have the results to the legislators next week. They hope this will encourage them to give the bill further consideration despite the committee's recommendation.

Governors in both Montana and North Dakota have gone on record as supporting the concept of export policies for their states. Other states have approached the problem through strict regulations which discourage power plants from siting there. However, no state has an explicitly stated policy as is being considered in Wyoming.

Western Roundup

Ford seeks water projects funding

Funding for the Savery-Pot Hook, Dallas Creek, Fruitland Mesa, and Central Utah water projects were included in President Gerald R. Ford's proposed federal budget. The Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project, a plan to bring water from the Colorado River drainage (the Unita Basin) to the Bonneville Basin (the Salt Lake City area) is slated to receive \$14.3 million in the next fiscal year. Conservationists oppose the project because the dams and diversions will destroy 193 miles of high quality recreational streams and the water will feed growth in an already overcrowded area. The Dallas Creek and Fruitland Mesa projects are located in west central Colorado and the Savery-Pot Hook project is on the Colorado-Wyoming line. Ford's decision to increase funding for these projects is seen as a reflection of his desire to push oil shale and coal development in Colorado. The Kemmerer Coal Company has already requested much of the water to be stored in the Dallas project near Ouray. "I don't think there is any doubt that the funding is connected with oil shale development," said Rep. James Johnson (R-Colo.) whose district includes the oil shale deposits.

Haskell introduces Organic Act

An organic act for the Bureau of Land Management has been reintroduced in the Senate by Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.). A similar bill passed the Senate last year 71-1, but was held up in the House and died with the end of the session. The bill would give the BLM its first statutory authority to manage the 451 million acres of federally-owned natural resource lands. Enforcement authority is the BLM's most pressing need, says Haskell. "Vast areas are eroding from vehicular overuse and misuse and priceless petroglyphs and other archeological treasures are dug up or literally blasted off rock walls and carted off for sale in stores in western cities," he says.

Garrison statement inadequate

The Environmental Impact Assessment Project (EIAP) of the Institute of Ecology has released a highly critical scientific and policy review of the Interior Department's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FES) on the proposed Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota. The EIAP review strongly recommended an immediate moratorium on further construction of this project pending the completion of a new environmental impact statement which fully complies with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The 24-member interdisciplinary review team concluded that the statement fails to adequately identify and analyze the massive, potential adverse environmental, economic, agricultural and social impacts of this irrigation project and that it grossly overstates the potential benefits of the project. The scientific team concluded further that the Garrison Project poses serious water quality problems, that costs exceed benefits, that productive family farms will be eliminated, and that the project is highly energy intensive — all of which the FES fails to adequately describe.

Idaho wild horse increase alarming

The wild horse herd south of Challis, Idaho, is increasing at an annual rate of about 28%, according to Bureau of Land Management wild horse specialist Jim Englebright. "This is a rather phenomenal increase. No natural predators on the Challis horses have been identified. Since Public Law 92-195 (Wild Horse Act) eliminated man as a population reducing factor, survival of the horses has been high."

"They are doing serious damage to the public lands both from the point of view of erosion and plant succession," says Dr. Floyd Frank, a member of the National Advisory Board on Wild Horses. "There is a real need for the public to understand that there is a problem." Frank says the horses are competing with wildlife and livestock for food.

Rampton says growth not all roses

"Utah is going to have major developments whether we like it or not," Gov. Calvin L. Rampton told the Utah Broadcasters Association. "We're facing a difficult period in the years ahead," he warned. "Growth is not necessarily all roses." Referring to the dramatic growth in Emery County he said, "That caught us by surprise. We can't let that happen again." Rampton predicts that Kane and Garfield counties will more than double in population within the next five years due to the proposed Kaiparowits coal-fired power plant. Oil shale development in Uintah and Duchesne counties will double those populations in 10 years, he said.

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Friday, Feb. 14, 1975



TETON'S EVERHARDT MOVES UP

Gary E. Everhardt, the past superintendent of Grand Teton National Park, is the newly appointed Director of the National Park Service. Unlike his predecessor Ronald H. Walker, Everhardt is a career employee of the Park Service. Walker was an advance man for former President Richard Nixon in the 1972 campaign and had no park experience when assigned to the post. He resigned Dec. 31 after the Park Service was charged with selling the parks out to concessioners and after a computerized reservation system flopped.

Everhardt has been a strong defender of the parks during his career in Grand Teton. Speaking on the role of the Park Service, Everhardt says, "(The parks) are not playgrounds, they are not tennis courts. . . . National Parks cannot be all things to all people. And this is one of the big problems we have to face. We have to define how many people can use a park and what kinds of things you can do there. No one wants to talk about capacity, but there has to be a capacity for using these parks without impairing them for your kids or my kids. . . . What can the resource take and still provide a quality experience?"

Briefly noted . . .

New Mexico and North Dakota legislatures are both considering state environmental quality acts that would require the preparation of state environmental impact statements. New Mexico had an environmental quality act but it was repealed last year. This year the new Democratic Gov. Jerry Apodaca supports reinstatement of the act. In North Dakota the bill has already passed the House.

Denver metro area businesses are proposing everything from installing special showers for bikers and hikers to juggling working hours to accommodate carpoolers, according to survey forms returned to the Colorado Department of Health as part of a new state air pollution control regulation. Employers of more than 250 persons at one location were required to submit to the department by Feb. 1 their plans for a carpool locator service and mass transit and bicycle incentives. Purpose of the plans, which must be implemented by April 1, is to reduce automotive smog in the metro Denver air quality region.

This spring construction will begin on new facilities at Jackson Hole Airport in Grand Teton National Park, Wyo., according to Assistant Interior Secretary Nathaniel Reed. Safety was the overriding reason for approval of new flashing runway lights, taxi strips, parking facilities and an air traffic control tower, said Reed. The improvements don't include extension of the runway length to accommodate commercial jet aircraft. Environmentalists are concerned that airport expansion could jeopardize park values. The airport is the only one in a national park. On Jan. 31 local officials and government officials met in Denver to begin studying a regional transportation system for the Jackson Hole vicinity. The group will be looking at, among other things, alternative sites for the airport that are outside the park boundaries.



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BULLETIN BOARD

STRIP MINE SOCIAL

The Wyoming Outdoor Council has decided that it, too, can capitalize on strip mining. Jim Barngrover, special projects chairman for the council, has initiated weekly live music benefits at the Chefskellar in Laramie and calls them "Sunday Strip Mine Socials." The benefit programs include bluegrass and folk music as well as mime performances.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SEMINAR

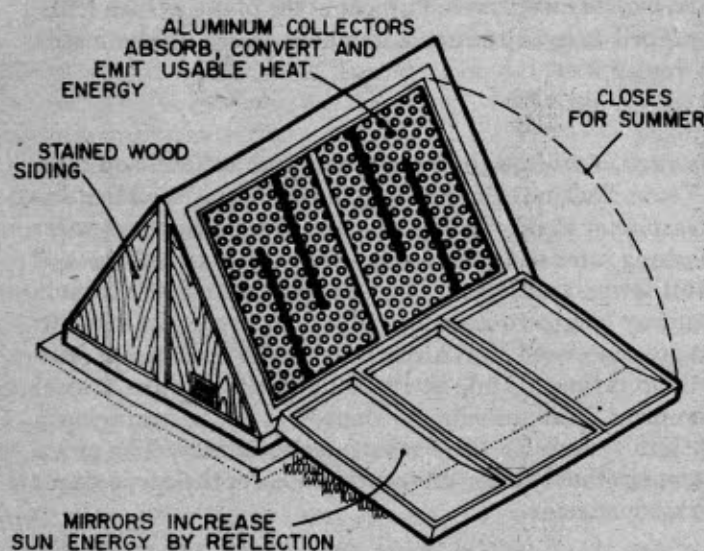
Energy development in the Rocky Mountain region will be the focus of a day and a half long seminar in Denver March 6 and 7. Government, industry, and citizen speakers will discuss coal, oil shale, gasification, nuclear energy, water availability, social impacts, and legal aspects. The speakers include: John A. Quarles, Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Kathy Fletcher of the Environmental Defense Fund; V. Crane Wright, of the Colorado Open Space Council; Gary Widman, General Counsel for the Council on Environmental Quality; and Tony Ruckel of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Only the first 150-200 applicants will be accepted. Registration is \$25. To register or to get more information contact: Cooper Wayman, Office of Energy Activities, Environmental Protection Agency, 1860 Lincoln St.—Suite 900, Denver, Colo. 80203.

LECTURE SERIES IN POWELL

Three lectures on the implications of energy development for Wyoming's Big Horn Basin are being presented by the North Absaroka Group of the Sierra Club. The first talk, held February 11, featured Kathy Fletcher of the Environmental Defense Fund speaking on water for energy. On March 18 a representative of the Northern Great Plains Resource Council will speak on the possible scope of energy development in the Big Horn Basin. On April 22 Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Planner Dr. Douglas Crowe will talk on how increased human numbers affect wildlife and wildlife management. All lectures will be held in the engineering lecture hall at Northwest Community College in Powell beginning at 7:30 p.m.

CANADIAN WILDERNESS

Three books on wilderness are available from the Alberta Wilderness Association. They are: **Willmore Wilderness Park, Wildlands for Recreation: Nine Areas on Albert's Eastern Slope, and Elbow-Sheep Headwaters, a Recreational Wilderness.** All are well illustrated with maps and black and white photos. Write Alberta Wilderness Association, Box 6398, Station "D", Calgary, Alberta T2P 2 E1.



Triangular shape of solar furnace is shown in the drawing. Small cups (aluminum collectors behind the glass) absorb, convert and give off heat energy. Building is built of stained wood and heavily insulated.



BACKYARD SOLAR FURNACE. A Nederland, Colo., firm has devised this style of solar furnace for homeowners with forced air heating systems. No need to dig a storage tank, the inventors say. The whole system is contained in this tidy unit. The firm, International Solarthermics Corp., says a small-size collector in a do-it-yourself kit would cost the consumer about \$2,200.

Backyard solar furnace

(Editors' note: This article represents the first in a series designed to let our readers know about alternative energy equipment available for purchase in the Rocky Mountain region. If you know of a company we should mention, please send us information. We can't make endorsements, because we haven't tested the equipment. But we hope you find these introductions useful and are moved to begin your own, more thorough, investigations.)

A solar furnace which can be hooked up to existing forced air heating systems can be purchased in the Rocky Mountain region soon. The unit requires no remodeling, no digging, and resembles a small tool shed.

Its inventors, a private firm in the mountain town of Nederland, Colo., say their collector can provide about 90% of a U.S. home's heating needs. The firm, International Solarthermics Corp. (ISC), has located one manufacturer for the unit in Minnesota, and has five tentative commitments from manufacturers in the Rocky Mountain region. ISC does not plan to manufacture the units itself.

As a do-it-yourself kit, a unit big enough to heat an average house would cost about \$2,200, estimates Bill Svano, executive vice-president of the firm. A ready-made unit would run about \$4,500, he says.

The solar furnace is designed to be placed in the backyard. Its south-facing glass wall absorbs energy from the sun and from a reflector on the ground. It is about 8 feet high, 9 feet wide, and from 12 to 20 feet long, depending upon the amount of heat required.

Collected heat is stored in rocks within the unit. An electric blower keeps the air circulating rapidly

between the collection and storage areas. The storage area contains 13 tons of rocks. A second blower moves heated air from the storage area to the home's existing forced air heating system.

ISC is a small firm, employing about 10 full-time workers. Its other projects, which are not as far along as the backyard collector, are:

—**a solar automobile.** ISC is developing an engine which would be compatible with an existing mid-size automobile frame and would cost less than \$750. Expected date of completion: Oct. 1975.

—**a solar electrical generator** for single-family use. ISC expects the generator will cost less than \$1,500 and be ready by Dec. 1975.

—**a solar hot water heater** with a 50 gallon storage tank which will retail for less than \$100. Expected date of completion, Feb. 1976.

—**commercial solar electrical generation.** ISC is designing and testing an industrial generation plant which they say will cost less than a fossil fuel plant. Expected date of completion: July 1976.

To obtain more information about the backyard solar furnace, about ISC's future projects, or about obtaining a non-exclusive license to manufacture the furnace contact: International Solarthermics Corp., P.O. Box 397, Nederland, Colo. 80466, telephone (303)258-3272.



Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

The lobbyists' image is sleazy:
Palms plied with dollars get greasy.
But solons insist,
That they can resist.
To decide on their own is easy.

SIERRAN HEADS RESOURCES AGENCY. Claire Dedrick, currently National Vice- President of the Sierra Club, has been appointed head of the California State Resources Agency by Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT HAS "COME OF AGE." Russell E. Train, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, in a year-end report to the members of EPA, said that the environmental movement in this country has "come of age" over the past year. "Despite the fact that we have been sorely beset with energy and economic difficulties at precisely the time when the financial and other impacts of our environmental programs were beginning to be felt, the commitment of the American people to environmental progress remained firm. Our strong environmental laws — in particular the Clean Air Act — have withstood strenuous and sustained efforts to weaken them."

Classified Ads

JIM BAMA'S 'SHOSHONE CHIEF' in limited edition collectors print; \$65.00. Other fine western and wildlife artists. The Elephant Rock Co., 615 Juniper Avenue, Boulder, Colorado, 80302.

THERE'S NO TRAIN BACK TO EDEN, poems by Laverne Rison. P.O. Box 81, Basin, Wyoming, \$2.00 per copy.

Caution: If provocative ideas make your head swim, if laughter gives you a bellyache, if earthy language makes your blood boil, don't read this book. It could be hazardous to your health.

GUIDE FOR USING HORSES IN MOUNTAIN COUNTRY by Robert W. Miller. Published by The Montana Wilderness Association, Box 84, Bozeman, Mont. 59715. 9 copies or less — \$.50 each, 10-99 copies — \$.35 each, 100 and over — \$.20 each.

power plants
people
sewage

Wyo. "County Problem" Photo Contest

highways
strip mining
pollution



Photo by Terrence Moore

Wyoming: Boiler Room, U.S.A.?

Prizes in Each County

\$10 PRIZE

for the most spectacular photo of an environmental problem in your county.

PRIZES DOUBLE

for each county with more than ten entries on different subjects.

ONE DOLLAR ADDED

for each day winning entry is received before deadline.

TWO DIVISIONS:

Contestants under 20 years old/20 years and older. (if more than five entries in each county)

RULES:

Wyoming counties only. Send two copies of each entry, black and white, at least three inches by four inches. Entries per contestant unlimited.

DEADLINE February 22

Send photo and coupon to:

A GROUP OF CONCERNED CITIZENS
Route 2, Box 189-A
Sheridan, Wyo. 82801
Mrs. W. Forbes, Treasurer

Subject location
Contestant name
Age County
Full Address Zip
Entries per contestant unlimited Proper credit will be given
Send two copies of each entry, black and white, at least three inches by four

YOU, Wyoming voters, can help keep Wyoming "ORDERLY"
(with jobs and decent living too.)
WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS.

16-High Country News
Friday, Feb. 14, 1975

The Montagues Gadflying and gathering facts

Isolation, which keeps out bad news and confusion, has also traditionally kept Western towns quiet while decisions about their future were being made.

Peter and Katherine Montague are dedicated to dissolving this reticence. Both are former Ralph Nader workers. They have devoted the past five years to incorporating Nader's ideas in a new arena.

The husband-and-wife team has written a Sierra Club "bathtub," *Mercury*, as well as articles in *Environment*, *Audubon*, and the *Saturday Review*. But lately, they have spent most of their time building an information bank in the Southern Rockies. Their aim is to help people in the region choose their own future wisely, while remaining relatively isolated.

They've become what a friend calls "the best center of information gathering and gadflying that I have seen." To accomplish this, they've set up the Southwest Research and Information Center (SWRIC) in Albuquerque, N.M. The non-profit research firm provides local individuals and scantily-funded groups with a top-notch library and expertise in law, science, and journalism.

The problem is, of course, that SWRIC is scantily-funded itself. It gets along by paying three young researchers minimum wage, by hiring a half-time lawyer, and by relying on the generosity of a part-time scientist and the dedication of Katherine and Peter Montague. To make volunteer work possible, Peter earns a living as a part-time associate professor of architecture at the University of New Mexico.

THE WORKBOOK

Many of their efforts are aimed at local problems. But now that they've begun publishing a guide to information and activism called *The Workbook* (see HCN, Dec. 6, 1974) their reach has been extended. The Montagues believe that "war, racism, sexism, poverty, crime, and environmental destruction are all parts of the same problem." They've designed *The Workbook* to help this "vast, nameless movement for change." (To see a sample copy, write Southwest Research and Information Center, P.O. Box 4524, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106.)

Like many environmental groups across the country, SWRIC is studying problems related to energy, water, air, and land. Unlike most of those groups, however, SWRIC also digs into social problems which affect laborers ("organized and unorganized") and poor people.

The Montagues are concerned about claims that environmentalists are elitists, that environmental clean-up costs jobs, and that a steady-state economy means dullness and darkness.

DO-IT DAY

The Montagues hope to counter these arguments by putting social justice at the top of their list of concerns. And the principle carries over into SWRIC office life. The Montagues shun the traditional hierarchical structures. SWRIC is a democracy. Everyone on the staff takes their turn at a "do-it" day, when they are responsible to run errands, deliver press releases, make xerox copies, or buy coffee for their co-workers. Policy decisions are made not by Katherine, who is director, but by a staff vote.

"Shall we keep the center going?" "Do we need to file a lawsuit?" "What shall our next project be?" When questions like

these come up, Katherine calls for a meeting and a consensus.

Individual duties are determined by preferences and talents, as much as possible. Katherine admits that using these criteria has its drawbacks. Because she types 100 words a minute, she earns most of the typing. The rest of the staff accepts the routine office chores which they can do most efficiently.

Another quality which makes this shoestring operation unusual is its attention to detail and organization. No mounds of documents and crumpled newspaper clippings decorate the desks at SWRIC. An up-to-date, cross-indexed card file makes all their collected information accessible. Materials are coded, entered in the card file, mounted, and put in order. Sourcebooks, collections of recent information of specific topics, are available on everything from feedlots, to nuclear power, to cosmetics.

ASBESTOS AND THE ATOM

In the past five years the Montagues have used this system to tackle some tough problems. Among their concerns have been: the hazards of asbestos to workers and the public, second home impact near national forests in the Southwest, shopping center development in Albuquerque, the Albuquerque sewage system, herbicide spraying on public lands, and — what they say they consider most important of all — nuclear power technology.

To get their information out, the center uses newspapers, TV, and radio. Katherine announces events on the environmental calendar twice a week on FM radio. Once a week she tapes a public interest message for an AM radio station. Staffers also use films and press conferences. They encourage outsiders to use their facilities and are working at building ties with people who, in the beginning, wouldn't come to them for help.

The center has recently begun working for an Indian group called the Coalition for Navajo Liberation. This group feels a need to sort out its priorities, Peter Montague says, because it stands on the brink of a "second decade of industrialization." Ten years ago, large coal-fired power plants moved into the region. Now, a Bureau of Reclamation impact statement says a decade of gasification plants is on the way. Peter worries that full scale development may mean not only money and jobs, but also "disaster for the Navajo people."

Another group to which the Montagues have extended their services is the state's largest environmental group, New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water, with 2,500 members. SWRIC also tries to tap expertise at several "nodes of intellectual activity" in the state, including the Atomic Energy Commission's Los Alamos laboratory. "They are all bombardiers," Peter says, "but at the same time they have consciences."

Peter and Katherine, who are from Connecticut and New Jersey respectively, haven't found it easy to accomplish things in a rural state. They've run up against "provincial attitudes" in working with whites. And in working with Chicanos and Indians, they've found that "it takes a long time to develop support."

Nevertheless, they seem to feel they are in the right arena. They are removed from politicians, but close to people and rich natural resources. And in Washington, D.C., as they recall from their Nader days, "it takes a long time for progress to trickle down to the people."

—JN



PETER MONTAGUE



KATHERINE MONTAGUE

"It takes a long time for progress to trickle down to the people."

Dear Friends,

At the first mention of the word "politics," many people turn away. Now in the Watergate era, this feeling of distrust has generalized to even the word "government."

But to get the most negative reaction from the greatest number of people, try the word "lobbyist." In preparing this story on lobbyists, we found that our look behind the stereotypes changed our attitudes somewhat toward the "profession," and we think that readers will find this, too. Although the story is centered in Cheyenne, Wyo., we suspect that each of you have your Bill Budds, your Gary Reeds, your John Jenkins, and your Glenn Sweets.

The problem, it seems, is not that lobbyists fill the halls of the state houses of this country. As the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures points out, the problem is how little their influence is diluted in some states by unbiased information. The lobbyists should be under strict controls requiring them to register and to list all expenditures.

In addition, the legislators must be provided with enough time during and between sessions and enough research assistance that they can independently arrive at their own decisions.

Generalizing past the specifics of lobbying, the existence of government and politics does not necessarily guarantee corruption — although revelations in the past two years might make us believe that it does. Good disclosure requirements and strict controls plus getting good people into office can, at least theoretically, result in good government.

Also in this issue, we continue the ski town land use planning series. Steamboat Springs differs from both Beaver Creek and from Marble (see HCN Jan. 31, 1975) since local planning seems

to be working there. The story outlines some of the tools that local planners have to direct the future of their community.

Plus some good news! Last issue we reported (see Emphasis Energy) that Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation had recommended that Montana Power not be allowed to build Colstrip Units III and IV. The basis of the department's decision is that Montana does not need the power; if effect, it's endorsement of an export policy. The Council of Natural Resources and Conservation will make the final decision, which is expected late in February.

In this issue, we report good news from Wyoming, too, where the Environmental Quality Council has passed strict sulfur dioxide regulations by a unanimous vote. This, too, may have the effect of encouraging the export of coal from the state.

Also in this issue is the first of a series of articles on alternative energy systems that you can install in your own homes as your part of avoiding "the crunch."

—the editors

P.S. Thanks, friends, for responding to our plea for newsstand suggestions and for sending in your subscription checks prior to our sending bills. Any way you can think of to help spread the News will always be appreciated.



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service or disservice?

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