

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE / SUBJECT FILES 86/2

987 SCOM44: HOUSE POWER ALTERNATIVES STUDY COMM. 1979-80

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LETTERS

Dear folks at Hold That Line,

I am really sorry I have neglected you for so long. A lot has happened in the last few months. I got married and found a new job. More than likely I'll be able to make more financial contributions to you in the future, as I'll earn more money. I am way behind with your news. Please send me your newsletter Hold That Line. Here's my new address. Good Luck to You!

St. Paul, Mn

Dear Hold That Line,

Just to thank you for sending Hold That Line so regularly from everyone at No Nuclear News. If you ever have newspaper clippings you would like us to print, we very much want to do that. Enclosed are a couple more Uranium Special issues and a copy of Tribal Peoples' Survival put out by the American Indian Environmental Council, as the uranium industry seems to have its eye on Minnesota, we thought people might like to read up on the stuff. No Powerline!!!

Cambridge, Mass

I have been referred to you by Northern Thunder, Eau Claire, Wisconsin for some information concerning powerlines. I'm told that you may have information concerning health, social and possible environmental effects of powerlines. And you may have suggestions for keeping a line off certain routes or altering the route. The line I hope to alter or avoid is to be from Alma, Wis to a Crystal Cave substation to the north of Alma. It's a 161kV line that passes through ag land, wood land and across rivers (the Chippewa at least). A call today to the Wisconsin PSC reveals that the line is not under their jurisdiction because it is owned cooperatively (though not by a REC as far as I know) and was planned before 1973. Being a landowner along this route I have received no word from anyone on health effects of powerlines, though I've heard of studies being conducted in Russia & at MIT. Can you send me any info on effects of powerlines? I am thankful for any assistance you might offer.

Madison, Wisconsin

POWERLINE PROTEST NEWSLETTER***PRESS RELEASE

DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKS WHEN YOUR EGGS ARE
BEING WALKED UPON!!!!

According to a recent CPA publication, CPA will experience a peak demand of 551 megawatts (MW) this year. By 1992 it will be 1274MW, which works out to be something like 10% a year. Never mind that such a figure is 3 or 9% higher than the national average for the past couple of years, and never mind that CPA experienced virtually no increase in 1978 over 1977 while UPA actually declined. And never mind that the healthiest chunk of this increase is scheduled for the more urban and suburban REA's.

CPA also has it all worked out so that they know exactly where those additional 723MW are coming from. 7MW will come from hydro power (between 1979 and 1980), and all the rest will come from coal fired and gas fired generators. That's because the Tyrone Nuke got knocked out. At CPA, they figured out that if there's fuel in the ground, somebody must own it and they will be delighted to sell it, and CPA is in a perfect position to spend your money to buy it. There just doesn't seem to be any other way.

After CPA figured out how much more they NEED, and where that increase will come from, they figured out how much it all will cost. CPA is very good at figuring out costs. Interest expenses increase from \$36, 156, 000 in 1979 to \$102, 604, 000 in 1991. Naturally borrowed funds are to be repaid over 34 years with 7 years of deferment on repayment of principal. Curiously enough, while the load demand is projected to increase by a factor of 2 1/3, accounts receivable are scheduled to increase by a factor very close to 6, from \$5, 732 000 to \$34, 273, 000. Accounts receivable has something to do with your bill.

Your bill might also find some sort of a reflection in a category under a column called "Funds Provided By:". The category is called "General Funds - beginning of year". In 1979 it shows \$756,000. By 1991 it is up to \$125, 338, 000. That is an increase by a factor of over 165!!! And on and on the numbers go. We'll probably end up digging into these figures a bit more in the future.

Just so you don't go thinking that these figures floated in upon some phantom fairy ship, Bob Sheldon, PR boy wonder for CPA said in the Pioneer Press that they snuck the powerline into commercial operation last July 2, (didn't want to attract attention you know), and beginning August 1 their heroic effort to make the CU project pay for itself is marked. Phantom fairy ship indeed. More like a leaky old barge that got caught out at sea in a gale and is slowly sinking. Every time a bit of the old crate rises briefly from beneath the waves, the boy wonder gets all excited and they all make plans of what to do with all their riches when their ship comes in. Fat chance.

Anyway, the article says they've been on line since July 2, all \$1.2 billion worth. Other sources which are a bit more reliable, however, say that all that happened on July 2 was that they managed to get the plant back in good enough shape to burn oil (after an unfortunate development with lignite) and it wasn't until late July that the lignite pulverizer was semi-functional. Considering how many times the line has not been on during the past 10 days, it is still highly unlikely that they're burning anything but oil.

So the St. Paul Pioneer Press has Sheldon smirking quietly like the Cheshire Cat while he proclaims the advent of this out-moded aerial sewer in a very subdued manner. Then the Pioneer Press sort of tiptoes into the back pages with a follow-up the next day. The whole thing reminds one of a half drunk grownup who has a very troublesome small child he wants to go to sleep as soon as possible because there's a party going on downstairs. But the kid is subject to fierce temper tantrums, so you gotta be kind of careful or you'll be up there all night. Oh well. Listen to us snoring. Pretty soon the half drunk grownup gets up, stumbles softly out the door, and turns out the light. Now wasn't that fun?

Some reports of the current situation are a little more realistic, however. In the Washburn, North Dakota Leader, out where the powerplant is, for example, there's a story dated August 1 with the headline, "Nothing's Going

to Cross Their Counties, After Three Years, Farmers' Rage Continues in (2)
Minnesota Counties". The third paragraph reads in part, "Only now, the
protest is bigger, more organized, involved in more issues, and using more
advanced techniques to publicize their crusade." (We ought to look into those
advanced techniques a bit more!) It is encouraging that there are people in
the media who are capable of touching reality from time to time.

* * * * *
Charlie Anderson is your CPA president. While
* he has been busy looking out for your energy *
needs, he has also found it necessary to
* spend about \$32, 845.27 to landscape his love-
ly countryside home on the lake.
* * * * *

COCORP GETS INVITED OUT

The Consortium for Continental Reflection Profiling is an outfit operating out of the Dept. of Geological Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, (607) 256-7165. A Dr. S. Raufman is involved along with Princeton, Wisconsin, Houston and Texas Universities in using a seismic technique. They study "mountain building, earthquakes and basin formations, as well as resource emplacement," according to literature given to West Central Minnesota farmers by work crews in the area. Just the type of information energy corporations like to know; everything from water, oil and uranium data to possibilities for nuclear waste storage facilities. Interestingly enough, once the data is compiled, it is public information (they claim) which is pleasing to the corporations. Interestingly enough, all the work crews are Mexican people and all the boss men are white. Interestingly enough, none of them are in this part of the country anymore because it got too expensive to stick around. Much of their equipment turned up missing and their miles and miles of wires got cut up real bad on a couple of occasions. West Central Minnesota it seems, is not for sale.

S.L.A.M.

Ken Tilsen continues to make the rounds of County Court along the route of the southern branch of the CU project, arguing that: 1) The taking is not necessary, 2) the proceedings are in violation of due process and lack necessary regularity, and 3) the proceedings violate the Environmental Rights Act. On August 3 in Sibley County Court, the whole thing was continued for a few weeks, but the Judge for LeSueur County wouldn't even stick his neck out that far. There are three court hearings left.

Drawz, Perdue and the utilities take the position that all of this is redundant nonsense, and to prove it, they are just nasty enough to force a hearing in every county rather than agreeing to consolidation. On the other hand, the Supreme Court has already agreed to hear the arguments for Blue Earth County, and we are hopeful that the Supreme Court will also agree to a consolidation. Hearing date before the Supreme Court is scheduled for Sept. 10. A favorable ruling from those arguments could force a trial on the need for the project.

Don't forget the S.L.A.M. benefit Friday, August 24 at the Hamburg Community Center. Hamburg is east of Glencoe and a couple miles south of Hwy 12 on state Hwy 5.

G.A.S.P. FUNDRAISER

Scrap metal is being collected at the Villard Elevator Company in Villard, Minnesota. Remember, no tin or wire please. We'll be collecting the metal for the next few months, and don't forget to drop a line to the politicians about saving the railroads.

Hold That Line needs your support, and we appreciate whatever help you can send our way. In an effort to economize the newsletter, there's a move afoot to weed out all the dead weight on the mailing list. We'll let you know what we need in the next newsletter.

There is gonna be one of those famous Stearns County parties you may have heard about come Saturday, Sept. 1. Go a mile north out of Elrosa on US 71, then go west a mile. The bonfire should be visible for quite a distance. Folks from the cities are bringing their instruments too!

COMING EVENTS

August 21: There will be a general meeting of G.A.S.P. at 8:30pm in Lowry at the Barrel In. Nominations for trustees for the legal defense committee will be open and the election will take place at our next meeting after that. We also need to be going over problems dealing with finances so be sure and come with your ideas and/or complaints.

There's also some other things that will need to be decided on. "Rural America", an organization set up to help rural people have a voice in public affairs and policies is planning on a training/organizing workshops conference someplace in the Midwest. They want it held in communities that have been affected by energy development projects and are talking about \$4000 available for setting up the conference. If people are interested in working on something like this, then we can send our application in.

Some of you probably remember talk about "Dicky Johns", whether they were or not under the line. It seems someone from EQB is interested in testing one on someone's land. We need to talk about what conditions we'll agree to if the test will be of any value. Bring your ideas to the meeting.

While we're on the subject of the EQB, things are once again slithering around in regards to the UPA 230kV Benton-Milaca powerline. There are folks in the area who think that the whole idea is screwed up, and they could use our support.

Informational meetings will be held at 7pm August 13 at the Milaca City Hall and at 7pm, August 14 at the Foley Elementary School Auditorium.

The hearings are scheduled for the Foley Elementary School Auditorium on August 23 at 10am and 7pm, and August 24 at 10am. Hearings at the Milaca High School Theater are for August 27 at 7pm, and on August 28 at 7pm and 10am at the Milaca City Hall.

* * * * *

There will be a gathering of a different sort on September 12. There will be a rally/demonstration in front of CPA offices in Edina on that day, an event we hope to turn into the first of a long series of picketing actions. People from the Northern Sun Alliance are excited about the opportunity to get back into the thick of it, and anyone who can be with us on Sept. 12 is asked to meet at 11am in the parking lot behind NSA offices at E. Franklin and Bloomington Ave. in south Mpls. We'll have more on this event next time, but get ready!!

* * * * *

The workshop by the National Jury Project, Minneapolis chapter, is scheduled for 7:30pm Thursday, August 16th at the Twilight Cafe in Lowry. Those who expressed interest in such a session can look forward to a very informative evening on legal perspective.

* * * * *

Sorry! We had "News From all Over the Place" all ready to go this week, but ran out of room with our special insert on acid rains in Minnesota. We promise to have that column back as usual in our next issue!

* * * * *

About 75 people gathered at the Ron Barsness farm Saturday night to celebrate a DREAM come true - the ruling by the court that the mail ballot system is indeed illegal. The instruments that were brought proved to be in working order and the music and dancing lasted late into the night. But mostly people sat around and talked about how coops have been breaking the law for many years and all they have to do is say "we won't do it again".

It took a lot of hard work and determination on the part of DREAM people to accomplish what they have, but the work's not over. DREAM will be continuing to meet and work to make Runestone a coop that is truly run by the people.

Meanwhile, it seems Dreamers aren't the only ones keeping late-night hours these days. The past couple of weeks it's been a game of musical agents in powerline country with everybody trying to figure out who everybody else is, especially the BCA. Vehicles scampering around like confused ants on the wrong anthill, mysterious calls from unidentified parties asking directions to peoples' houses, and a very busy airplane zipping back and forth up to 10 miles away from the line attempting to find out which way civilization is running amok.

Last week a couple people nonrelated to the protest were stopped near the line by men identifying themselves as the FBI. By identifying we mean they said they were, but no actual identification was produced. Also, Rumor Control has it on good authority that there are some outside agitators running around out here pretending to be agents of one sort or another, complete with identification. It's hard to say exactly who is putting on such a charade - but as far as why is concerned, there is a lot of \$\$\$ in rewards available for any interested bounty hunter from coast to coast.

Well, whether we're dealing with the FBI, opportunists playing dress-up or the same old boring BCA, it seems in order to do a quick refresher on what to do if you run into one or all of the above. So here's a little quiz to rate your knowledge of how to deal with agents, pretend ones or not.

- (1) If an agent comes to my door, I should
 - A) Invite him in for coffee and cake
 - B) Tell him I don't know anything or anybody
 - C) Pick the lint off his suit
 - D) Tell him I have no legal obligation to talk to him and he should leave the premises immediately
- (2) If I get a strange phone call, where it seems like someone's just trying to get some information, I should
 - A) Put the receiver in my fishtank
 - B) Lead them on to see who they are and what they're after
 - C) Simply hang up
 - D) Tell them who they could talk to get the info they want
- (3) If I run into a rather suspicious stranger in a public place with 10 antennas on his car, who just "wants to know what's going on and who's involved", I should
 - A) Give them Phil Martin's phone number
 - B) Talk about the issues involved in the powerline and keep to the subject
 - C) Dump a pitcher of beer over his head
 - D) Demand to see some identification, and simply don't talk to him if not satisfied

ANSWERS

- (1) If you answered A to #1, you are contributing to our lawyers' migraines and don't deserve any points at all.
If you answered B, you're inviting trouble by making a statement they could prove wrong, 0 points.
If you picked C, and if you keep your mouth shut, since he'll probably leave anyway you got 4 points.

- If you answered D, congratulations. You got 20 points for paying (5) attention and doing the only thing you should.
- (2) If you answered A to question #2, you really should learn to calm down about such matters and call Ma Bell to get your phone fixed. 2 points for imagination.
If you picked B, you're trying to beat them at their own game, which is foolish and dangerous, -2 points.
If you chose C, good for you, 20 points for playing it smart.
If you answered D, you'd better hope whoever they call knows how to handle it better than you did, 0 points.
- (3) If you picked A for #3, you're even more resourceful than we expected, 5 points.
If you answered B, you're playing with fire and may get burned, -10 point
If you answered C, and still haven't taken your receiver out of the fish-tank, do so, and clean up the beer. 0 points.
If you answered D, you're playing it safe. Safe will keep you and others out of trouble. 20 points and a job well done.

If you scored a total of:

60 points - you're doing fine, keep it up!

20-40 points - you're on the right track, but better review #1-D, #2-C and #3-D.

10 or under - you haven't been paying attention and better start doing so for everybodys' sake.

COURT CAPERS

OR

THE PARTICULARS OF A PECULIAR PREDICAMENT

The omnibus hearing for Darus Ehlers and Dwight Nelson, the Wheaton 2, was scheduled for August 6 in Traverse County court, and it all started out at 10:30am with the County Prosecutor, to his everlasting credit, trying to remove himself as far as possible from this premeditated miscarriage of justice. Evidently the prosecutor has some information on the course of events the evening of the arrests, and the peculiar predicament whether that information should be part of the prosecution's disclosure to the defense or if the prosecutor should reveal that information to the court as a witness from the witness stand. The County Prosecutor wants to do it from the stand so that he doesn't have to be the prosecutor. The judge said o.k., and the whole works was continued to August 23 at 10:00am in Wheaton at which time Feeble Fable is supposed to send out a flunky from St. Paul to play prosecutor.

These St. Paul prosecutors continue acting like pretty slimy characters. In a particularly peculiar move, they went and scheduled two separate trials in Pope County Court, both to begin on the morning of September 4. Mark Wernick represents both defendants, Tony Bartos and Mark Hoium. The reasoning behind such nonsense undoubtedly has something to do with the fact that the prosecutors don't expect to be able to bring Tony Bartos to trial. They also don't want to be left in their usual position of holding an empty bag. This way they hope to avoid that predicament. Steps are being taken, however, to rectify the situation.

So the dates we know about are August 23 at 10am in Wheaton and something is likely to happen September 4 in Glenwood. As yet, there is no word from Judge Lindstrom on the William Hansen case.

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A PERSONALLY REQUESTED NOTE - XXXXX, Hi ya big BCA Boys!!! You
Sweeties! Kissy Kissy!!!!
Your ever loving,

Pretty Sunflower

XXXXXXXXXX000000

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LETTERS

Dear Sir,

Could I please receive Hold That
Line newsletter? I would like to be
more informed on the latest news up
there. I'm behind you all the way!

Appleton, Mn

Thank you, thank you, thank you from
the Southern Landowners Alliance of
Minnesota for the generous check re-
ceived from G.A.S.P. Not only because
we do need the money, but because we
feel like David against the giant con-
glomerates power companies Goliath.

So your support was a great morale
booster.

Mankato, Mn

What can I say? You are a continual
inspiration and the newsletter is
as informative and entertaining as
any publication I've seen. Many
thanks.

Menomonie, Wisconsin

Greetings,

Please add the Prairie Alliance
of Champaign, Illinois to your
mailing list. I have been passing
your newsletter along. Keep up the
fight!

Urbana, Illinois

Hold That Line,

We sympathize with the injustice
many of the citizens have suffered
and the personal distress to their
homes and lives.

Enclosed is a check for \$5 for
postage.

St. Paul, Mn

Dear Hold That Line,

Please find some money to help
along a little. Keep up the fight
for our rights. It will help when
civil war starts, the less than 1%
won't be so dictatorial. We must spoil
the dictator dream.

You ought to figure out what it
costs per newsletter, so that each
one who wants it can send it in
quarterly to keep the treasures
balanced.

Browerville, Mn

We are receiving your newsletter.
Enclosed find a check.

Dumont, Mn

* * * * *

Threat from acid rain worsens



Star Map by Kurt Carlson

Increased acidity in precipitation over natural concentration

By ROBERT OSTMANN JR.
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

DETROIT—The entire Great Lakes region, including large sections of Minnesota, faces irreparable environmental damage from acid rain much sooner and on a scale much larger than had been expected.

Scientists at a meeting here of the international body charged with monitoring the environmental health of the Great Lakes said Tuesday new research indicates that:

- More than 50,000 lakes in the United States and Canada could be virtually devoid of fish and other life forms by the year 1995.

- Vast areas of prime forest land could be rendered economically unproductive for decades.

- Drinking water and food-fish supplies for millions of people could be contaminated by poisonous metals—such as lead, mercury, copper and aluminum—extracted from water pipes or rocks and sediment by acidified waters.

- Many lakes in Minnesota previously considered safe from acid rain could suffer large fish kills when acidic snowpacks melt into

“
*At this very moment,
we are ready to take
a step backward.*

—Charles Ross,
commission member

them in the spring.

Most depressing of all, several scientists said that widespread destruction of animal and plant life by acid rain is inevitable in eastern North America in as soon as 10 years unless the amount of coal burned to generate electricity is reduced immediately.

Ironically, the revelations came just before President Carter's administration is expected to announce wholesale relaxation of clean air laws to allow a drastic increase in the burning of coal.

“At this very moment, we are ready to take a step backward,” said a chagrined Charles Ross, a U.S. member of the International Joint Commission, which received the report.

Automobiles and coal-fired power plants are the main sources of the two types of chemical compounds—sulfur and nitrogen oxides—that are converted in the air into sulfuric and nitric acid. Each

Rain

Turn to Page 2

over

Tuesday, July 17, 1979

MIDWEEK

A complimentary weekly publication

The Minneapolis Star

Threat from acid rain worsens in lakes region

(Rain, from Page 1)

day, tons of acid are produced by a single large coal-fired power plant, such as Northern States Power Co.'s Sherburne County facility northwest of the Twin Cities.

When the acid molecules are formed, they drift on the wind—sometimes hundreds of miles—before they are washed to earth in rain or snow.

Canadian and U.S. scientists told the commission that all parts of the Great Lakes region are being soaked with 5 to 40 times the natural amount of acid in rain and snow each year and that the amount has been increasing rapidly.

Rainfall over northeastern Minnesota contains 5 to 10 times the natural amount of acid.

Although some of the acid that falls on Minnesota comes from factories and power plants in the state, most is thought to drift in from the more heavily industrialized areas to the east.

Lake death in 10 years

Robert Slater, a top Canadian environmental official, said the only way to avoid acid rain disaster in the Great Lakes region is to immediately reduce energy consumption in both the U.S. and Canada, and to reduce the amount of coal burned.

Using more pollution control equipment might slow down the increase in emission of chemicals that form acid rain, but that won't be enough, he said.

If the emissions are not reduced, Slater said, the most vulnerable lakes will die within 10 years and

the others within 15 years. It is not yet known when soil and vegetation will have visible signs of destruction.

And while the Great Lakes themselves are not expected to become acidified in the near future, the scientists said, damage to lands and waters draining into them eventually could cause ecological changes.

The acid rain situation is so urgent because damage, once caused, might never be repaired.

George Hendrey, an acid rain expert at the Brookhaven National Laboratories in New York, said that lakes in Ontario and in the Adirondack region of New York already have been killed by acid rain. Even in areas where amounts of acid in the air have decreased, Hendrey said, there has been no sign that the acidified lakes have improved at all.

In Minnesota, the most critical areas are in the wilderness lake country north and east of Duluth. There, the thin soil and granite-bottomed lakes contain very little of the minerals that can neutralize acid.

As acid continues to pour into the lakes year after year, the "buffering" capacity of the calcium and other minerals in these lakes will be used up and the water will rapidly become too acidic for fish and most other forms of life to survive.

This apparently has already happened in some lakes in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. But Hendrey told the Detroit meeting that

new research suggests that lakes in other parts of Minnesota, lakes which supposedly have adequate supplies of acid neutralizers, also will have extensive fish kills.

Industrial expansion and increased electricity use have not been the only causes of the spread of acid rain, however. Ironically, pollution control efforts of the last 15 years have also been to blame.

Control of power plant emissions—and even the wording of clean air laws—has tried to reduce pollution near its source. In both Canada and the U.S., the result has often been an "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" solution, such as tall smokestacks.

Instead of reducing pollution, the smokestacks just spread it over a wider area, something like throwing the garbage into someone else's yard.

Preliminary studies have shown that sulfur dioxide fumes from Ohio Valley smokestacks, for instance, end up as acid rain in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

And as the acid clouds have spread wider and wider, they have covered important farming areas.

THIS ARTICLE appeared in full in a recent Minneapolis Star.

"HOLD THAT LINE"

JULY 30 - AUG 12

POWERLINE PROTEST NEWSLETTER***PRESS RELEASE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OUTRANKS CORPORAL POWERLINE!!

The General Assembly to Stop the Powerline met in Lowry on the evening of July 24 to discuss the situation, and it don't look too bad. The meeting was attended by about 80 people from across the state, and several key decisions were made. The first item of business was a review of our finances since March, 1978, and that was high-lighted by a presentation of \$5,500 to the defense fund. \$750 came from the collection taken at the bi. Washington D.C. anti-nuke rally last spring, and the rest was raised July 5 in St. Paul at the Civic Center Concerts. Before the evening was over, G.A.S.P. donated \$1,000 of those funds to help Indians organize against the energy corporations, and \$100 to show solidarity and support of our friends fighting the 345 KV line in Southern Minnesota. We know who the enemy is, and we know our friends, and we are confident that we shall see a return on these investments many times and in many ways.

We also reviewed a couple legal developments with quiet satisfaction. First, there was a ruling in 7th District Court which upheld a 1957 ruling and the resulting State law which prohibits mail ballots for electing directors of all cooperatives, and that is a major victory for the DREAM people who brought the suit against Runestone management. While the ruling does much to validate the Determined Runestone Electric Association Members who have been trying to turn Runestone into a democratic and cooperative organization these past year, it still leaves a bit to be desired. There will be no new election, for example, so they get away with it. And there is nothing but an organized membership which can keep them from doing it again, because it seems that members are the only ones who can enforce cooperative law. The Attorney General does not have to enforce all the laws of the State, only certain ones.

None-the-less, it is important to note that mail ballots have been used extensively by REA management over the years (and against the law) to insure that the "right" directors were on the boards. And we have seen the wonders that "right" directors are capable of performing. Maybe that's why mail ballots are supposed to be illegal.

The second bit of good court news relates to condemnation proceedings along the route of the 345 KV line proposed for Southern Minnesota. Eminent domain was not challenged in Wright County at the northern end of the line, and will become effective there August 1. But it was challenged by the Southern Landowners Alliance of Minnesota (S.L.A.M.) at the south end in BLUE Earth County, and awhile back a district judge granted a court order to UPA/CPA giving them power of eminent domain. On July 23, that order was stayed by the Minnesota Supreme Court in order to allow time for arguments on the question of whether or not legal and adequate notice had been given by the Minnesota Energy Agency (MEA) for their public hearings on the need for the facility. Briefs will be submitted in August and oral arguments before the Supreme Court will be held in mid-September. If the Supreme Court decides that in fact there was no legal notice given for the Need Hearings, the path will be cleared for a trial on the public need for the CU project. Cost factors and alternative sources of energy - maybe even the needs of our Mother the Earth will be considered in that process, and meanwhile, the condemnation process on the southern part of that line is stopped. Oddly enough, the MEA and the utilities do not deny that there was no notification given as required by law. They're saying that citizens have no Constitutional rights to such notice.

So construction could start along the northern part, and except for this ruling, it could have started from the south, too. The protest is perhaps strongest in the middle, and UPA/CPA haven't really started to move on those folks yet. Their idea was to catch them in the middle and block all court action by saying that everything else on either side is done, all that money is spent, now get out of the way! Might not turn out that way, though. Ken Tilsen is representing SLAM in these proceedings. Congratulations! We are encouraged!

Among the decisions made by the General Assembly was the decision to meet on a monthly basis. So Note Your Calendar for the next (2)
GASP Meeting at 8:30 PM, Tuesday, August 21, at the Barrel In in Downtown Lowry. One of the business items to be conducted at that meeting, the General Assembly decided, will be nominations for positions on the GASP Board of Trustees. Current Trustees may be re-nominated and re-elected, but there are people on the board who would like to step aside, and it's about time for another election anyway. So nominations will be made on August 21st, and the election will be held at the September meeting. Sometime towards the end of the meeting somebody said something about having a trap-shoot the following evening.

And so, on the following evening there was a trap shoot. Mother Nature was also busy brewing up a thunder storm that evening, and it never really did clear up until a couple days later. That makes it quite difficult to figure out just exactly what went on during that period of time, but it seems to have gone something like this: Sometime in there (exactly when it all started is unclear) there were many loud and booming noises and pieces of pigeon were falling all over the field. That made the blackbirds angry, and angry blackbirds are a terror to behold. Particularly when they are organized. When they get into such a state, it seems they usually attack the tallest thing around. Well, it didn't take them long to figure out what that was! The vicious assault which followed set off so many sparks and flashes that Mother Nature took it all for a challenge and decided to flash back. There were even some glorious streaks across the sky, and some time later, a couple tourists claim to have found chunks of sky-lab in the area. But Mother Nature played fair, and left the tower for the birds. If you need proof, just go look at the conductor cable. Kinda hard to say what else went on ... BCA seems interested ... They've had quite a bit to be interested in this past 2 weeks. If Uncle Albert was supposed to eat crow for every hole that got put in the conductor, he would have to caw for help, and them cut-worms have been munching away like they was steel hungry. More than a dozen legs have been banded, and there have been several temporary restraining orders issued by duly constituted authorities of the more natural sort. They really should give it up because while the world is changing, we are not together with them, and they are not in control . . .

* * * * *

Assistance For The Black Hills Alliance

One of the more difficult undertakings of the Black Hills Alliance is bringing together people who are not used to working with each other. But if the Hills are to be saved, ranchers and Indians and everybody else will need to work together, and the Alliance is looking for organizing tools to help that happen. In the past, ranchers from the Black Hills area have shown a lot of interest in the fight of Minnesota farmers against the powerline when we've been able to get together. And those exchanges have been helpful in organizing the Black Hills Alliance. But it's not possible for us to all get together too often, so folks from the Alliance say it would be helpful to them if folks from around here could be writing short statements to the Black Hills Alliance about why you are fighting this line, what you have learned in the process, how long you are willing to fight back, and so forth. If you can, please take a few minutes to write down your thoughts on these matters and send them to:

Black Hills Alliance
Attn: Winona LaDuke
Box 2508
Rapid City, South Dakota 57709

* * * * *

Conservation Is Contagious

There was a news item over the wires on July 26 which stated that the average use of electricity in Florida during June, 1979 was 999 Kwh. In June, 1978, it was over 1100 Kwh. That is not only good, it is necessary!!

S.L.A.M. BENEFIT DANCE

(3)

Southern Landowners Alliance of Minnesota is having a fundraising, free drawing beer drinking benefit dance with Bluegrass and Old Time Music, at 7P.M., Friday, August 24. The dance will be at the Hamburg Community Center. Hamburg is east of Glencoe and a couple miles south of HWY 212 on State HWY 5. There will be a \$2.00 Donation and tickets will be sold at the door, 3 for \$5.00. If you can't make it, your money could be very useful anyway!!

* * * * *

GOODIES FROM THE GOODIE BAG

They had the CPA Board meeting in Sauk Centre on July 5 & 6, unbeknowns to everyone else. That was the first time they had a meeting anywhere close to the powerline, and wouldn't you know it, at least one of them got sick overnight. Powerlines do that sometimes. It pays pretty good, though, \$100 a day plus expenses, the proposal is, and being as the August meeting has been scheduled for Bismark for some strange reason, they decided to throw in a fee of 25¢ per mile too. Good business, you know.

Falkirk Mine received much attention at the July 5-6 meeting. While Falkirk continues to suck thousands and thousands of dollars off of CPA, a guy from the North Central Area REA office says that the Falkirk Coal Sales Agreement is under investigation by the REA to make sure everything is on the up and up. This guy says the Falkirk Operation is also under scrutiny by the GAO people, and warns that, "CPA must emphasize internal unity and also must prepare to combat any adverse publicity which will result from the GAO report. No one knows what that report will contain," he says, "but the assumption must be made that CPA and UPA will have to defend some decisions made in the past." You don't say!

This guy from the REA says that CPA's application for funds to finance a new 8 million dollar office building has been approved and guaranteed by the REA. Most curiously of all, he also said that CPA will be notified in writing that there has been a "50% depreciation on the DC line." We can only speculate about the meaning of this development, but what the heck. Perhaps UPA/CPA are in a very tight financial bind because of their mis-adventure with the CU project, and it is critical that REA or somebody find a bit of slack for them. Being as REA put up the money for the line, REA is in a position to say how much the line is worth. By reducing the powerline's value by 50% CPA/UPA will be liable for only half the township, county, state and/or federal taxes which would otherwise need to be paid. That is a bit of slack. Tough luck, all you guys who thought this thing was such a good idea because it would reduce your taxes!

The CPA Directors also decided that it would be good to hire an outside security force to protect the Coal Creek Station rather than use CPA employees for that purpose. Bismark Mandan Security was presented as a possibility. And speaking of outside forces, have you ever heard of a deep fried, half baked, fork tongued, self centered whore named Paul Harvey who prostitutes his very soul in the name of powerlines, nuke plants, A-bombs, corporate rig offs or what ever else is determined to be in the interests of multi-national corporations? Well, Paul Harvey does all those disgusting things because corporations pay him very well to do them. Even little CPA has paid for his services in the past. CPA decided to continue paying for his services to the tune of \$7,500 for the year 1980.

Such services, however, are proving to be less enticing than they once were. It gets old, you know, when there is no love in it. So if UPA/CPA were absolutely flabbergasted when they discovered that landowners would not sign easements for this big powerline, and condemnation proceedings had to be quickly concocted, imagine CPA's chagrin when they found out that they must resort to condemnation proceedings to route a couple 65 KV lines, and even a 34.5 KV line. Must be that people know that what is good for CPA is either worth a whole lot more to them, or else it is just plain bad. At any rate, it is true that them good old days are gone, and CPA is pretty much alone (if you don't count UPA) in a changing world.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL YOU ROWDIES

(4)

The job of the GASP Trustees is to manage the money in the Defense Fund. It is not always an easy task to discover the fairest and best way to use that money, and mistakes can lead to hard feelings, mistrust and confusion. In order to help make the best decisions possible, the trustees got a policy together at their last meeting which requests that all persons who get arrested and have to go to court due to powerline charges should meet with GASP Trustees and together decide what the Trustees can do financially and legally for people facing charges. The idea is that the more communications there are between all the people involved, the less chance there will be for mistakes.

* * * * *

COURT CAPERS

The Omnibus hearing for Darus Ehlers and Dwight Nelson is still scheduled for 10:30 AM on Monday, August 6, in Wheaton. Mark Wornick and Bill Mauzy are representing Darus and Dwight, who are charged with aggravated assault. This could turn out to be a very curious hearing.

On the good news side, after sitting on his thumbs for about a year, Stearns Co. prosecutor VanHeel decided to drop charges of aggravated assault against Gerry Woida. Last summer, the utilities and VanHeel made up this cock-and-bull story about Gerry and a shot gun so that protesters would be in St. Cloud trying to get Gerry out of jail while the tower tops were set on the Woida farm. Evidently, neither the interests of the utilities nor of Van Heel were being served by maintaining those charges, so justice was finally allowed to prevail. Better late than never.

Speaking of being late, Judge Lindstrom is taking his time to rule on the dismissal or re-trial motions for William Hansen. Lindstrom left on a lengthy vacation without deciding the matter and no one knows when he'll be back.

Now for the bad news. Judge Claeson ruled against Mark Hoium and Dean and Bob Oeltjen on their motion for dismissal due to discriminatory prosecution, and he ruled against them on all the other pre-trial motions as well. Claeson says that there couldn't possibly be any discriminating going on because except in a very few instances, the only people who got arrested got arrested because they were seeking arrest as a form of "civil protest", and besides, Ira's Sheriff Department isn't big enough to discriminate against anyone. We'll keep you posted on upcoming dates.

* * *

JURY PROJECT PROPOSAL

There was enough interest expressed at the GASP meeting so that we're planning a workshop with the Jury Project People to train local people in the skills of jury selection. This will not only save us money, but will also increase our ability to pick good juries. The meeting will be held sometime during the 3rd or 4th week of August.

* * *

AUGUST 12 RALLY

General Assembly to Stop the Powerline

Northern Sun Alliance

Black Hills Alliance

Women of All Red Nations

West Bank Auditorium

University of Minnesota, Mpls.

Sunday, August 12, 1979

7:00pm

Speakers from the above organizations will share their ideas on our common goals and problems. There will also be music and theatre. You are invited!

The Dakota Resource Counsel won some improvements in North Dakota's Energy Facility Siting regulations from the state Public Service Commission (PSC), but overall the PSC seems intent on leaving landowners and tenants whose property will be directly affected by transmission facilities, such as powerlines and pipelines, with little advance notice in which to express their concerns.

According to a draft of the final regs which DRC recently obtained, the PSC expanded public notice procedures to include direct mailings to the chairpersons of County Commissions in counties directly affected, and to the state legislators in districts directly affected. The Commission also lengthened, by ten days, the amount of time allowed for a concerned party to show good cause for a public hearing on transfer of permit and waiver of proceedings applications after notice of opportunity for such hearings has been published.

Although these changes in the regs represent some improvement over what the Commission had originally proposed, the PSC refused to reinstate certain landowner notification provisions which it had stripped from the regs a year and a half ago.

DRC Chairperson Evelyn Newton, who presented testimony at the PSC's public hearing on the regs in late May, also expressed great concern about the PSC's failure to attend the hearings, sending their staff instead. "I don't think we could find a better example of their attitude toward citizens' concerns than their failure to even come and hear, personally, the concerns raised by North Dakotans about an issue that will have such wide sweeping impacts on this State," she said. Over 1200 miles of new high voltage electrical transmission lines are projected to be constructed in North Dakota from existing conversion facilities by 1986.-----DAKOTA COUNSEL, JUNE/JULY, 1979

The Price-Anderson Act, originally passed in 1957, governs nuclear insurance. It has several provisions; the key one is a limit on liability of only \$560 million for damages from nuclear power accidents, even though the government itself admits damages could be in the tens of billions of dollars.

This limited liability - which the nuclear industry has stated it needs in order to exist - carries two important messages for Americans. FIRST, it is a very strong indication that the nuclear industry does not believe its own claims about nuclear safety. The paradox is obvious; on the one hand we hear the reassuring claim that chances of a nuclear accident are "one in a billion", or the even more extravagant "it can't happen", but on the other hand we see the industry scrambling to protect its own assets from the accidents it claims will not happen.

SECOND, limited liability exists because the insurance industry refuses to insure nuclear plants for full liability. This means that insurers do not believe the safety claims of the nuclear industry. If they did, they would be anxious to sell as much insurance as utilities would buy - insurance companies like to collect premiums against claims that will never be made.

It is reasonable to assume that insurers are the best risk-assessors in society; if they were not, they could not stay in business. When our best risk-assessors demonstrate that they do not believe nuclear accidents will not happen, shouldn't Congress and the rest of society pay very close attention? Nuclear power advocates use several arguments to promote Price-Anderson all of which can be easily answered. Here are just two:

1) "Price-Anderson protects the public, because of its nofault provision." It is true that Price-Anderson says that nuclear victims do not have to prove injury. However, the limit on liability means that in a bad accident there might only be 3 or 4¢ available for each dollar in damages. What good does it do to prove injury if the perpetrator has no legal responsibility to full compensate victims? Further, there is a 20 year statute of limitations for claims, even though some cancers might be latent for longer than 20 years. And since cancers do not sprout flags announcing their cause, it could be difficult to ever prove which specific injuries (cancers) were caused by radiation exposure.

2) "We need the limit on liability to attract financing. If you oppose (6) limited liability, you oppose nuclear power." This argument is, in the final analysis, correct. However, not all opponents of limited liability oppose nuclear power. For example, Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D-NY), who sponsored a bill to suspend limited liability several years ago, has supported further nuclear development. Some people support removing limited liability because they think it will encourage more attention to safety in the industry - as opposed to stopping nuclear power.

In 1975, when Price-Anderson was up for renewal, an amendment to remove the limit on liability because they think it will encourage more attention to safety in the industry - as opposed to stopping nuclear power.

In 1975, when Price-Anderson was up for renewal, an amendment to remove the limit on liability failed by only 41 votes in the House; had just 21 members changed position, the amendment would have passed the House. With the anti-nuclear movement so much larger now, we just might be able to get a repeal law passed.-----THE CONNECTOR, JUNE, 1979

In May, Basin Electric Power Cooperative issued a siting study which examines potential sites in North and South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming for placing 4 500 megawatt (MW) coal fired power plants, the first of which is estimated may be on line by 1986.

Based on a 1976 Power Requirements Study, Basin projects a demand for an additional 1000 MW of electricity on each side of their service area, which is divided into 2 power grids which encompass the Dakotas, eastern Montana, Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa on the east, and the remainder of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado on the west. Basin already has projects under construction in Beulah and Laramie, WY which will add 1,514 MW to the 700 MW produced by their existing facilities.

The siting study deals primarily with economic and engineering considerations, paying little substantive attention to socio-economic and environmental concerns.

In the final analysis, based solely on economic considerations, the study picked the existing power plant sites at Antelope Valley and Leland Olds as the first choices for one new 500 MW facility each. St. Anthony, Hottinger, and Selby, S.D. each followed successively as top choices for the siting of 2 500MW facilities.

Curiously, the study places Dunn Center at the top of the list based on economic factors. Basin has announced that they have received an "attractive offer" for extensive lignite reserves in the area from an unnamed party. However, because whatever deal is being cut there apparently hasn't yet been firmed up, and because the site has been identified as having potential air quality standards on new sources (the Health Dept. has turned down Natural Gas Pipeline Co.'s proposed gasification facility there because the added pollution would degrade the air in Theodore Roosevelt Park beyond presently acceptable limits), the authors of the study register their opinion "that this site not be considered as a preferred site at this time."

At least two major concerns about Basin's projections for additional demand can be raised at this time. First it is highly unlikely that the demands of the rural, agricultural areas served by Basin are growing at such an accelerated rate. This implies that the increased demands are more likely the result of Basin's expectations to increase their service to industrial and commercial customers. Second, the 1976 Power Requirements Study overestimated the demand for electrical power by 88 MW for the '77/'78 winter peak demand, and by 147 MW for the '78 summer peak. The accuracy of their forecasts for demand ten years down the road would have to be doubted when errors of this size are found in the second year.

-----DAKOTA COUNSEL, JUNE/JULY, 1979

Investigation of the latest leak of radioactive liquid at Windscale has revealed that the spillage of an unknown amount of contamination occurred some 20 years ago. Friends of the Earth said yesterday that it was still not known how much activity was involved. -----GUARDIAN (UNITED KINGDOM), APRIL 24, 1979

Hey There Yankee Doodle, Stick A Feather In Your Hat!

(7)

Johnny Carson and the media call them the Georgia Mafia, and one Sunday, the Dixie Godfather came down from the Mountain to deliver us from Oil. "Coal," he said, but his ways are mysterious and full of suspicion. Even as the word "Coal" passeth between the shinny teeth of the Dixie Godfather, it is "Corporate Control" which is clenched in the fist that he pounds dramatically on the table. The Dixie Godfather is trying for a New and Craven Image.

So it is no surprise that the Voice from the Top of the Mountain spoke unto certain paltry executives whom we know quite well and who are sore afraid because of the enemies they have made, saying unto them, "Harken unto me, for I am thy Dixie Godfather. If thou needst a crackling line to strike fear into the hearts of thine enemies, causing their noses to bleed and their skin to be covered with blotches, and if thou needst a crackling line to cause the cattle of thine enemies to become barren, and hostility against you to wilt, and if thy line will not crackle because thy lousy lignite won't burn, even so shalt thou accomplish these things, for thou shalt fire thy boilers and crackle thy line with Oil. For verily I say unto you, it has been ordained by the Tri-lateral Commission that thou shalt inherit the earth."

The paltry executives took heart and were exceedingly glad. "We are not forsaken!" they cried one to another. With one voice they proclaimed, "We give thee thanks, O Great Dixie Godfather! Such an Oily crackling is exactly what we need, we think, maybe, anyway." The paltry executives were never too sure about anything for very long. And so the crackling of Oil came to pass.

In that time there were throngs gathered in lines throughout the land to receive their portion of the Precious and Holy Fluid, and there was not always enough. There was speculation about Fluid for the coming season, and Cults were formed to protect and venerate the Fluid. And it came to pass that rumors of this crackling Oil reached the scribes and lesser bureaucrats of the Cult in a Northern Province of the Land of the Dixie Godfather, which was also the nest of the paltry executives. Among those Northern lesserlings is a certain boisterous Priestess of the Cult of the Precious and Holy Fluid who is deeply in love with the Dixie Godfather. Yet she knows him not for what he is and when she heard those rumors, she was enraged by the thought of such wasteful spending of the Fluid of her Passion. To her horror, those rumors were verified by the paltry executives. The wrath of the Priestess waxed furious and many a curse and oath was sworn, and the fate of the paltry executives looked bleak. For such wastefulness was an odious and loathsome sin.

It was only then that the word of the Dixie Godfather which was spoken to the paltry executives was revealed unto the Priestess, and his word stilled her anger, and her duties to the Fluid went unfulfilled because of his revealed word. But the days of the Dixie Godfather were troubled and in the end the Priestess never did amount to much and the people of that Northern Province made the Dixie Godfather and the paltry executives an offer that could not be refused. So there, Yankee Doodle, stick a tower in your hat!

* * * * *

G.A.S.P. FUNDRAISER

Remember that old pile of scrap metal laying around out back? Well, now is the time to turn all that junk into money for your favorite Powerline Protest. Just separate the steel from the cast iron (no tin or wire, please, and easy on the galvanized!) and cart it off to the Villard Elevator Co. They will weight it in, put it on the stockpile, and give you a weight ticket for you to turn into G.A.S.P. at Box 5, Lowry, MN 56349. 3 ft. lengths are ideal, and machinery should be taken apart first. If you need transportation, call a protester and something will be arranged.

Arnold Tank, who runs the Elevator Co., has a small favor to ask of us in return. The railroad is trying to abandon him, and he asks that you write your Congress person and Senators and tell them to save this country's railroads, 'cause we're going to need them.

While we're on the subject of money, Hold That Line is desperate for your financial assistance. Please help us out, and thank you.

Available Now & Other Stuff

The Powerline Will Affect You - 25¢
MAPP & The CU Project - 25¢
Powergate - 25¢
Electropollution - 25¢
What Is Pure Coal - 25¢
Physics Related Problems of Coal
Fired Power Plants - \$1.00
North American Coal Capers - \$1.50
Pollution by Electrical Transmission
\$1.00
On Effects of Extremely High Voltage
Transmission \$1.50
Electric Power Research Institute's
Research Program on Biological
Effects of Electric Fields
(This is the Industries version
of health and safety problems) \$1.50
Russian Study, 23 - 06 \$1.50
Russian Studies and Related Commentary
\$2.00
Electrical Wiring Configurations and
Childhood Cancer \$1.50
Effect of EHVLine on Cattle Repro-
duction 50¢
Additional Information On The Health
And Safety Questions Of Powerlines
Is Being Prepared.
T-SHIRTS MINNESOTA STATE TREE - \$6
G.A.S.P. - \$6
NIGHT RIDER - \$6
BUTTONS IF YOU KILL OUR FARMS, YOUR
CITIES WILL DIE - \$1.00
USE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY - 50¢
BUMPERSTICKERS NO POWERLINE - 75¢
DECENTRALIZE ENERGY - 75¢
UNSAFE/UGLY - 75¢
FARMLAND FOR FOOD - 75¢

Send all orders to Hold That Line,
Box 5, Lowry, Minnesota 56349

* * * * *

Victory Party Barn Dance For Dream People & Friends! - - Sat. Nite, Aug. 4
Bring Own Refreshments & Pot Luck Lunch! Come On, 8:30 pm
Music Provided, But Bring Instruments Anyway! Come All!!
Ron Barsness Farm, 3 miles north of Cyrus, then 1/2 mile east on Co. Rd. 24

LETTERS

Dear Folks,

Here's a contribution for your
efforts and newsletter. Please send
two NO POWERLINE bumperstickers also.
St. Paul, MN

Dear HTL,

Here is \$30.00 for the newsletter
defense fund or whatever is best.
Our roofing crew sends this because
we enjoy hearing about poor Phil and
Uncle Albert. You know poor Phil
Martin is now Chairman of MAPP (the
Peter Principle strikes again!) so
that he can maneuver CPA/UPA's new
powerline into the grid. I hope he
likes his new responsibilities and
his new white D.C. elephant, because
no one else wants them not even NSP.

But NSP likes Uncle Albert.
They helped get him elected. Uncle
Albert has solutions (BCA) to problems
(Powerlines) like President Ford
solved the swine flu with shots.
Maybe Albert wants to be President.
When will government help the people
not fight them?

St. Cloud, MN

Dear HTL,

The enclosed check is to support
your continued publication.

Thank you for adding me to your
mailing list, and for continuing to
send Hold That Line despite my tardiness
in offering to pay my way.

St. Paul, MN

Dear HTL,

Could you ask Charlie Graff (he
is the Stearns Co. Sheriff) what
happened at 8:21 pm on July 23?

Belgrade, MN

POWERLINE PROTEST NEWSLETTER***PRESS RELEASE

COURT CAPERS

HE CRIED AND SIGHED AND EVEN LIED,
BUT FEEBLE FABLE PROVED UNABLE TO
KEEP THE TABLES GLUED AND STABLE,
OH YAS!!!

The tables began to turn and twist in a most alarming manner a couple of weeks ago, and finally the whole shebang came unglued and fell right on the noggin of Feeble Thomas Fabel, fabled prosecutor for the State of Minnesota. And just when things were looking so promising for the ambitious young attorney from St. Paul. Feeble Fabel thought he was well on the way to busting up a very troublesome powerline protest movement by getting some convictions. Now that's the sort of thing reputations are made of! The big-wigs notice those things, and young Feeble wallows in their attention like a sow in the mud on a hot summer day. "One down, five to go," he'd say to the crooked face in the mirror as he'd shave in the morning. He even made up a little tune about it which he'd hum to himself when he thought no one was listening. The tune didn't mention anything about peoples' rights or truth or justice or honor or glory or things like that. It was more of a "I got me one, gonna get me two, and I don't care how, and it may be you" sort of tune. It was all so fun and exciting that you can just imagine how angry Feeble became when things started falling apart.

This is how it went. With William Hansen Sr. convicted, Feeble planned to move on William Hansen Jr. for tactical reasons. Problem was that Matt Woida moved for a speedy trial some time ago, and it was prosecute Matt now or never. Feeble tried a few motions to get around it, but didn't find the judge dumb enough to fall for it - not that there wasn't a fight. So Matt's up for trial and Willette, another of the infamous 3 judge panel is the judge Ken Tilsen is the lawyer. Feeble gets nervous.

Next question is where will the trial be, and Feeble wants it everywhere and anywhere than Pope and Stearns Counties. So they have a big fight about that too, with Feeble claiming that it shouldn't be in Pope County cause protesters are threatening the State witnesses and jury selection took so long. It seems that if someone doesn't do what Feeble wants them to, the only reason Feeble can understand for it is that they were threatened by someone nasty. That's probably because Feeble thinks his life is threatened because he's such a jerk himself. Well, the judge did not agree, and also found that the prosecutor's claims about jury selection were rather exaggerated, (that's a switch). So the trial was kept in Pope. Feeble got more nervous and started swearing under his breath, not daring to say those naughty words out loud.

While all this was going on, the attorney for William Hansen Sr. managed to arrange a pre-sentence hearing before Judge Lindstrom about possible irregularities and incongruities in the Hansen trial. Feeble ranted and raved about how it is absolutely essential that Hansen be sentenced before the Woida trial went to jury, but Lindstrom was starting to think about the hole he dug for himself during the trial and he decided to take a little more time before jumping in and covering himself up. So Lindstrom continued the sentencing indefinitely and has taken motions for either dismissal or a new trial in the Hansen case.

Feeble started getting frantic, and things got even worse when he figured out that he had a very difficult choice to make. Being as no witnesses were talking, it was suppressed evidence that somehow got admitted which convicted Hansen. But that evidence would not be available against Woida, and there was no reason for Feeble to suspect that folks who had refused to testify against Hansen would testify against Matt Woida. So Feeble had to decide if he wanted to lose by parading witnesses and evidence before a jury for everyone to see without proving anything, or if he wanted to lose by dropping charges before the trial started. He decided to avoid a large embarrassment, and in spite of the fact that the five key state witnesses were arraigned on criminal contempt charges stemming from the Hansen trial the day before the Woida trial was

scheduled to begin, charges against Matt Woida were dropped the day (2) before trial. What a win! While Feeble says they can recharge Woida as soon as he gets some evidence, that is not likely to happen. It is also not likely that any of the other defendants will come to trial, and it is not likely the Hansen conviction will stand. What do you say, Feeble? Chances to make it in the big leagues don't come everyday. Too bad you just lost it. Did you know that frustrated ambitions and ulcers usually go together?

Anyway, the charges were dropped the day before trial and there was quite a party that night. The BCA boys got very excited! And Least, (remember Least Earnest?) was worse than usual. Least chases people all over the place out here, but this time Least thought he was being followed by people returning home from the party. Least was very paranoid. He and his little side kick stopped people behind him by blocking off the road with his super van, jumped out, and threatened the occupants of the vehicle he stopped with guns drawn. Least better not do that too often. Least is lucky he's still least.

HEALTH/SAFETY TRANSCRIPT

It appears that Representative Rich Nolan will provide for the transcript of the June 25 Health/Safety hearing at Sauk Centre, and get a summary of the hearing read into the Congressional Record. That is good. Rep. Nolan is being helpful in another way as well. Anyone experiencing symptoms which may result from exposure to the powerline, and anyone experiencing livestock problems which may result from exposure to the powerline, should get statements from doctors and/or veterinarianians! Keep a copy of the doctor's report, send one to G.A.S.F. Box 5, Lowry, and send one copy to Rich Nolan, Federal Office Bldg. 715 W. St. Germain, St. Cloud 56301. Nolan's office will put them on the public record and forward them to appropriate parts of officialdom.

PUBLIC ENERGY FORUM

The idea of a Public Energy Forum is moving closer to reality, and the politicians and the bureaucrats seem to be shook up enough so that it might even be a worth while experience in some vague sort of way. There was a meeting down in St. Paul on July 3 to start setting things up. The Coalition of Rural Environmental Groups (CoREG) was well represented, Robby the Governor's flunky was there and so was the chief big-wig from the MREQB, Al Jaisel. The industry has yet to show its ugly face, but everytime Robbie mentioned the industry, he looked over to Jaisel and smiled understandingly. That caused Jaisel to become quite irritated and defensive.

Focus for the forum will be on the 10 point program CoREG raised last winter, including the questions of conservation, alternative sources of energy, land use questions, and the matter of who will decide our energy future and how will the decisions be made. The powerline controversy is NOT to be the focus, and the officials seemed to be willing to agree to almost anything that will keep the powerline out of the picture. So the way it stands is that the forum will take place in St. Cloud and the moderator will either be a priest from west central Minnesota, or a priest from southern Minnesota. Exactly when it will happen depends upon the availability of Amory Lovins, energy expert and author of Soft Energy Paths, who will help CoREG present its case. The Minnesota Energy Agency will start it off by describing the states energy policy (or rather, the lack thereof), and then the utilities get to complain about all the bureaucrats' red tape they have to put up with and talk about how responsible they are to the environment, stockholders and consumers alike. After all that, CoREG people will have the opportunity to discuss the current state affairs as well as describe how nicely things could be working if only we had a brain.

While we're on the subject of CoREG and the utilities, the utilities' response of the CoREG 10 points provides some useful insight as to why we have the problems that we have. According to the industry, we live in the best of all possible worlds, the only problems we have are the unavoidable trade-offs we as a society have all decided to make, and the industry is already doing everything that can possibly be done to improve the situation. These

turkeys brag about their conservation programs while advertising for (3) electric resistance heating and have the gall to say they know of no subsidies to conventional suppliers of electricity. Rather, solar energy development gets all the subsidies, they say, and it still won't be available for many years. No wonder there's an energy crisis.

The document is over 20 pages long and is available upon request (along with a little \$) for those with a strong stomach or a very wierd sense of humor.

* * * * *

There will be a G.A.S.P. meeting on Tuesday evening at 8pm on July 24 at the Barrel Inn in Lowry. Purpose of the meeting will be to review G.A.S.P. finances, discuss a couple of fundraising ideas, and figure out a few details on what to do next. Call your friends and neighbors, and mark your calendar! We'll see you on the 24th!!!

* * * * *

SENSIBLE POWER LIBRARY

We are starting something new for our readers, a library. The books will be rented out for a period of 2 weeks for \$2. This \$2 charge may be subtracted from the purchase price if you decide you wish to buy the book. Proceeds after postage, will go towards enlarging the library, also if you wish to donate a publication, it will be greatly appreciated. Send all orders to, Library/HTL, Box 5, Lowry 56349. Books now available include:

"PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SOLAR HOMES"

"THE COMPLETE SOLAR HOUSE"

"SUNSET HOMEOWNERS GUIDE TO SOLAR HEATING"

"30 ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSES YOU CAN BUILD"

"PRODUCING YOUR OWN POWER"

"HANDBOOK FOR HOMEMADE POWER"

"DESIGNING AND BUILDING A SOLAR HOUSE; A PLACE IN THE SUN"

Also, if you are interested in some local info on alternative energy, try getting in touch with one of these addresses:

DAKOTA WIND AND SUN LTD

PO BOX 1781

ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57401

ALTERNATIVES SOURCES OF ENERGY

RT 2

MILACA, MN 56353

ENERGY ALTERNATIVES INC.

819 BROADWAY

ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308

* * * * *

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

CPA and UPA are worried that bringing the CU project on line will be a very traumatic experience, and they have been busy making preparations to ease the shock. Some of these preparations have been a bit frantic, and out in N. Dakota, they're showing signs of chronic paranoia. Somehow the utilities got wind of protester plans to invade and destroy the power plant. Then the media picked up on the idea and articles about the coming invasion began appearing throughout the land. Fargo Radio even called up to see when we were leaving. They were told that the phone is no place for such a discussion.

While utility spokesmen could come up with nothing specific on which to feed their paranoia, security has been tightened almost to the point of strangling the plant and mine. Matter of fact, it's like an armed camp out there, the North Dakota National Guard is ready to move at the drop of a hat, and local residents who are expected to host the invading forces are being watched, as he said, "Like rabbits in the cabbage patch by 3 to 5 people who are recording our every move. We laugh and laugh and laugh!" According to reports from the area, security personell are worried because protesters only had a permit to protest on June 30 but no one showed up then. Now they don't know when it will happen. When it does, they hope it will all be peaceful without blood-

shed, but they're prepared for anything. They think. Oh my goodness! (4)
They even went and cancelled the big open-house tours they have every year
out there for fear of protesters.

Preparations on the Minnesota side have not been quite so frenzied, but
are just about as desperate. Seems that UPA/CPA figure they have a lot of
explaining to do, so electric rates will have to double just to pay for the
media blitz folks have been enduring. Pick a radio station, and you'll get to
listen to these turkeys tell you how this is a changing world, progress is be-
ing made, and the squeeze you'll get from your electric bill is for your own
good. And you can hear it 5 to 10 times a day. The newspaper ads are even
worse. "THE POWERLINE IS YOUR LIFELINE" they say, and proceed to justify the
boondoggle on the grounds that we're all addicts who never had it so good, and
cut out that vandalism stuff. Even the Minnesota Historical Society picked
this particular time to give its salute to Minnesota Rural Electric Coops.
They go so far as to invoke the spirit of F.D.R. on behalf of the utilities,
and extoll the progress made in rural electrification these past 45 years.
The Historical Society ought to be ashamed of itself (maybe indicted) for us-
ing tax money to pay for such propaganda, and folks ought to tell them so.

On the other hand, there are still some problems. There is a lot of oil
still being shipped to the plant, and on this side, the BCA boys couldn't
stand the pace for too long. Their big push netted them 2 very dubious felony
charges against protesters. (NOTE: the Omnibus Hearing for Darus Ehlers and
Dwight Nelson will be at 10:30 am in the Traverse Co. Court House on Aug. 6)
The BCA is still around, but seems to be trying to rely more on informants.
They are having no more luck than when they had an agent under every bush,
and now some of the insulators are wilting for lack of attention. The towers
must need watering or something. Looks like lightening has been striking at
the conductor cable as well, and they're pretty messed up every so often.
Rumor Control has learned that such strikes are drastically reducing the ef-
ficiency of the line, perhaps by as much as 60%. Oh well. We've known all
along that it is not nice to trick Mother Nature!

* * * * *

BLACK HILLS ALLIANCE

Over 7000 people met in Rapid City S.D. to hear problems and solutions to
the problems of the Black Hills, and to listen to some real good (and loud)
music. The following day about 4000 marched 18 miles into the hills in support
of the Black Hills Alliance. That night folks had the privilege of listening
to Native Americans tell about the place of the Black Hills in their culture.
It is sacred land. It will be defended. There were workshops on Sunday to dis-
cuss what is happening to people not only in this country, but all over the
world. We all have the same problem - the giant multinationals taking advanta-
ge of the land and the people. Many examples of misuse of resources and of ignor-
ing the law were sighted, all of course, for the money-making ways of the cor-
porations. We all have concrete evidence, names, times, and places, but no one
person or group can do anything substantial to stop them. Once again, the peo-
ple must get together, regardless of race, religion and social status, and
call a halt to this corporate rape of our earth. Along with educating oursel-
ves and the people we associate with about the nature of these corporations
and their subsidiaries, and the danger of centralized energy development, the
multinationals will be challenged in the courts, at public hearings, at the
polling booth and in the fields. Big doings are being planned by the Black
Hills Alliance for the summer of 1980, and there will be activities between
now and then. We'll keep you posted.

* * * * *

July 21

You Are Cordially Invited To The Party!!

July 21

Seeing as how we've had more than a few social gatherings of protesters in the
Pope/Stearns Co. area in the past little while, and seeing as how a party out
Traverse Co. way might be really nice, and seeing as how it just happens to be
Dwight Nelson's birthday July 21, we're having a PARTY! Go north of Wheaton
on US 75 to 1st crossroad. Go West 1 mile, North 1 mile, and you're there!!

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has apparently decided to back down on regulations concerning pollution control requirements for new coal-fired electrical power plants, after intense lobbying by the coal and utility industries and coal state senators. EPA Administrator Douglas Costle has decided to require the removal of 70 to 90 per cent of sulfur pollutants from the emissions of new coal-burning plants, depending on the sulfur content of the coal burned. The EPA had originally planned that all new coal-fired plants remove 85% of the sulfur from emissions. The EPA backed down, according to a Washington Post source in the U.S. Senate, after "hardball arm-twisting" by Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.) and other coal state senators.

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970 required the EPA Administrator to set standards of performance for major new sources of pollution ("New Source Performance Standards", or NSPS). 1977 amendments to the law directed the Administrator to require new sources to meet a percentage reduction requirement for sulfur pollutants, in addition to the emission limit on pounds of sulfur per million btu's (btu's measure the heat content of coal or other fuels). According to the law, the Administrator must require new sources to install the "best system of continuous emission reduction, taking into consideration the cost of such emission reduction".

In September, 1978, Adm. Costle announced a proposed NSPS rule requiring 85% emission reductions from all new coal-fired electrical power plants. It was not until after the public comment period on the proposed rule had closed that Costle was apparently convinced to back down.

The decision will allow some new plants--those burning "low sulfur" western coal--to emit three times as much sulfur dioxide as the original flat 85% NSPS would have allowed. The argument for allowing the extra sulfur dioxide emissions is that a flat percentage would "discriminate" against low-sulfur coal, because it would be harder to remove 85% of the sulfur from low-sulfur coal than from high-sulfur coal. Unfortunately, the sliding scale will encourage burning of western coal, which is lower in heat value than eastern coal. Under the new rule, a 500 megawatt plant burning "low sulfur" western coal may well emit more sulfur dioxide than a 500 megawatt plant burning "high-sulfur" coal. The new rule may also frustrate the intent of Congress. In passing the Clean Air Act Amendments, Congress expressly intended to encourage the use of local coal. The new rule may encourage eastern utilities to burn western coal in new plants.

The EPA has also apparently dropped plans to lower the current NSPS emissions ceiling of 1.2 pounds of sulfur per million btu's to 0.8 pounds. Ironically, Senator Byrd and other coal state Senators argued that the more stringent emissions standard would discriminate against eastern high-sulfur coal--after they had argued that the proposed emission reduction requirements would discriminate against western coal. Much western coal, however, is actually high in sulfur content, when the low heating value is considered. The fact is that there is both high and low sulfur coal in the east and west, when adjustment for btu values is taken into account. The discrimination argument is somewhat surprising, because the purpose of the NSPS emissions ceiling is to discriminate against high sulfur coal, and to encourage the burning of cleaner fuels and the development of pollution controls that will allow new plants to burn high-sulfur fuels with minimal sulfur dioxide emissions.

As with other debates over air pollution control, only one kind of cost was mentioned by the coal and utility industries and by coal state senators: namely, the cost of pollution control equipment. Energy Sec. Schlesinger, who testified in 1977 in favor of stringent NSPS in Congress, is now arguing that stringent NSPS and clean air are, somehow, inflationary. The difference in costs of required scrubbing equipment under the flat 85% NSPS and the 70-90% sliding scale NSPS is small. The more lenient NSPS could cost the customer 95¢ a month by 1995, as compared with \$1.50 under the 85% removal NSPS. With hundreds of new coal-fired power plants across the country planned by 1995, the increased emissions--and increased costs--of sulfur dioxide under the relaxed rules could be staggering.-----THE PLAINS TRUTH, MAY, 1979

LETTERS

Dear People,

I have recently moved into the Glenwood area and have learned about your powerline. I support what you've been doing and would like to help. I am sending a small contribution to help with your operating expenses. Plus, I would like to volunteer my services. I have plenty of free time and would like to help out in any way I can. Please put our name on your mailing list, so we can hear what you're doing. Keep up the good hard work.

Glenwood, Mn

Hold That Line,

Can't you do something about those towers falling down? Enclosed is a donation to aid you in your efforts. Keep up the excellent work you're doing, we appreciate it.

Crystal, Mn

Dear Folks,

We enjoy your letter much. Here is a help for keeping it coming.

Villard, Mn

Hold That Line!

Keep up the good work, enjoy your paper. Here's a check to help you keep the newsletter coming.

Hewitt, Mn

HTL,

Hopefully this will help. Feel like a little fish in the ocean. Here is another small donation, but as they say, every penny helps.

Elbow Lake, Mn

I think Hold That Line is the most important part of our protest. Keep up the good work. Thanks for all you're doing.

Glenwood, Mn

Dear Sir:

I read a copy of your paper. I think that it is very good, especially about that judge.

Will you send me some back issues and future ones. Thank you.

Anoka, Mn

Gentlemen:

Please send me more information about your organization. Thank you.

Rogers, Mn

Enclosed find an article from Free Press, Mankato, about condemnation hearings at Le Sueur County. We feel quite hopeful, and are all set to go to Carver County condemnation hearing. We do appreciate your printing our actions here in southern Minnesota. Do wish we could donate money at this time. But we have big expenses with our lawyer fees and court costs. Thank you.

Mankato, Mn

Hello;

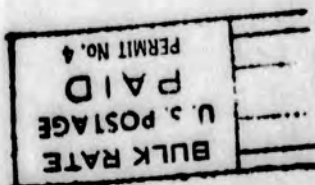
Good issues of Hold That Line keep coming our way in Wisconsin. Our strength is growing as more of us in Wisconsin read your paper.

We have started a paper here in southeast Wisconsin called Dead Serious. We are sending you ten copies to distribute around your group. Keep the wire worms fed.

Milwaukee, Wis

* * * * *
Our folks handling the T-shirts say they can't cut it with postage costs, so please add a dollar on to your payments. Thank you, see you the 24th

* * * * *



HOLD THAT LINE
WRY TOWN HALL
WRY, MN. 56349

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has apparently decided to back down on regulations concerning pollution control requirements for new coal-fired electrical power plants, after intense lobbying by the coal and utility industries and coal state senators. EPA Administrator Douglas Costle has decided to require the removal of 70 to 90 per cent of sulfur pollutants from the emissions of new coal-burning plants, depending on the sulfur content of the coal burned. The EPA had originally planned that all new coal-fired plants remove 85% of the sulfur from emissions. The EPA backed down, according to a Washington Post source in the U.S. Senate, after "hardball arm-twisting" by Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.) and other coal state senators.

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Glenwood, Mn

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Milwaukee, Wis

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* * * * *

"HOLD THAT LINE"

July 1 - 15

POWERLINE PROTEST NEWSLETTER *** PRESS RELEASE

URGENT

PLEASE NOTE:

Hold That Line has learned that the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, along with assistance from UPA, is currently paying people on a weekly basis for any information on the activities of anybody who might be a powerline protester. This is happening all along the route in Minnesota. It seems that the utility industry nationwide is also running scared of this protest to the point where the industry is putting up some pretty big money, more than the \$50,000 we've been hearing about, to get the information they need. BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY. BE CAREFUL WHO YOU ARE TALKING TO. JUST BE CAREFUL! Well folks, it sorta looks like we've made it through all the elimination rounds and into the finals, don't it.

* * * * *

THE CASE KEGS OF THE UN-LINE POWERLINE PARTY

Origionally, the project should have been done a couple years ago. The line was completed (sorta) 9 months ago, the last few bugs were recently ironed out of the power plant (they thought) and Phil Martin was all set and ready to experience the thrill of his life. He even went and found the little pointy hat his mommy gave him. That sounds like party time, and sure enough, party time it was. Only Phil didn't show up, the cops had the good sense to keep a distance (with a few duely recorded exceptions), and for the time being, the commercialization of the CU project is as real as the white elephant in Phil Martin's wet dreams (see page 5).

But was there ever a party! Folks came from as far away as New York and New Mexico, Wisconsin, Farwell and North Dakota. Over 400 of them. The weather was perfect, or else there would have been even more - make hay while the sun shines, you know. By all the laughing and dancing and shouting and singing that was going on you could have sworn there wasn't a powerline larger than 69 KV within a thousand miles.

Seems that not everybody was so happy though. You know how rumors are. Well, somebody went and started a rumor a while back that said that on June 30, with or without a full moon, there would be hundreds upon hundreds of mean and angry, low down gun toten bomb throwin cussin and swearin fire breathing mad anarchist farmers descending like a hord upon the Coal Creek Station with destruction in their hearts. The authorities responded to the emergnecy quickly and efficiently, however, and so all was not lost. A brave but frightened security force of only 60 agents has been patrolling the plant with military precision. Some of them were more frightened than others, though, because they had to climb up to the top of the 658' smokestacks so they could see better what was going on. Seeing as how the thing isn't on line, they should probably stay out there for awhile yet because things got delayed a bit on this end too . . .

* * * * *

COURT CAPERS

Matt Woida will go on trial on Tuesday morning, July 10, in Glenwood. Matt faces destruction of property and conspiracy charges stemming from an incident that happened 15 months ago. Judge Willette, who also was on the three judge powerline panel will sit on it.

Bill Hansen, who was convicted last month will be sentences in Glenwood on Monday, July 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Also at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 16 is the arraignment of Darus Ehlers and Dwight Nelson on charges of aggravated assault.

LIKE THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE, THE LEGISLATURE SWINGS INTO ACTION (2)

We got a letter from Representative Fjoslien the other day about House Advisory Bill #27. The bill is to study the powerline conflict, and calls for a special subcommittee "to investigate UPA's failure to comply with all the conditions and mandates . . . for the construction permit..." Television and telephone problems as well as any "new information regarding adverse health effects" should be considered too. The committee is also to look at problems with land values and survey mistakes, and the objective of their investigation is to find solutions to these sources of conflict. Then they are to report back to the legislature. Just in the nick of time! Why oh why didn't somebody think to do something like this before?

Quite naturally, the utilities don't like the idea at all. As far as they're concerned, they did everything that is humanly possible to minimize impacts, adequately clean up, follow the construction permit, and generally insure that the very best interests of everybody had been superbly defended. As a matter of fact, the only problems out here result either from peoples' own imaginations or as a result of their unwillingness to cooperate with the utilities.

So if anybody wants a copy of House Advisory Bill #27, or has some comment on it, Representative Fjoslien is interested:

Representative Dave Fjoslien
387 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

* * * * *

DREAM MEETING

JULY 11

8:30 p.m.

The Determined Runestone Electric Association Members will be having a meeting Wednesday, July 11. Hopefully, there will be a judgement on the law suit involving mail ballots by that time, and future activities will be discussed. The meeting will be at the Ronald Barsness home, 3 miles North of Cyrus.

* * * * *

FIVE MORE CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST POWERLINE PROTESTERS

Five people refused to testify for the State in the Bill Hansen trial last month. All were charged with civil contempt of court and three of them went to jail and had to stay there until the end of the trial. Harold Fischer was in jail almost 2 weeks because of that. But now that the Matt Woida trial is approaching, the State is more anxious than ever to get some testimony. The prosecution decided that the best way to get that testimony would be to charge all those who refused to talk before with criminal contempt of court. So on Monday, July 2, our little Pope County prosecutor, who is learning very quickly how to be a good little lackey, put his name down at the bottom of the papers charging those five people with criminal contempt. That is a 90 day misdemeanor. Hearing is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 9, in Glenwood.

* * * * *

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY IS ON THE WAY

While the Carter Administration and the Utility Industry vows to continue plunging full tilt down the centralized energy path, the March 26 Chicago Tribune reports, "The dream of using sunlight to supply all the electrical energy needs of an average house could be achieved within three years" That according to scientists from RCA and a little outfit called Energy Conversion Devices. The industry calls such development "exotic" and the government says it ain't possible until 2000. The Jan. 1979 Popular Science Mag. reports a 2000 KW wind generator at work in Denmark. It costs about \$360 per KW, compared to something over \$1,250 per KW for the Coal Creek Station.

Speaking of MONEY, Hold That Line needs your support. Please contribute

Congressman Nolan and his staff sponsored a hearing in Sauk Centre on June 25 where people living in the vicinity of the powerline had a chance to testify about their experience with health and safety problems related to the powerline. Over 200 people were present. More than two dozen folks described problems they have had to a couple doctors from the State Health Dept., and to Mr. Charmichael who's doing the GAO investigation. Quite logically, many of those who testified are powerline protesters. But it is significant that testimony came from all across the state and from more than a few folks who have had nothing to do with protesting.

Complaints included problems we've been noting in Hold That Line for the past half year or so, plus a couple additional ones. While some people were able to be much more specific about the time of incidents than others, the Mpls. Tribune reported a correlation of over 85% between when people said they had trouble and when the line was on. Certain days were particularly bothersome. Complaints included headaches, skin rashes and itching, waking up in the morning bloody from nose bleeding after exposure to the line the night before, fatigue, sinus trouble, constricted breathing, dizziness, and steril animals, as well as the familiar interference with communications systems. The good doctors Peterson (who says he is a good listener) and Dean took a few notes and asked a few questions and even stayed awake the whole time.

A substantial amount of experimental data on the effects of powerlines was also introduced in writing, and it is a bit disconcerting to note that the symptoms and effects which have been observed in field studies and experiments are the same as people were reporting in Sauk Centre. For example, charged particles, or air ions are known to cause headaches. The people responsible for the Minn. Dept. of Health Powerline Study of 1977 are on record saying that very little is known about the effects of air ions from direct current powerlines, and this is definitely a major problem area. Dr. Hirsh from the University of Minnesota Morris, who is one of the world's top authorities on corona discharges from electro-magnetic fields was at the hearing and said that people near the powerline are correct when they say they are guinea pigs. And the really stupid part of the deal, according to Dr. Hirsh, is that the experiment is so poorly designed and loosely monitored that the experimentors have no way of knowing what is happening to their guinea pigs. On the other hand, the utilities take the position that all these people out here are just so angry and frustrated that either we've all become pathological liars or else we're all crazy and imagining things.

So, towards the end of the meeting the guy from GAO said he was glad to be present, thank you kindly for an interesting evening, but our investigation does have limits of time and space, you know, and we can't just wait around to see how long it takes you folks to get sick or whatever. Then the good doctors Peterson and Dean said how impressive peoples' statements were and how these problems are of a very serious nature and much more research is needed and we don't have anywhere near all the answers which are necessary. BUT there is nothing here that would cause Uncle Albert to shut down the line nobody is in any immediate danger, we could have listened to similar complaints anywhere else in the state, you can't expect powerlines to cure colds, and maybe in a decade or so we'll know a lot more about the long term effects of these things, thank you very much, wasn't it good of us to come all this way out here? So much for the Hippocratic oath. Very little is sacred anymore. The good doctors were informed that they'll have to get their experimental data from someplace else. But if anyone has complaints which they'd like to register, here's one more place that you can send them:

Mr. Larry Gust
Division of Environmental Health
Minnesota State Health Department
717 S.E. Delaware
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

(612) 296-5325
or
(612) 296-5508

or

YOU CAN TAKE THE BCA BOYS OUT OF THE CITY,
BUT YOU CANN'T TAKE THE CITY OUT OF THE BCA BOYS, OH YEAH

There are enough agents running around out here so that if they all wore fancy uniforms and drove in squad cars, there would be big news coming out of Powerline Country. It would be big news if the Troopers were back. Instead, we have a most unseemly collection of moral derelicts trying very hard to be sly and sneaky. That's because Albert the Governor made this powerline business the #1 priority for his boys from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Thus we have one more wrinkle in this sordid triangle involving government, big business, and the CU project. Taxpayers once again are paying the bill as the State babysits for corporations. And the free press, that bastion of a free people, is eloquent in its silence while civilization runs amok before its very eyes. That is, of course, assuming that these would-be cops bear the hallmark of civilization!

Anyway, these agents are thick all the way from the North Dakota line to Delano, even though most of them are still a little bit wet behind the ears. They'll probably dry out by the fire. They usually have on bullet-proof vest over their cute little farmer disguises, they are armed and to be considered dangerous, and they drive around in a very wide variety of vehicles (some without proper lighting) with 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 antennas sticking out. So be careful. Even though they get lost a lot and can't quite seem to keep track of who they're supposed to be watching, they do have a burning desire to get a pat on the head and maybe even a lollipop from their Uncle Albert. Substantial amounts of money are also at stake, and these guys will do what they can get away with to get the goodies. They have a remarkable record over the past few weeks.

Included in the antics which are rather commonplace and which folks out here may or may not continue to put up with, are flashing spotlights on peoples' homes, driving around in their yards, or discharging rifles over buildings in the early morning hours. Or conspicuously following motorists of Central Minnesota, flying airplanes low overhead at irregular and frequent intervals sometimes many miles from the line, and obnoxious questioning of employees at restaurants in the region.

Yet these turkeys have done some damage. That is almost unavoidable considering that there are as many as 120 of them slithering around making people angry. (More than a dozen BCA vehicles were seen refueling at the same time at an Alex gas station, and similar situations have been noted elsewhere.) People have had their cars stopped and searched by agents for no apparent reason. That could turn into an instant problem sometime. Several days ago, agents started chasing a vehicle some 10 miles north of the powerline. After chasing it for 7 miles they decided to pull it over for speeding. Before the ticket was written, the car was searched, the driver was interigated about powerline activities and threatened when no information was forthcoming. Worst of all (so far) two people were arrested and held a few days on felony charges for, BCA boys say, pointing a gun at them with intent to commit great bodily harm. Aggravated Assault is the charge, max.: 5 years and \$5,000. Seems these agents can spot things like that at $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, yet they have some problems being more specific.

It is not necessary for them to be more specific. Such arrests are designed to destroy opposition to the powerline, not to serve justice, law or order. They are designed to scare people away, immobilize others, and drain the resources of everyone else. But there seems to be a few flaws in the design. Perhaps scare tactics no longer work, and speaking of resources how long does Albert think he can afford (spiritually as well as physically) to keep his goon squad out here chasing shadows? On the other hand, how long can farmers wait? (That's called Strategy!) Let's face it. Trying to bust up a movement is a long and nasty business.

Long and nasty maybe. But there is no reason why it has to remain so anonymous and impersonal. After all, we all are sort of "business associates" out here, you might say, and so we might at least make an earnest attempt to get to know each other. Kind of up close and personal, or something. Now we've been compiling quite a bit of information on some of these guys, and we would like to introduce you to one of the "supervisors", a great big _____ who prides himself on his ability to follow orders and make snappy decisions. He is, however, easily confused and doesn't always know if you're just joking. We shall call him "Least Earnest" and any similarity between this jerk and the actual jerk who is running amok out here is strictly confidential. How 'bout it, Least?

Least graduated from Alex High back in '64. His pop was the sheriff of Douglas County at the time, a fact Least appreciated more than once. But at least Least graduated. The preacher's daughter wasn't so lucky. Least knocked her Earnestly up and she got kicked out of school on that account. Least got kicked out of sports. Sexism was big back then. Shortly thereafter, Least got caught trying to steal his uncle's boat early one morning. His uncle heard the commotion and laced Least with buckshot. Least was also caught stealing gasoline north of Ferada and there were some Earnest fingers pointing at him in a matter involving some disturbed gravestones. Least was very happy that his daddy was the sheriff. But just to prove that he was Earnest about this stealing thing, he also managed to get himself kicked out of sports at Hamline for ripping off basketballs. Just think. Now we get to have this kind of a sullied pervert making decisions which are critical to the lives and perhaps the deaths of Minnesota citizens. That's Up Close and Personal, folks.

* * * * *

THE CASE OF THE UN-LINE POWERLINE

We've had to listen to the utilities say for the last four months that July 1 is that magic moment when the CU project will be commercialized. Phil Martin even went so far as to say that each person in the UPA/CPA system would have to pay an additional \$25 in July to buy 16,780,344 gallons of oil at a total cost of \$3,042,674 if the project was out of order, and Uncle Albert echoed him like a parrot when he was giving excuses for sending out his thugs. Well, if Albert is going to keep his thugs out here until the project comes on line, they'll have to tough it out for at least another month. On June 27 the utilities announced that it will be late July or early August before it's ready to go. While Albert tries to figure out why he's sawing away like a dummy on the wrong side of the limb, this latest development does raise some interesting questions and invites a bit of friendly speculation.

First of all, it appears that members will avoid higher rates in July because the commercialization date has been postponed. The postponement means UPA/CPA will be able to buy electricity as they have in the past and not have to rely on expensive replacement power. Which means that the base load electricity was available all along. Which means that those who concocted the CU project are a gang of cheaters, liars, and mismanagers. The way they handle it, the act of signing a piece of paper saying this project is complete is the thing which determines how much electricity is being generated in the Upper Midwest! And the thing which determines the cost and source of that electricity is whether or not that piece of paper is signed! No wonder there is an energy crisis! This development, particularly in view of Martin's statements, should do much to prove what we've been saying all along: the CU project is not needed, and the electricity from the project will cost too much.

In the second place, the reasons given by the utilities for the delay are worthy of note. Up until about 10:30 a.m. of June 27, Don Jacobson of UPA was making the announcement over the radio. Ol' Don was blathering on about how it was saved off tower legs, damaged conductor wire, missing in-

ulators, and the type of thing that generally gets the ECA boys all ex-⁽⁶⁾
cited. That may all be, but a whole month worth? Then at about 11:00 a.m.,
Bob Sheldon, boy wonder PR for CPA comes on and there ain't nothing about
sabotage. Now the problem is in the coal pulverizer. Then a few days later
word of the real cause was intercepted by Rumor Control. It seems the utiliti-
es got word of our June 30 party and decided they'd be better off if they
just put the whole thing off for a while. Out in North Dakota, you see, they
are very frightened of an invasion of angry Minnesota farmers.

But just maybe Sheldon was telling the truth, and the pulverizer isn't
pulverizing so good. Maybe they just burned out the bearings a few times. On
the other hand, maybe they tried once again to get their lignite to burn an-
ended up coating the fire-box of the boiler with oil and lignite powder.
That mess takes about a month to chip out with cold chisels. It also would
explain why the pulverizer has to pulverize the lignite into smaller particles.
But seeing as that lignite is 40% water to begin with, maybe it won't be
small enough in August, either.

Meanwhile, a few other juicy tid-bits have come our way. It seems that
the directors of UPA and CPA went and got themselves divided up into some
sort of committees. Before that, they were already divided up into Yes Men
and No Men. But now all the Yes Men are on the Executive Committee which
does all the "research" and makes all the major decisions in the back room,
and the No Men get to sit and twiddle their thumbs until the Yes Men are
ready to vote a decision at the board meeting. Then the Yes Men vote Yes and
the No Men vote No and the Yes Men win. Recently all the Yes Men have gotten
together with the head honcho of the Federal REA program to talk about why
UPA and CPA spend so much time and energy calling each other dirty names.
Seems that all this petty bickering could be eliminated by getting UPA and
CPA consolidated into one big happy family. At least that's the idea of the
head honcho from Washington D.C. We'll be hearing more about this, no doubt.

Beyond that, the Yes Men from CPA have allocated well over \$200,000 to
Falkirk Mining for things like construction equipment, payroll computers, and
parts inventory. It looks like Falkirk snatched the Sugar Daddy's credit
card and thinks there is no tomorrow. Speaking of Falkirk Mining, while
Falkirk is wholly owned by North American Coal Corporation, a bunch of other
outfits like Aetna Life Insurance, Teachers Insurance, Annuity Assn. of Ameri-
ca, American National Bank and Trust, and Marquette National Bank of Mpls,
and some leasing companies also get a bit of the action. All them corporatio-
are involved with the financing for the great big draglines they have out
there. Plenty of money for everybody in this business.

CPA's management has learned a few lessons from the past few years, how-
ever. Recently an outfit called Allied Power approached them with a proposal
to share a power plant down in South West Iowa. But due to the fact that the
capital costs plus the transmission costs due to the plant location being a
great distance from the load center, CPA decided it would be better to get
involved with a Minnesota based unit. Live and learn. . .

* * * * *

THE CLAMSHELL VS. THE SEABROOK NUKE

There has been a lot of action around the Seabrook Nuclear plant out in
Mass. these past several years, and most, if not all of that action has been
geared towards forcing the government or the industry to halt the project.
Neither the government nor the industry seems to be the least bit interested
in changing their ways and acting responsibly. They should know better.
Now they'll have to learn the hard way, and the Clamshell Alliance is moving
into the next phase of the fight against Seabrook. The Alliance is gearing
up to shut down construction at Seabrook by their own direct actions. We
salute our sisters and brothers of the Clamshell Alliance. We support you
and encourage you in your coming confrontations!

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL GATHERING

(7)

The Black Hills Alliance invites you to be present at Rapid City, S.D. during the weekend of July 6, 7, and 8. This is the Midwest Regional - National Action against nuclear power - with a focus on the beginning of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle - Uranium Mining. The Black Hills Alliance is an organization of Native and Non-Native peoples who have banded together because of our understanding that plans by several large, energy-developing corporations threaten to destroy our part of the country. The whole Northern Great Plains Region surrounding the Black Hills, in fact, has been designated a "National Sacrifice Area" to energy development by a Trilateral Commission Report.

Consider the following facts:

- ** Nuclear Energy begins with Uranium mining.
- ** Uranium mining and milling constitute one of the largest health hazards of the nuclear cycle.
- ** Over 50% of all uranium is on Native lands.
- ** Only 10% of the uranium in the Grants Mineral Belt of New Mexico has been mined. Already many miners are dead - much land and water permanently destroyed.
- ** The Black Hills region of the Upper Great Plains is rich in uranium deposits.
- ** More than 70 polluting coal fired power plants are planned for the western slopes of the Black Hills.
- ** More than 25 multi-national corporations are preparing to exploit approximately one million acres of the Black Hills.
- ** The water of the entire region is expected to be gone in 35 years. A desert will remain.
- ** The Black Hills have always been sacred to the Native peoples.
- ** The Black Hills are a beautiful, 2 billion year old formation, guaranteed to Native Peoples 'forever' by the 1368 Ft. Laramie Treaty.
- ** If we are to stop the nukes, we must do it here - at the beginning - NOW.

The program for the three-day action in July is as follows:

- July 6th -- Friday. Save the Hills Symposium. Program of speakers and music to be held in Rapid City. Featuring Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt Jim Page and others. Local community speakers and also speakers on the economics of uranium mining and the effects of low-level radiation.
- July 7 -- Saturday. Walk through the hills to the edge of the contaminated areas. Speakers from the Lakota Nation. Evening programs including short talks from the various regions and groups represented.
- July 8th -- Sunday. Large gathering and rally. Workshops and planning towards the Black Hills Survival Fair of 1980.

Information and answers to whatever questions you may have can be obtained by calling the office of Northern Sun Alliance in Minneapolis, MN 1-612-374-1540. N.S.A. is also arranging transportation.

* * * * *

Meanwhile, there's trouble everywhere. Nuke plants are leaking radioactive water up to 90 gallons an hour in Florida, around Chicago, Michigan, Maine, and Connecticut. We won't even mention Harrisburg.

And inspite of a growing awairness of health and vegetative hazards of High Voltage Powerlines, along with all the other problems they bring with them, folks out in North Dakota can expect aver 1200 miles of these things in the next 10 years, according to the Public Service Commission. Half of them are to take power out of or right on through North Dakota. It should be noted, however, that these estimates are conservative.

Available Lit. & Other Stuff

LIT. THE POWERLINE WILL AFFECT YOU-25¢
MAPP & THE CU PROJECT-25¢
POWERGATE-25¢
ELECTROPOLLUTION-25¢
WHAT IS PURE COAL-25¢
PHYSICS RELATED PROBLEMS OF
COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS-\$1
NORTH AMERICAN COAL CAPERS-\$1.50

T-SHIRTS MINNESOTA STATE TREE-\$5
G.A.S.P. -\$5

BUTTONS IF YOU KILL OUR FARMS YOUR
CITIES WILL DIE-\$1
USE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY-50¢

BUMPERSTICKERS NO POWERLINE-75¢
DECENTRALIZE ENERGY-75¢
UNSAFE/UGLY-75¢
FARMLAND FOR FOOD-75¢

(Send all orders to HTL, Box 5,
Lowry, MN 56349 - - -)

* * * * *

LETTERS

Dear Friends,

We are a group of 20 people from a Danish travelling Folk School. We have just been to Harrisburg, to find out about the T.M.I. accident, and to talk with people living there so we could go back to Denmark and tell people about it. We have made a film and a book - our goal is to get more people against nuclear power.

The power company here wants to start the construction of the first nuclear plant soon, but we won't let them. We heard about you from some friends in USA and we got very interested to know more about your actions against the powerlines. cont.

People here in Denmark were very glad to hear of your successful way of getting the powerlines down.

Especially when you put pig-shit on yourselves, so the police wouldn't touch you.

We would be very glad to get more information about what you are doing, newsletter, how it all started and so forth

Greetings from
Denmark

Dear HTL,

I spent one glorious week in the BWCA and the single most conspicuous feature was the absence of Power Line. When I got back, I heard of the extremely strong wind that blew down 1 of those iron monstrosities. Only goes to prove, you can't fool Mother Nature! Keep up the good work.

Morton, MN

HTL,

Can't you do something about those towers falling down? Enclosed is a donation to aid you in your efforts. Keep up the excellent work you are doing. We appreciate it.

Crystal, MN

Dear HTL

Enclosed is some money for the newsletter. Please add these names to the list.

Villard, MN

Black Hills Alliance

July 6 6:00 p.m. "Save The Hills
Symposium"
Rapid City Civic Center

July 7 9:00 a.m. "Walk into a
National Sacrifice Area"
meet at the Rapid City Civic Ctr.

July 8 All Day Workshops in Nemo
Canyon

POWERLINE PROTEST NEWSLETTER***PRESS RELEASE

TRIAL

The jury took about five hours to convict Bill Hansen on June 11. The evidence which convicted him came from statements which were ~~suppressed~~ by Judge Claeson after the omnibus hearing several months ago. When it became clear that the prosecutor didn't have a case if existing rules about trial evidence were used, Lindstrom puffed himself up big and mighty, strode manfully back into chambers where he made up a new rule and spilled milk of magnesia all over his new black robe. (We all have digestive problems from time to time.) Then he called up a whole bunch of BCA boys for protection. So once again THE LAW is changed in the middle of the process to meet the demands of the utilities and the state.

It is important to note exactly what went on here. Lindstrom decided he had the power to arbitrarily overturn an existing court order in the middle of a trial without benefit of the written or oral argumentation which is built into the normal appeal process. The "normal process", which is THE LAW was violated. THE LAW was simply not used because once again protesters would have won against the state and the utilities if THE LAW had been followed. But in his foolish arrogance, Lindstrom decided he doesn't have to follow THE LAW because he is THE LAW. By doing so he chews away at the tenuous threads of an already torn and ragged social fabric. He chews away and then he swallows it down. No wonder that pompous black robed ninny is constipated!

Lindstrom's ruling violates the LAW in another way, as well. The "evidence" which went before the jury as a result of the ruling was obtained by the BCA boys by placing citizens under extreme duress until they said what these state thugs wanted to hear. That is fascism. That is supposed to be illegal here in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Judge Claeson ruled: was illegal to do that and the statements couldn't be used. But the state couldn't get the evidence it wanted, because in spite of all their scare and pressure tactics the cops, judge and prosecutor couldn't get anyone to talk. 5 people were placed in contempt of court and 3 went to jail, farms and families notwithstanding. So Lindstrom reminds the prosecutor about the statements and asks him if he might be interested in using them. The Minneapolis Tribune calls such behavior "breaking new ground", and the way it works is the cops take the stand and read unsigned statements to the jury. The cops read the part that they say the witness said while the prosecutor takes the parts of the cops. Sort of like one might expect the trial of a Russian dissident to like.

When state thugs can obtain statements by using such tactics, we as a society are dangerously close to fascism. When the state is interested in using such statements against its citizens in a court of law, we are dangerously close to fascism. But when a judge actually suggests and encourages such a course, in spite of all rules and precedent which prohibit such a course, it seems a fine line has been crossed in there somewhere, and it seems to be correct to call such a judge a fascist. Thank you Mr. Lindstrom. Good people everywhere are proud of you and Somalia.

From time to time we've stated that law and order and the CU project have very little in common. This is the latest example of that sad fact. The case will be appealed to the Supreme Court, but we've been there before too.

The courts aren't the only ones around here showing their true colors these days. Governor Quie has decided to get into the act in his own devious and uninspired way. Evidently Quie got told by the utilities that all this protest stuff has got to stop, and it is time to send the BCA out to the countryside in force. So Quie, full of resolve and mindful of his hard earned place in history, agreed. We now have an unmarked cop under every tree and rock. Albert, that is not the way to treat the people responsible in part for your overwhelming victory last fall and your continued popularity among the populace. Albert, that could even get you into trouble. After all, one of the thugs could get lost out here and not be found for days, especially when they don't know enough to stay out of people's yards. Albert, you should probably reconsider.

Some very interesting events transpired in the past couple days--the end result of which and timing which even surprised us.

Rick Nolan's office seems to think this health and safety stuff should really be checked out before this line is allowed to operate. So, Monday, June 25 starting at 8:30 pm and going as late as need be--there will be a meeting open to the public in which farmers will submit testimony on the ill health effects of the CU project. A representative from the Minnesota Dept. of Health will be present as will a court reporter. This meeting is giving the floor to the farmers--with no cross examination by utility representatives. Jim Graeve, a field rep from Nolan's office will chair the meeting.

If you've had headaches, rashes, nosebleeds or other affects while working near or under the line there are two things you should do:

1) Try to pinpoint the date and time of your problem as best you can and write it down. Just describe how it happened, what you were doing, what your symptoms were etc. Include in this a report from a doctor or nurse if you got checked.

2) Be there on Monday, June 25, at 8:30 pm (doors open at 8) at the Junior H.S. in Sauk Centre. (On 9th and State Road, north off freeway, 1st road to right-2 blocks long, take left and you'll run into it.)

: *****

"The Washburn Leader" is a newspaper from McLean County in North Dakota where UPA/CPA's power plant is. On May 30, it had a headline which says "Coal Creek to Start 'Generating'". The article says July 1 is still their target date. "Testing of the power line," the article says, "is also continuing, despite intermittent delays caused by damages by Minnesota protestors. The two cooperatives still face opposition to the plant and powerline despite civil and judicial hearings which cleared the way for the project.

"Don Jacobson of UPA in Elk River says the cooperatives expect some problems. Protestors are hit and miss, generally the vandalism is aimed at insulators with some tower destruction. But there has been no concerted effort to destroy the DC transmission line," he said. My goodness! What a wonderful idea! Just imagine Mr. Don thinking of things like that for us! Although Don says he knows nothing about it, the article says, "Rumors of a shut-down at Coal Creek by protestors by June 30 is circulating among workers at the plant and mine." Don't worry though, because the article says "However it is only a rumor." Wait till control hears about that!

Meanwhile there have been a few other developments out by the plant. Falkirk Mining Co., the dummy coal mining outfit, was recently fined a whopping \$7500 for mixing soil on about 15 acres and so far Falkirk has been getting away with mixing water pumped from the mine into the natural water ways. Those fools sure know how to pick a fight. While farmers in the area are late with their crops because fuel is unavailable, UPA/CPA continue to fire the boilers out there with oil, and it is still unclear about just how much oil will be required to keep that lignite.

But July 1 is still their target date, and Phil Martin, manager at UPA, is very excited. He says in an article in the Kandiyohi REA newsletter that, "I am sure many of you have experienced similar great events in your own private lives or in your businesses." He brags about how well managed the whole affair has been, and expresses his concern about the tremendous cost that will result if the line is taken out of service--about \$25 additional dollars per coop member for July, he figures. It is so high because, Phil says, all the replacement electricity would have to be from oil fired peaking stations. He is a lying forked tongued son of a puppy doggie. Industry figures from MAPP and National Electric Reliability Council show an abundance of base load power available, much of it cheap hydro electricity. And then look at the Runeston REA newsletter where it states that the average cost of electricity will more than double in August (how much more is not clear) just to pay for the CU project.

But let's assume it will cost each UPA/CPA member an additional \$25 in July because the line is out of order. It is hard to understand why Phil is so excited at having to more than double members' bills to pay for the project when he could have gotten by with only a \$25 increase. Maybe we're confused and he is excited by something in his own personal life instead.

* * * * *

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

Albert the Governor is finally getting into the Great Powerline Dispute. Better late than never. His previous involvement was limited to taking 4 months to say "no" to a public forum on the CU project, and trying so hard to ride the fence without taking his thumb from his mouth. But things have gone too far. Albert became incensed and fell off the fence when he learned that another tower (#7) was no longer functional. So he got right to work and said how protesters are "morally wrong", in part because someone might get hurt taking towers down. Being as Albert got born again, he knows all about morality, but somehow he doesn't want to consider the fact that people are already being hurt by this areal sewer. Then he said the very things Phil Martin had in the REA newsletter about coop members having to pay an extra \$25 per month and all. Albert is a lackey, but he's not a very smart lackey. So Phil winds him up and tells him this and that and how Stearns and Pope Co. residents must "provide authorities with information that could be used to arrest vandals." Somebody should stick a new tape into Albert. We've heard that one before.

Perhaps the reason he is such an angry governor is that he sent 20 or more of his BCA boys out here a few weeks ago and tried to make it look like Sheriff Ira asked for them. But Good Old Ira denies knowing anything about it. That makes Albert and his young boy Robbie Stevenson liars. The whole lot of them look even sillier considering that the only thing all these cops have found is a few old saw blades and some mysterious smelly yellow tinted dirt.

So Quie is involved, and he says catching protesters is top priority for BCA boys. It is more important to bust farmers than to stop drug traffic in grade schools, expose communists and corruption in government, or break up organized crime. Now that Albert finally fell off the fence, called out the cops, revealed his moral convictions and established his priorities, now that UPA/CPA think they're ready to come on-line with this thing, and now that the courts are again rewriting laws to insure felony convictions, it seems safe to conclude that this movement is under a heavy attack. Albert's young boy Robbie even is quoted in the St. Cloud paper that he knows of reports to the governor saying some line opponents will loose a barn if another tower falls. That sounds almost like a threat. Protesters have been prosecuted for less than that.

What the governor, the courts and cops and utility yahoos will have to learn in the next few years, or maybe sooner, is that this movement will not be scared away. We will not be tricked or intimidated into submission while our concerns about cost, need, health and safety, etc, remain unanswered. We will not be guinea pigs to support an inhuman and cancerous addiction to corporate progress. In years past we attended and respected the hearing process. Because we respected and believed, we were screwed by state agencies and utilities alike. We participated and believed in our system of justice, and for our efforts we got to see the LAW repeatedly changed to accomodate the energy corporations. We petitioned and appealed to our elected officials, and they scoffed at us before kicking us in the teeth.

They aren't scoffing anymore. If they think that they are going to beat the life out of this movement, they better be ready for many surprises. A tower is down. There are many more from which to choose. Woof.

* * * * *

Dear Ira,

Would you believe your mother if she was yelling at you from the top of a mile high stack of Bibles? Unbelievable!

Dear Unbelievable!

I don't know...I'll go check ... um, how high is a mile high stack of Bibles, anyway?

The powerline conflict has arrived in Blue Earth Co. Condemnation proceedings June 12 in Blue Earth District Court will decide whether the cooperatives building a powerline from Delano to Mankato can legally take land from area landowners for construction of the line.

Judge Miles Zimmerman's decision, expected later in the week before press time, will probably determine the fates of similar proceedings in 4 other southern Minnesota counties affected by the powerline.

CPA and UPA propose to build a 75-mile 345kv powerline from Delano to Mankato. The line will cross Scott, Sibley, Carver, Le Sueur and Blue Earth Counties. The powerline is a southern extension of our 300kv line running from Underwood, N.D. to Delano, Mn.

Ken Tilsen, the attorney representing landowners opposed to the line, told the court he wanted to combine the cases of landowners opposed to the line from all 5 counties. Tilsen said he would like to question the whole legal process with which the cooperatives have proposed the line and to question whether the line will ever be needed in southern Minnesota. He said combining the cases would save the courts and the people a lot of time and money to try.

The condemnation hearing held Tuesday will decide the cooperatives' right to take the land upon which to build the line. Only 2 miles of the line extend into Blue Earth Co., but it is the first county in which organized legal representation has presented a case debating whether the line can legally be built. Tilsen prepared pretrial testimony stating that:

- *citizens were not properly notified about the hearings in which the need for the line was to be established;
- *the possible corridors for the proposed line was never assembled or published as mandated by law; that the need for the powerline was never determined by the Minnesota Energy Agency;
- *the certificate of need was granted by the MEA even though the proposed line would violate the Environmental Rights Act because the project is a wasteful, ecologically unsound proposal and promotes the unnecessary use of fuel; and
- *that the various agencies that have already approved the project ignored evidence and acted arbitrarily.

Drawz, the UPA/CPA counsel, said that the project had already been approved by the courts and various state agencies and that further discussions about whether the plant was needed were unnecessary.

Tilsen said, "that the need for the line has never been determined in court", and said after court that Drawz's statement was "absolutely untrue." Drawz refused to comment until "after the trial is over!"

Judge Zimmerman, who had not read the pretrial petitions and who admitted he knew very little about the case, said that he would decide later this week whether he will allow the condemnation proceedings to begin. If he rules in favor of the cooperatives, Zimmerman will then appoint disinterested land appraisers to determine the "damages" done to the land usurped by the line and establish a fair price with which to reimburse owners for the damages. But the landowners against the line hope that Zimmerman will rule to continue the hearing in the form of a trial in which they can present the "facts" that they say will convince the court that the line is unneeded and illegal.-----PARTIAL REPRINTED FROM THE MANKATO FREE PRESS, TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1979.

* * * * *

Seems John Williams, from Elbow Lake, arrested recently for a shooting incident in which he allegedly shot a man 3 times - is none other than the Grant County sheriff's brother. He was also a powerline guard.

* * * * *

POPE COUNTY BLUES

Larry Long is compiling poems and songs on rural america. If any readers of HTL have written or have knowledge of poetry and music about the powerline or farming, please forward the material to him. Include with it the author and

address. Send it to Larry Long, Box 6 Rt. 2, Clear Lake, Mn 55319. Tele: (612) 743-2496. Larry has met farmers from across the U.S. this last winter and most all of them are aware of the powerline struggle. Likewise, they are supportive of our continued fight. Larry also said that he saw Wendy Anderson in a bar in Washington D.C. Wendy was happy to hear that Larry was from Minnesota, until, Larry gave him his name. Larry guesses that Wendy too, is still suffering from those Pope County Blues.

WE CAN'T HEAR YOU....!

A couple of weeks ago the youngest Pederson, Danny, had a shocking experience while working on a tractor under the powerline. His face was flushed and hot for a couple days afterwards, he then broke into a rash, and now is still experiencing nose bleeds. Despite repeated calls to the utilities' hotline to have somebody come out - nobody showed up until the evening of June 6. Enter our old friend Denny "The Hustle" Russell and some young engineer...we think. Anyway, they were supposed to send someone out to "monitor the line". Come to find out, the way they plan to monitor the CU project is to send out a PR man to stand there with a hand cupped over his ear and listen under a tower. Brilliant.

Well, needless to say, this made the 10 or so people who assembled for this show of modern technology rather angry. So, naturally the conversation became very heated about the safety for the people living out here. But Denny assured us that he "wants to solve these problems" just like us. Of course we told Denny how he could solve our problem, and he said he would be sure to suggest it.

Meantime, the Annoying Agent Award winner from last week; CHB-192, showed up on the road. But don't worry. Denny assured us that the utilities have nothing to do with the BCA. Makes sense, seeing as some folks went to talk to CHB-192 and they said that they have nothing to do with the utilities. When the BCA was asked what it was doing there - they replied, "We're watching that tower." We assured them that we wouldn't let anyone take it, but they declined to answer. We then asked them why they had all that equipment and an uncased shotgun in the back seat of their car. They said, "Nice day, isn't it?"

Realizing that this was indeed a dead-end conversation, the small delegation returned to the tower the BCA was assigned to watch with their shotgun and Denny "I want to solve these problems just like you" Russell. But Denny was done "listening" to the line and left saying he'd stop by some time when it rains. Amazing what modern technology can do.

IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME

It was a rainy Saturday night and the utilities have yet to figure out the significance of the fact that about 100 protesters got together at the Tripp farm in western Stearns Co. The wind and rain and trials and tribulations did not dampen spirits as the fire burned hot close to the barn where secret plans were made. Some were even carried out. And that's not all. There was over \$60 collected for this here newsletter, which is a good thing because we had to dip into the reserves last time around. Please send your cards and letters and a bit of money!

Meanwhile, some of those new-fangled "bullet-proof" hard rubber insulators that got put up out in Traverse Co. came down again, and were replaced with the good old fashioned kind. Now what could that mean? Not only that, but there are still a whole lot of places where birds or lightning or something like that ran into that line and messed it all up. And it still hasn't been fixed.

* * * * *

Well, well, well. Remember a while back when
all the trouble started with the phones and
* the utilities said they'd have to wait till *
after winter so they could move the phone cable?
* Well, out here west of Lowry we got a whole new *
cable being put in north of the line. The phone
co. says the utilities will get the bill...
* * * * *

Farm magazines have always tended to promote the "bigger is better" doctrine, but LANDOWNER, a new publication aimed at informing big farmers and land investors of the secrets to land accumulation has taken things a bit farther. It offers spiritual guidance to the land buyer. "A new piece of ground can literally offer you a new frontier to conquer and a rebirth of business and intellectual growth... Thus, it isn't sheer greed or power hunger that compels most of the people who're "buying up the whole country" around you. New land is their chosen route toward self renewal."

We suggest that people "buying up the whole country" find alternative paths to self renewal which do not threaten the livelihood of their communities.-----CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS, MAY, 1979.

The Center's Electrical Utility Research Project is moving from research to action this month with the completion of a report on utility rates in rural areas of the Midwest. During the next six months, Utility Project staff will be working with rural community groups and the federal Community Services Administration to develop a strategy to involve rural people in rate reform activities. The project is not only concerned with rate structures, but with institutional issues as well, such as how regulatory commissions determine fair rates of return, how territorial disputes between utilities affect consumers, how future growth of a utility is figured into today's electricity bills, and how the right to pass along all fuel cost increases to consumers encourages utilities to waste fuel and ignore alternative energy sources. The project takes a special look at rural utilities, many of which in the Midwest are either cooperatives or municipalities and therefore have local governing boards, and may be more subject to consumer pressures for change than many of the major privately owned utilities. People interested in the Project's work should write: Electrical Utility Research Project, 740 1/2 Massachusetts Avenue, Lawrence, Kansas.-----CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS, MAY, 1979.

The following is a list of publications available through the Citizen's Energy Project. If you are interested in ordering any, write to the Citizen's Energy Project, 1413 "K" Street, N.W., 8th floor, Washington D.C. 20005, U.S.A.)

COMMUNITY SELF-RELIANCE

Presents ideas on how local communities can become energy self-reliant through the development of indigenous renewable energy resources & through energy conservation. More than a dozen technologies are discussed; resource listings included with each. 150+ pp, \$7. \$5 for non-profit groups.

OPPOSING UTILITIES IN SOLAR

Argues against private utility involvement in solar commercialization; discusses problems of competition, consumer prices, regulations, technical innovation & public policy. Resources provided. 12 pp, \$1.

ENERGY & FOOD

Offers an examination of the sources & inputs of energy in the production, processing, & delivery of over 150 selected foods. Considers fuel use in agriculture, energy used in feed for livestock & packaging. 80 pp, \$6.

99 WAYS

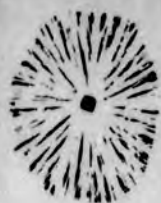
99 Ways to a Simple Lifestyle offers 99 essays explaining the problems created by today's over-consumptive lifestyles & provides proposals for "simple" alternatives. Entries suggest ways to conserve human & natural resources in a range of activities including energy, clothing, food, recreation & housing. 324 pp, \$3.50.

HOUSEHOLD POLLUTANTS GUIDE

Discusses over 100 harmful chemical substances commonly used in the home ranging from oven cleaners to rugs & curtains to aerosol to paints to detergents. Precautions for use are suggested as well as suggestions for safe alternatives. 309pp, \$3.50.

GASOHOL

Reviews the history of alcohol fuels in the U.S. & its potential for reemergence as a primary automotive fuel. 15 pp, \$1.20.



JUNE 30

1979

COME TO THE PARTY!

EVERYONE FROM COAST TO COAST
IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO A SPEC-
TACULAR EVENING OF MUSIC, FUN,
DANCING and EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES.



THE UTILITIES HAVE
ANNOUNCED ANOTHER
COMPLETION/OPERATION
DATE FOR THE MINN. 800KV.
POWERLINE! THIS TIME
"THEY SAY" JULY 1"

PROTESTERS, THEIR FRIENDS,
FAMILIES, SUPPORTERS AND A
FEW AGENTS WILL GATHER WEST
OF LOWRY ON SAT, JUNE 30 TO
CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY OR TWO
AND THE PASSING OF THE
BLESSED DATE.

For more info, call:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO STOP THE POWERLINE 1-283-5428

T.G. NORTHERN SUN
ALLIANCE

874-1540

WELCOME



From the town of Lowry (6mi. N.W. of Glenwood, Minn. on rt 55)
TAKE COUNTY rd. 28 west for 4 mi. till it turns north.
GO SOUTH (left) ON GRAVEL rd. TO 1st FARM ON RIGHT.

(R)

AVAILABLE LIT & OTHER STUFF

LIT THE POWERLINE WILL AFFECT YOU-25¢
MAPP & THE CU PROJECT-25¢
POWERGATE-25¢
ELECTROPOLLUTION-25¢
WHAT IS PURE COAL-25¢
PHYSICS RELATED PROBLEMS OF COAL
FIRED POWER PLANTS-\$1
NORTH AMERICAN COAL CAPER-\$1.50
NOTES ON UPA/CPA FROM THE REA
FILES IN WASHINGTON-\$2.50

T-SHIRTS MINNESOTA STATE TREE-\$5
G.A.S.P. -\$5

BUTTONS IF YOU KILL OUR FARMS YOUR"
CITIES WILL DIE-\$1
USE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY-50¢

BUMPERSTICKERS NO POWERLINE-75¢
DECENTRALIZE ENERGY-75¢
UNSAFE/UGLY-75¢
FARMLAND FOR FOOD-75¢

COMING SOON IN LIT
VARIOUS ARTICLES ON
PHYSIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL
EFFECTS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC
FIELDS

(Send all orders to HTL, Box,5,
Lowry, Mn. 56349--including postage
is helpful, we'll provide the envelope.
By the way, when items you've seen
before are not listed, that means
we're out and making more. So be
patient and look in future newsletters
for their listing)

We are not responsible for the content
of the letters we receive. We only
print what's readable.

LETTERS

Dear HTL.

On a recent visit to my friend
from Kensington I enjoyed hearing
a briefing on the upcoming 4th of
July celebration you have planned
for the High Line.

I enjoy reading your news-
letter and keep it available for
personal at the plant kitchen area.

Here's \$25 for one of your
nite riders t-shirt and the fest is
for you to help keep the faith.

Rockford, Ill.

I would like to receive your news-
letter HOLD THAT LINE. I support
your efforts. enclosed is a check

Stillwater, Mn/

Dear Hold That Line,

Boy! you guys are sure crazy,
writin all that stuff about some
old dumb powerline. You don't
know how to spell, neither. and
that crazy typist makes so many mi-
sstakes.--and somebody makes up sil-
ly words like Tucktoyyahktuck.
Wheres that? Someplace by the Nor-
Pcle? It's discusting! Then you
make fun of so many people. Shame
Shame! Shame!! You must be all foo-
nuts, dumbheads!!

Besides, I ain't got no news-
letter for a month now. Whatsa
matter? Every day I go to the mai-
box as soon as the mailman goes an
it ain't there. And then do I eve-
get mad!

Lake Wobegone, M

P.S. I sent a couple of bucks last
year and that _ _ _ _ aint worth
it. See to the next one gets here

PERMIT NO. 4
PAID
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BULK RATE



LOWRY, MN. 56349
LOWRY TOWN HALL
HOLD THAT LINE

POWERLINE PROTEST NEWSLETTER***PRESS RELEASE

TRIAL

The first powerline related felony got underway May 21, Judge John Lindstrom presiding. Veteran protesters will remember his honor the judge. He's a guy appointed by ex-politician Wendy Anderson and back in those days Lindstrom did what he could to keep his boss and benefactor from powerline embarrassment. In those days, many things were done to keep the powerline protest an aimless and stifled cry in the dark. Most of those things were done in the name of THE LAW, and many times THE LAW was our honorable friend judge Lindstrom. It is so nice to sit once again at the feet of His Honorable and listen to his inaudible muttering while gazing in awe at the top of the Head he has buried in his desk. These nasty habits of His Honorable would come to mind less readily if it could reasonably be thought that such forgetfulness would be beneficial to the defense. But instead of falling into such naive and wishful thinking, let us at least be strong enough to look at a few facts.

Look on page 1A of the Nov. 25, 1976 Pope County Tribune, for example. There we find a headline, "District Judge Tells Sheriff 'Clear Line For Power Surveyors'". The article describes the order given to Sheriff Emmons by "Judge Lindstrom and lists 6 specific duties which the sheriff must perform to insure unobstructed surveying. It also says what to do with anyone who gets in the way. The article says, "Emmons said that he was told verbally by Judge Lindstrom that, 'if it takes 100 extra people to execute this order, then hire 100 poor Ira recognized the foolishness of such an order (mainly that it would break the county) and tried to find another way. Apparently Ira is still trying.

On the other hand, while all that ruckus in the fields was getting started, there was a whole series of civil cases which powerline protesters brought to court in an effort to get a bit of justice. Eventually all these cases were consolidated and brought before a special 3 judge panel. One of the judges on that panel was a guy named Stahler, and Stahler was also responsible for the court order the troopers enjoyed reading in the winter of '78. At first Stahler was scheduled to be the judge in this case, but he was removed by motion of the defendant. Then we got Lindstrom. Lindstrom was also on that 3 judge panel, and the judges, as we shall see, behaved more like 3 blind mice than anything related to justice. For starters, the LAW says that UPA/CPA needed a Certificate of Need before they could apply for a Construction Permit and begin construction. In fact, construction had begun before the Construction Permit was issued, and it was sometime later before a rubber stamp version of a Certificate of Need came along. The LAW was being broken, and Mr. Lindstrom could find nothing wrong. Lindstrom ruled it was ok if State Agencies destroyed transcripts of some testimony at public hearings, and it was perfectly acceptable to Mr. Lindstrom if Environmental Impact Statements did not meet the required standards and were not available when the LAW required them. In short, we all know how the LAW was violated time and time again by the utilities and state agencies in this powerline business. This judge of ours knew about every one of those violations too, and in his wisdom he saw fit to issue whatever court orders and decrees necessary to make sure that the LAW, people, human and civil rights, and common sense and decency did not get in the way of the powerline.

Anyway, now that we understand our fair and impartial history lesson, let us look at the fair and unbiased court proceedings of the past 2 weeks. 12 jurors and 2 alternates were chosen by May 29, with such memorable questions by the prosecutor as, "Have you ever been involved in any vandalism along the powerline"? But here in Pope County, where civilization is running amok, the Prosecutor Fabel was able to use 2 of his 3 preemptory strikes on alternates. That's mostly cause Lindstrom did such a good job of removing potential prosecutor strikes for cause. They started taking evidence on the 29th, but most of the action has been going on in the back room where they try to figure out what to do next. The Fabeled Prosecutor is not pleased because the only thing he can prove is that something happened a year ago last March. Exactly what

happened is a little vague, but it seems to involve a damaged construction (2 crane that was either owned or rented, no one knows for sure, a damaged security vehicle, a light colored pick-up of some sort which left some tire tracks which cannot be positively connected to some tires which cannot be positively identified, some rifle shots including those made by the BCA while testing the hole size, a security guard who was injured during the incident, a very scared deputy sheriff. And at this point, that is the extent of the prosecution's case. The prosecutor came to trial, of course, assuming that a few of his gaping holes could be filled in by testimony from some powerline protesters, so he has subpoenaed 5 of them. So far, 3 have refused to testify and are in civil contempt of court (which means they are only in contempt through the trial), and one has been jailed as a result. It appears that the remaining 2 will get their chance this coming week. Except for these 2, the prosecutor has run out of witnesses.

While the prosecutor and the judge are getting along with each other marvelously, neither of them has had much experience with witnesses who refuse to testify which is why most of the action has been in the back room. The Fabeled Prosecutor has actually made some rather strong statements back there like "It's a disgrace to the State of Minnesota that there's been all this vandalism and there hasn't been one single felony conviction!" Fabel went on for 45 minutes like that once. At one point he went so far as to try to get one of our lawyers charged with contempt for counseling his client on questions asked in chambers. He also said that unless these 6 guys get put away for good there will be bloodshed out here. He probably got that part backwards, but he is definitely taking this thing very seriously and much too personally.

So the trial continues. Powerline protesters are on trial because of a very foolish and nearly tragic incident that happened over 14 months ago, yet there is not nearly enough evidence to convict anybody of anything. While the State spares no expense and dashes frantically back and forth attempting to wrench its evidence from the citizens of Pope County, the ongoing tragedy of the powerline continues. It is absolutely disgusting that those who stand against such gross injustice are the ones on trial, while the state gives it blessing to the culprits. In the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave, Justice seems to leave a bit to be desired.

* * * * *

LETTERS

Dear HTL,

Here is money for your newsletter. We are fighting a 500kV line from the Wyoming to Medford, Oregon. Pacific Power is beginning to fall trees for the line this week. Several people in the area got your newsletter, but there are ten people in our community so it will be well read. Any information you can send us we will appreciate and use. Yours in unity.

Ashland, Oregon

"DEAR IRA"

Dear Ira,

Is it really true, Ira, that just recently when you went to deliver a subpoena, your foot got in the way of a puppy's mouth? Not only that, but now you want to shoot the poor little thing just cause you were stupid enough to get out of your car???

Animal Lover

Dear Animal Lover,

I don't know...I'll go check. ("Puppy, my foot, it was as big as a horse, why I could have been killed!")

Dear Ira,

I know you have done some regrettable things in your time, but I was quite taken aback last week when I saw you putting the handcuffs on the farmer in Glenwood court house. Did I hear you right when you snarled, "We will teach you how to talk!" and wrenched and tightened the cuffs???

Outraged

Dear Outraged,

I don't know...I'll go check. ("I don't know why everybody got so upset about that, I mean they did re-elect me...I am the LAW!")

Might the proximity of one's home to high-current electric-power lines increase one's risk of cancer? A study by Nancy Wertheimer of the University of Colorado Medical Center and Ed Leeper in the March AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY suggests that such a link might explain the distribution of leukemia and other cancers among children in the greater Denver area during the past 30 years. While the study falls short of proving a link between cancer and power lines, it did find that the homes of children who got cancer were situated "unduly often" near electric lines carrying high currents.

Wertheimer, who described the study at an environmental health conference earlier this month in Park City, Utah, said it was visiting the neighborhoods of childhood-cancer victims that led her to look at a possible link between cancer and high-current power lines. Searching for clues on environmental factors that might heighten cancer risks, she was struck by the frequency with which electrical transformers appeared close to the homes of the cancer victims. Although a link seemed far-fetched, she followed it up.

Persons younger than age 19 who died of cancer were identified from Colorado death records. Those with Colorado birth certificates who had lived in the Denver area were used; the group numbered 344. Individuals whose birth records immediately followed those of the case study group were chosen as a control group for comparison. Birth and death addresses, when known, were visited and a small map was drawn of local electrical wires and transformers. Homes were then classed with their apparent proximity to high-current (HCC) and low-current (LCC) configurations.

In the HCC category were: homes less than 40 meters from large-gauge primaries (primary lines carry power from an electrical substation to the local neighborhood transformer) or an array of 6 or more primary lines; homes less than 20 meters from an array of 3 to 5 thin primaries or from high-tension (50 to 240 volt) wires. Secondary wires run from the local transformer supplying power for individual homes and businesses. Depending on the local power load, secondaries serve anywhere from a few homes to a block or more. "First span" secondaries are those that issue directly from a transformer to the first service drop. Secondaries separated from a transformer by at least one service drop (ignoring drops attached directly to the transformer pole) are termed second span. The significance of first-span wires is that more current runs through them because they carry current for the first and all subsequent service drops.

First span wires serving no more than two single-family homes were considered LCC, as were all remaining configurations.

The death rate for leukemia, lymphomas and nervous system tumors in children was roughly twice the expected rate in HCC homes (normally 4 per 100,000 particularly for those near a substation. Since "a wide association with different types of cancer is not characteristic of known carcinogens...the broad association observed here suggests that the HCC-cancer relationship may not be a casual one," the authors say. It may be due to some artifact, or may reflect some effect on the body's ability to resist cancer.

How HCC's might be related to cancer risk is unknown, but Wertheimer and Leeper offer suggestions. Explaining that some of the current entering a home generally returns through the ground, usually through the plumbing, Wertheimer speculates whether magnetic fields induced by the currents might somehow directly cause cancer. Although the field strengths are small, they are orders of magnitude greater than that of the earth and even more potent than the field associated with the wires, Wertheimer says. HCC's might alter the distribution of some ambient carcinogen or cause local changes in such things as drinking water that runs through pipes that serve as electrical grounds. Although some factor independent of the HCC's may account for the cancers, correlations with social class, neighborhood, street traffic and family make-up have already been checked and ruled out, the authors say. Whatever the cause, the increased risk to any individual remains small, they add.

Preliminary findings of a follow-up study of cancer among the region's adults appear to show the same relationship, Wertheimer told SCIENCE NEWS, but only in persons under 60 years of age. —SCIENCE NEWS, APRIL 21, 1979.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(4)

- JUNE 6 & 7 Come one, come all to the CPA Annual Meeting in Owatanna, Minnesota at 9:30. It will be held at the Holiday Inn with the directors meeting on the 6th and the regular meeting on the 7th. Now this meeting has hardly been publicized for obvious reasons, and the few who have found out and mailed in requests to speak are being denied. See, CPA says that even if you're a member of a member coop, you have no right to vote, but we think that's a debatable point seeing as we are the member coops and they have the right to vote. So, see you in Owatanna!
- JUNE 9 the weiner roast formally announced for the 8th will be held at John and Alice Tripp's farm east of hwy 71 and south of Elrosa. Starts around dusk, for more info call 987-3346.
- JUNE 10 there will be a conference sponsored by Minnesotans for a Democratic Alternative in Minneapolis. It will be held at Willey Hall, University of Minnesota, Hwys 52 and 12 - west bank of the Mississippi. The conference starts at 10:30am with a brunch/fundraiser, \$5/person, \$12/family. The afternoon will present discussions on agriculture, health care and the economy. For more info call, 297-0250. The reason this could be an interesting gathering is cause people are looking for some alternatives to the guys running the country right now... sound familiar?
- JUNE 30 Remember is the NO LINE ON LINE PARTY at Ronnie Stoen's farm. We'll be having a meeting to plan further for the event once court and field work settles down a bit, so keep in touch.

BCA STRIKES AGAIN!!!

Agents from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension have been busy around here this past week. Not only are those mal-contented bone heads chasing back and forth between the court house in Glenwood (where they sit importantly upon their thumbs) and Wilmar (where they continue to harass a Pope County farmer who is locked up for refusing to testify), but a bunch of them have spent the last couple weeks on a "fishing trip". Only trouble is they sleep all day and come back real muddy in the morning. Ain't caught nothing either. Then this guy named Andy Smith (really, Pat, you fool, you can do better than that!) and a couple of buddies show up in the area to have a friendly chat with farmers about missing insulators. Even the nice puppy dogs started growling, and "Andy" and the boys had to make a few quick exits. Key-stone cops is one thin but this stuff is even worse than Dick Tracy and has no redeeming social value. Andy would be wise to keep both eyes watching his next step and one eye over his shoulder.

There are also a few of these characters running around the western part of the country side. A brown car was spotted the other night parked off of 55 with one guy standing on the road with binoculars and the other with a walkie talkie. Needless to say, they were quite taken by surprise when a fairly well known protester's car went past, and they just had to jump in their car and chase after them to see just how close you can touch a bumper before the car goes in the ditch. So even though the competition is close, this week's Annoying Agent Award goes to license number CHB 192. But don't give up "Andy", it was close!

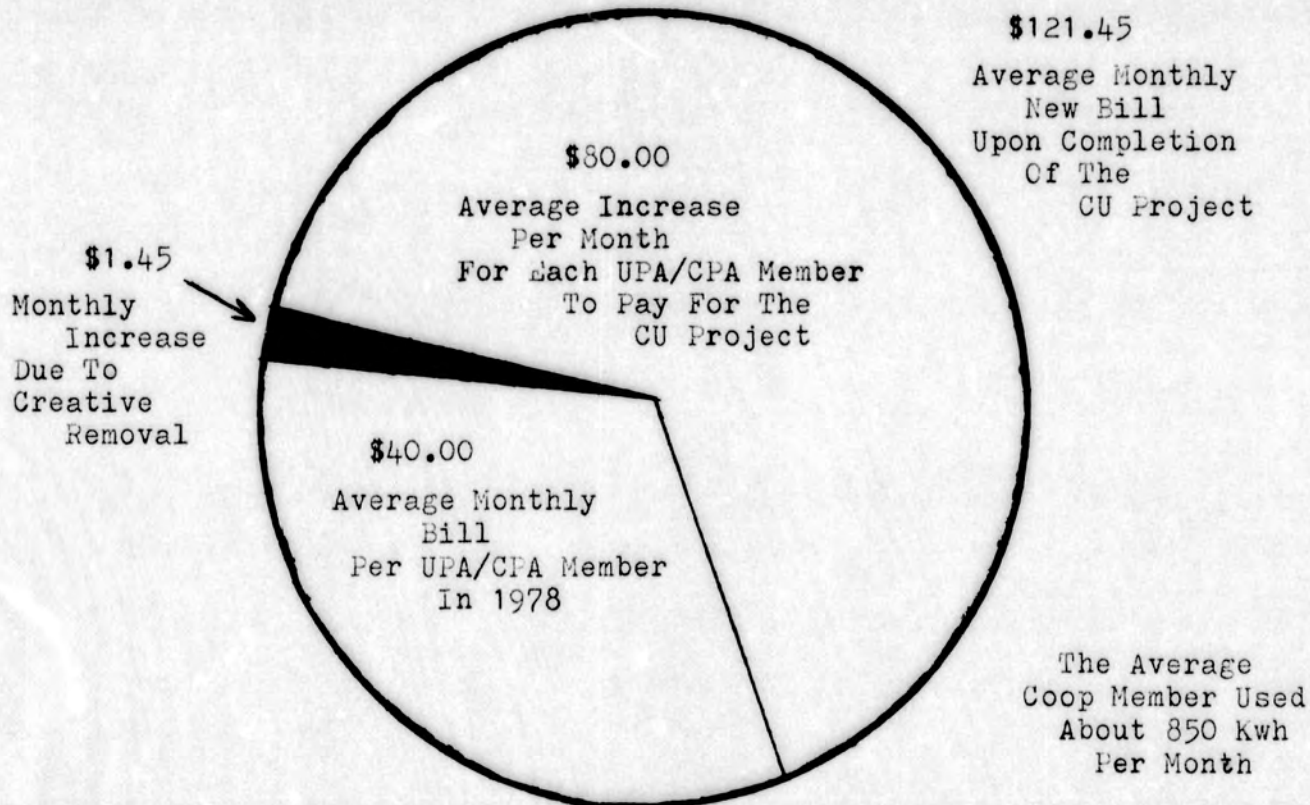
SOC has agreed to spend \$300 to help us charter a coach to the Black Hills for July 7-8. It will probably leave the evening of the 6th, and return very late on the 8th. We need 40 people to confirm reservations by June 25, and it will cost \$30 per person. Contact 283-5771 or 283-5218.

THE POWERLINE WILL AFFECT YOU

or

THE PROTESTOR REPORT

Looking at the costs of the CU project to cooperative members, we find:



Coop members can escape this tremendous cost increase only by keeping the CU project from working. There are also other good reasons to keep the CU project from working.

The CU Project Is Not Needed

The project is not needed by UPA/CPA members. It is needed only by the utilities industry and big business. The figures show that CPA had a peak demand in 1978 of 474 Megawatts (MW), which is up one (1) MW from 1976. Peak demand was also 474 MW in 1977. Many of the rural REA distributors are experiencing declining trends in the demand for electricity, and growth rate increases tend to be limited to suburban REA distributors.

CPA is capable of meeting its peak demand of 474 MW because three of CPA's firm and renewable contracts are for: 110 MW from Western Area Power Administration (WAPA); 170 MW from Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC); and 180 MW from Northern States Power (NSP). CPA can generate 65 MW for a total available capacity of 525 MW right there. That is 51 MW more than CPA has ever used.

WAPA power is hydro power from government dams along the Missouri River, and that power is 10 times cheaper than electricity from the CU project would be. Dairyland is an REA Coop which must sell electricity to other coops at cost plus service costs. The 170 MW from DPC is further guaranteed to CPA because it represents the CPA share of a powerplant run by Dairyland. CPA has contracts for 180 MW from NSP through the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP). (MAPP is an organization of electric utilities in the Upper Midwest which is responsible for coordinating the sales of bulk electricity.) NSP has such a large reserve generating capacity that state agencies have recently scrapped NSP proposals for an additional 2400 MW generating capacity because that capacity is not needed. The reserve capacity within MAPP currently amounts to about 4,000 MW, or 25% of its generating capacity during the summer peak, when UPA/CPA demand is low. The MAPP reserves rise an additional several thousand MW to over 40% in the winter, when UPA/CPA experience their peak demand. The law requires a 15% reserve generating capacity.

UPA's peak demand has risen only 25 MW since the 1976 peak of 378 MW. UPA has three similar firm and renewable contracts for public and private power amounting to 131 MW, and owns 325 MW of generating capacity. The figures show a 1978 peak demand of 403 MW, while 456 MW are already accounted for. There is simply no need for this project.

Cost Factors

As previously stated, the project also costs too much. It costs so much that alternative systems which will adequately meet residential and agricultural electric needs would be cheaper. Using wind power, the most expensive but by no means the only one of these alternative systems, electricity costs between \$1666 and \$2500 per generated kilowatt. Electricity from the CU project will cost between \$1812 and \$2717 per kilowatt if there are no further cost increases, which there will be. UPA/CPA's own "Booz, Allen, Hamilton Report" says so. And that is not even

counting interest rates or fuel costs. The fuel costs are already scandalously high and they will also be increasing. We all know about interest rates.

Meanwhile, the current projected cost of the CU project has risen to \$1.246 billion, up from an initial projected cost of \$538 million. For \$1.246 billion, about 4000 MW of electricity could be generated at existing small dam sites in the Upper Mississippi region. Comparatively, the peak capacity of the CU project is 1000 MW.

Health, Safety, & Environment

There are additional problems in the areas of health, safety, and environmental protection. The powerline is an experimental 800,000 volt direct current line. The closer one lives to this experimental powerline, the greater are the hazards from induced shocks, ion ingestion and non-ionizing radiation, and contamination from ozone and nitric-oxides. The shocks are potentially lethal, and are severely disruptive to livestock operations. Contamination from ozone and nitric-oxides is cumulative - exposure to only several parts per million over a period of time will kill human beings. Plants are even more sensitive. There is little public knowledge about long term biological affects of non-ionizing radiation beyond the fact that such effects do exist. Among the possibilities are sterilization, increased irritability and nervousness, cataracts and cancers, diminished appetite, and decreased physical size from one generation to the next. Over-ingestion of positively charged ions causes headaches and depression while over-doses of negatively charged particles brings on a state of drunken euphoria. The utilities will have much more information on all these problems after they've had a few years to examine living things along the line route.

Toxic emissions from the powerplant in North Dakota insure that the environment of people living far from the powerline will also be affected. The list of serious toxicants (including carcinogens) from coal-fired plants include: arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, cobalt, nickel, selenium, mercury, lead, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, silicon oxide, hydrocarbons, hydrogen fluoride, uranium and thorium which are radio-active and decompose into other radio-active chemicals, and potassium. The plant will release many tons of each of these poisons each year, because pollution control devices to contain such emissions do not exist. The particles are too small. Minnesota weather comes from the west.

How Could Such A Thing Happen?

If the CU project is not needed, if it is too expensive, and if there are cleaner, safer, cheaper and renewable energy sources which are available, the obvious questions become: 1) how are UPA/CPA getting away with it, and 2) why are they doing it?

What's Been Going On Around Here?

UPA/CPA are still trying to get away with it because they have had enough support from the State to build the CU project with brute force. UPA/CPA have violated the "law" at will. When they are challenged in court, the courts make everything done by UPA/CPA "legal". When not actively supporting the utilities, the governor(s), the Attorney General, and the legislature(s), not knowing what to try next, continually do their best to ignore the entire situation. In the mad scramble to use this facility, the utilities use the latest version of "THE LAW", private armies of security forces, sophisticated electronic surveillance equipment, private, federal and state investigators, an occupation force of 200 - 300 State Troopers, a host of dirty tricks, and a flood of propaganda.

But in order to have gotten so far along, in order to secure the financing for the project in the first place, the utilities industry and other big business operations first had to take control of the local REA cooperatives. That process was begun many years ago, and resulted in the management, rather than the Boards of Directors being the decision-makers. The Directors became little more than rubber stamps, coop members were systematically excluded from the cooperative process, and the management started rubbing shoulders with the BIG BOYS.

There were no visible problems for many years. After all, REA and the Coops were electrifying the farms and the rates seemed fair. For years, coop members didn't need to care or notice that they were always re-electing directors which had been appointed by the management, or that they were re-electing them by using mail ballots - a practice which has been illegal in Minnesota for over 20 years. The Big Boys took all these things for a good sign, and REA seemed firmly under control. Some deals were made.

Rumor of these deals began to float around, and curiosity was further aroused by the sudden presence of steel and cable waiting in construction yards along highways in West Central Minnesota. When coop members went to some board meetings to find out what was up, it came to them as some surprise to learn that Board Meetings were closed and the Board Minutes were unavailable. Directors actually adjourned board meetings rather than conduct coop business in the presence of members. Adjourning was thought to be better than calling the cops to remove the members.

With board meetings closed, board minutes and all other vital information withheld, with the election process for director positions firmly in the control of management, and with young, gung-ho managers from young gung-ho UPA and CPA calling the shots, coop members have but one last refuge: the district and annual meetings.

Notices of District Meetings, however, were confusing and misleading, or else missing. Nobody went anyway. Annual Meetings, on the other hand, were turned into a circus long ago. There is entertainment by magicians, music and prize drawing (with big prizes!), free dinner, and there are even psychologists who come to amuse the people while telling them how to cope with stressful situations. When it finally becomes necessary to

bring up business at these meetings, most of the members who bothered to attend have already left. Then business items are ticked off like the tocking of a clock, and the meeting is adjourned. For members to do anything else, or to attempt to do anything else is ruled "out of order".

Many things have been "out of order" these last few years, however. The growing organizations of coop members which are taking back control of their cooperatives by organizing for the District and Annual Meetings have met with much resistance, as well as much success. There is much left to be done. The degree to which coop members are successful at controlling their coops will be the deciding factor in determining how long large private corporations of the energy sector will continue to be able to use REA Cooperatives as the perfect source of public (tax) money.

Virtues Of The CU Project

The CU project is being built with federal tax money. There is not one private investor risking as much as one cent on this project. Using this kind of "welfare money" for such projects is the easiest (maybe the only) way for large energy corporations to make enormous private profits while maintaining monopoly control of the energy industry. UPA and CPA are small fish in a big pond, but because they are REA Cooperatives they have access to massive federal funding. Such funding is not otherwise available to private energy corporations, and UPA and CPA are being used to get the big money. While members of UPA and CPA get swindled, and good tax-paying citizens finance the raping of the earth and the poisoning of the sky, North American Coal Corporation, the nations 2nd largest independant mining corporation, makes off like a thief in the night. Not only does North American get over \$200 million worth of equipment to strip mine low-grade lignite for free, but UPA and CPA will buy that low-grade lignite for 66% more per Btu. than other utilities are paying to have the same amount of Wyoming and Montana coal mined and shipped to Minnesota. North American also has clauses in the contract which will insure that the cost of mining lignite will be constantly rising. This fact is pointed out by "The Barry Report", a study commissioned by CPA. North American Coal Corporation gets more money that way.

The private utilities of the region, NSP in particular, will make out pretty well, too. When the cooperative rates skyrocket to pay for the CU project, the private sector will have an excellent opportunity to make a case for raising their rates as well. Also, NSP will have to sell less electricity to UPA/CPA, and will therefore be able to export more power to areas outside the MAPP region. NSP charges higher rates to distant utilities not covered by MAPP contracts. The powerlines of the CU project will make it easier for NSP to export power at no additional cost to NSP stockholders.

In Conclusion

The CU project is not being built because it is the most efficient, or the safest, or the most desirable way to meet our energy needs. It is not even being built to meet a need. It is being built to make a lot of money for the owners of the energy monopolies. The only need society has in this case is to stop the CU project.

But the problems we are facing will not come to an end just because the CU project is relegated to the scrap heap. The government and the corporations are planning for the development of 75 coal-fired powerplants in the Western Area Coal Fields before 1992, with a total generating capacity of over 31,000 MW. They also have awesome plans for nuclear development in that area. The resulting powerlines have to go somewhere, and according to a 1971 industry study called "North Central Power Study, Report of Phase I, Volume I" (p.60), "One concept would be to have major corridors 1 mile wide, spaced 100 miles or more apart, and used for highways, rail roads, overhead transmission lines, underground transmission lines, gas lines, oil lines, communications lines, water lines, parks, etc. Minor corridors at shorter intervals could be added as needed."

We need to help each other. For more information, contact:

Hold That Line

Box 5

Lowry, Minnesota

56349

POWERLINE PROTEST NEWSLETTER***PRESS RELEASE

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

The main event of the week was spring weather finally coming to West Central Minnesota, bringing farmers out to the fields busily trying to catch up on work.

However, Tuesday, May 15, a group of folks who could tear themselves out of the fields, met to make an outline of summer events. The calendar goes something like this:

- June 1-5 Are the "International Days of Protest". Throughout the world there will be actions planned to protest nuclear power. In our region, the big events will take place in Minneapolis and at the Prairie Island Nuke.
- At noon on Friday, June 1, there will be a march down Nicollet Mall in downtown Mnpls demanding Zero Nuclear Weapons.
- From 10am to 2pm on Saturday, June 2, there will be teach-ins and workshops at Regina High School, 43rd Str. and 3rd Ave., in Minneapolis. Workshops will range from Windpower to Uranium Mining, including one entitled Energy Consciousness in Agriculture with reps from GASP. That afternoon at 2pm, there will be a demonstration at Honeywell, 28th Str. and 4th Ave. S., against nuclear weapons.
- This is all building up to the 3rd, when there'll be a huge rally at the Prairie Island Nuke. Folks will assemble at the State Capitol at 11:30am to make a car caravan to the site. This will be a great opportunity for people internationally to show their opposition to present energy policy around the world. It will also be an opportunity to further educate people on the dangers of coal as well as nukes. GASP will also speak at the rally.
- June 2-5 The Great Plains Environmental Festival in Regina, Sask., Canada. This promises to be a very interesting 4 days to check out what is going on with our Canadian neighbors. Workshops will include Human Rights, Agriculture, Citizen Participation and Energy. There will be reps from GASP participating.
- June 8 Will be our first formal bon fire/weiner roast in Stearns County. The affair will take place at John and Alice Tripp's farm, east of hwy 71 and south of Elrosa. Should be lots of fun, starting around dusk, for more info call 987-3346.
- June 30 Is our big "No Line On Line Party". The festivities will take place at Ronnie Stoen's west of Lowry. There will be music, an auction, possibly a film, refreshments, food and by the way, it will be Ronnie's birthday party as well.
- At the May 15 meeting we outlined committees to plan for the event. There will be another meeting between now and then which we will announce in HTL to tighten up plans.
- July 4 Is the annual picnic at Tyrone, Wisconsin. Remember, even though Tyrone is on the shelf now, it may not be for long. Also, they still want to build a powerline from Prairie Island to Eau Claire with or without Tyrone, as well as a possible coal fired plant either in Mn or Wis.
- For those who can't make it to the picnic, there will undoubtedly be more informal fireworks on the powerline.
- July 7-8 Is the big march and rally in the Black Hills of South Dakota sponsored by the Black Hills Alliance. It will be a national affair, with GASP and SOC possibly taking a bus. The plans of

so many huge corporations to exploit and destroy the Black Hills for (2)
wasteful and dangerous energy is of interest to all of us. The plans to turn
the beautiful Black Hills into a giant energy park typifies the beginning
and the end of the fuel cycle we're all trying to stop.

So, that's what we've got coming up - so far on the summer agenda. We'll
keep you posted on more specifics as the events draw near.

BROWNOUTS AND BLACKOUTS AND READDY...OH MY!!!

Remember last summer when everyone was so hot and NSP was begging people
not to use their air conditioners so much because they were running out of
electricity and there wasn't enough to go around? Well, NSP probably should
have been telling people that it would be better to throw the fool things
away, seeing as most folks would be better off without them. But NSP was lying
through its Readdy Kilowatt when they said they were facing brownouts and
blackouts, and running out of electricity. Just ask Mike Belford of the Minn-
esota Energy Agency. During the summer peak in 1978 there was a 29% reserve
margin in the region. There was a 48% reserve margin during the winter peak
when UPA/CPA experience their biggest load. 29% amounts to about 6,000 mega-
watts. Comparatively, the CU project is supposed to be able to carry about
1,000 megawatts.

UPA/CPA seem to have changed their tune to a slight degree recently,
however. In a mailing sent to all UPA/CPA members in mid-May 1979, they aren't
talking about brownouts and blackouts. Instead, they say, how expensive that
"nasty, dirty nuclear power" they'll have to buy from NSP will be if the people
of West Central Minnesota don't let them have their CU project. Never mind
that CPA is a partner in the proposed nuke of Tyrone, Wis.. Never mind that
it is the CU project itself that will cause UPA/CPA consumers' rates to raise
by a factor of 3 to 4 or more.

They justify their project on the grounds that they save fuel costs of
the coal transportation by having the mine mouth and the powerline. Never
mind that they need massive amounts of fuel, or that higher grade coal will
probably have to be transported to the plant just to make the lignite out
there burn.

In the mailing, UPA/CPA apologize for the multitude of mistakes they've
made. It's about time. Perhaps all those terrible people from West Central
Minnesota should apologize to all the wise and benevolent ones at UPA/CPA
as well, and we'll all be one happy family. Perhaps fishes will grow legs
and worms will learn to fly. "Pardon us", says UPA/CPA, "while we slowly
crush your heads beneath our corporate foot." How wonderful. How American.
Things will soon be very curious.

* * * * *
Remember the Hansons from Wadena had their trial
* start this week, May 21, in Glenwood. Their *
charges stem from an alledged incident near Vil- *
lard over a year ago. Support in the courtroom *
will be helpful.
* * * * *

KNOCK, KNOCK...

On May 14, State Senator Chmielewski introduced a resolution similar to
the one which was overwhelmingly adopted by the House and is critical of
West Central Minnesota residents and chastises their law enforcement person-
ell. Nicholas Coleman is the head cheese in the Senate and 30 seconds after
Chmielewski opened his mouth Nicholas moved to send the resolution to the
Rules Committee because to discuss it on the floor would be a controversial
waste of time. Or maybe they have to change the rules again. It's nice to
see our legislature running so smoothly and efficiently. It would be even
nicer if some of the stuffed-shirts would decide to try to get to the root
of some of these problems, rather than wallowing in their verbal garbage.

MARYKNOLL

Remember when Maryknoll Magazine did an article on the powerline struggle way back last June, 1978? Well, we finally had a reader send us a copy of Maryknoll from September, 1978 to let us know that folks are still discussing the subject quite strongly by mail. In one letter to the editor, a man from Minneapolis calls farmers in West Central Minnesota "closed minded, prejudiced vociferous and unwilling to cooperate in a 'science court' proposed by the governor of Minnesota". Another letter says "All of the nonsensical statements in the article about a high voltage power line threatening human rights ...". And on, and on and on. Needless to say, the thousands of people around the world who read Maryknoll are being bombarded with misinformation about what's happening in Minnesota, as well as elsewhere in the energy wars. A few letters from folks would be a good thing. So, take the time to drop a line, if you can to Members Memos, Rev. Robert J. Carleton, M.M., Maryknoll, New York, 10545.

* * * * *

For those of you who don't live on the line and have been writing about whether they're juicing it or not, the answer is sort of. They have been testing here and there, despite missing insulators, but when they do it seldom lasts for long. They recently made a trial run from North Dakota to Delano, which didn't last very long either, which isn't surprizing considering they have to use oil to get the coal burning, (shipping in Montana coal must have gotten too expensive). We also wonder with all it takes out of the plant to be kicking it in and shutting it down all the time just how long it'll take the wear before they need a trade-in?

* * * * *

DREAM

DREAM got into court, finally, on May 17. Judge Kennedy was presiding over district court in Wadena, seeing as how Douglas Co. was all booked up. For some reason, the apologists and supporters of the Runestone Manager and Directors think that this court business is being conducted by a bunch of "radical sore losers" in the powerline fight. "Sore winners", perhaps. But really...

Two decisions were made on the 17th. First the plaintiffs asked to amend the initial complaint to declare the election of March 24, 1979 invalid because mail ballots were used. Judge Kennedy allowed the ammendment, and the validity of that election has yet to be decided. Second, the defendants (directors and manager of Runestone) moved to have Vernon Jutila, Runestone General Manager, taken off as a defendant. That was denied.

Among the interesting tidbits: 1) Kennedy is very interested in the fact that there is a definite lack of governmental relegation in these "coops". 2) The manager and directors were claiming that the plaintiffs made no effort to remedy the mail ballot issue before going to court. They changed their tune and admitted that many attempts have been made. 3) Runestone has 8,246 members but only 7,688 ballots were mailed. Jutila said that the others were dead. At issue is the number of signatures needed to get 10% for purposes of petitioning. One wonders how many other UPA/CPA members are dead. 4) The manager and directors presented a petition to Kennedy of 200 signatures saying they liked mail ballots, as if signatures determined the "LAW". When Jutila was asked how he got 200 signatures, he said "people" circulated the petition. He wouldn't say who "people" were, and got very angry when asked if "people" were paid to do it. 5) Lawyers from REAs all over the state are writing letters to Kennedy and are doing their best to help their enbattled comrades. We're all in this together you know. Kennedy took the case under advisement.

Coal has been a primary source of energy for hundreds of years. Shovel-
ing coal into the furnace is an early memory for many people, so it is easy
to understand why the dangers of massive, centralized coal-fired power plants
have been overlooked and underestimated. The danger, however, is real, and
it is immediate. Like so much else in the screwed-up world of today, unless
some drastic changes are made very quickly, large numbers of people will not
survive to enjoy the blessings of prosperity, and vast tracts of land will be
wasted - sacrificed to the power and the glory of a corporate elite. (The
Powerful and the Glorious are kinda hard to recognize around here, though,
because whenever we see them, they're ranting and raving, squirming uncomfort-
ably, getting ready to cry, or generally acting out of character!)

While the terror of Three Mile Island has altered the situation, there
is still a substantial amount of evidence supporting the claim that large
coal-fired plants are tens, or even hundreds of times more toxic than fission
reactors per kilowatt-hour of electricity produced. For example, there is
uranium and other radio-active impurities in the coal. These radio-active
impurities are released from the coal during combustion. Based on a conser-
vative 2 parts-per-million uranium by weight in the coal, over the course of
time the radio-active toxicity from coal ash is very comparable to the sum
of all the fission products of a reactor for the same amount of power produc-
ed. Yet little care is taken to adequately dispose of these radio-active
coal ash wastes. Rather, in most instances, there is not even an attempt
made to isolate the ash wastes from surrounding land and water.

Radio-active wastes are also released into the atmosphere, along with
chemical toxicants. During normal operation, air-borne emissions from a
coal-fired exceed those of a fission reactor by a factor of 18,000 to 1, or
more. None of these atmospheric emissions are carefully disposed of, and
for many of the toxicants there aren't even set standards for allowable em-
issions. Instead, the garbage is spewed forth in a form (very minute partic-
les) into the medium (the atmosphere) which guarantees maximum hazard to
living organisms.

While we are being quietly poisoned, the extent of the debate which is
raging between the utility industry and their regulators in the U.S. Environ-
mental Protection Agency is whether or not to make taller smokestacks. The
utilities want the taller stacks because that's cheaper than electrostatic
precipitators and gas scrubbers. Taller stacks simply spread the poison out
over a larger area so more folks can get a bit of the action. The PCA, on
the other hand, thinks that pollution control devices would be better. Un-
fortunately, mile high stacks with scrubbers and precipitators would leave
us with virtually the same problems as we had in the first place.

The best emission control devices claim to remove 99.8% of the particles
going up the stack of large coal-fired plants. Even if such a statement were
true, it would not avert the disaster that is being created. But it's not
even true. It's also not relevant or complete.

Pollution control devices are not 99.8% efficient because it doesn't
pay to keep them that well adjusted. Both precipitators and scrubbers are
fine-tune instruments subject to a large number of constantly changing var-
iables including gas composition, temperature, flow rate, ash content, col-
lected deposits, sulfur content in the ash, moisture content, and so forth.
Throw in the "human element", and it's a lot easier and cheaper just to cheat.
We've had many lessons at how good these guys are at lying when they think
it's worth some money, but the lying is sort of like the warm-up exercises
so they're all set and ready to do a good job of cheating.

The 99.8% efficiency figure is not relevant because if, for example,
half of the particles coming out of the stack are 200 times bigger than the
other half (which is about the way it is), and all of the big particles and
none of the little particles are removed (which is close to the way it is),
than the device would be 99.999987% efficient. Half of the particles, how-

ever, would still be escaping - the dangerous half. The smaller the particle, the less likely it is to react to the charged plates of the precipitator, and the less capable precipitators are of removing them. Precipitators don't even touch the toxic gases such as sulfur and nitrogen oxides. That's what the scrubbers are for. But unless they are persistently and very precisely maintained (and there is certainly no economic incentive to do so) scrubbers may actually increase the amount of pollution being released.

In sum, the gases and fine particles which escape pollution control devices will remain active in the ecosystem. Eventually, these poisons will be retained by plant or animal life and enter the food chain where they may remain indefinitely, causing damage the whole time. It is these fine particles against which living organisms are virtually defenseless. When larger particles are inhaled, there is a good chance they will be exhaled, coughed up or excreted. But when these fine particles are inhaled, they will stay with you. It is the fine ones which are poisonous and do the damage.

The degree of damage done to the systems in the environment is severe. It is unknown just how severe that damage is at the present time in part because the combined effects of multiple pollutants is an area almost wholly unstudied, and in part because we are all guinea pigs in the corporate laboratory. The effects of these pollutants will become increasingly evident with the passage of time. Yet the list of known serious toxicants, including carcinogens, from coal-fired plants include: arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, cobalt, nickel, selenium, mercury, lead, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, silicon oxide, hydrocarbons, hydrogen fluoride, potassium, and uranium and thorium and the radio-active elements into which they decompose. If it is ever allowed to operate, the Coal Creek Plant would emit a minimum of several hundred tons of these pollutants into the environment each year.

The radio-active pollutants, of course, are well-known carcinogens. Cadmium and lead are linked to learning disabilities in children, anemia, constipation, colic, paralysis or muscular cramps. Mercury and beryllium affect virtually every organ in the body, beryllium is highly carcinogenic, and mercury destroys brain cells which control coordination, speech and vision. Selenium resembles arsenic in its toxic effects, and acts against kidneys, the liver and the heart. Fluoride poisoning causes bone and teeth deformation, emaciation, and a chronic wasting away. And so it goes. Anybody want a bigger air conditioner?

* * * * *

S.L.A.M.

The Southern Landowners Alliance of Minnesota has been meeting regularly for the past couple months. They have a newsletter "SLAM" (% Tim Hinike Rt 1 Box 241, Kasota, MN. 56050), and are getting ready to deal with the "quick take" condemnation proceedings in a unified manner. The Southern Alliance is organized as a non-profit organization and will engage the utilities in court action around denial of due process during legal proceedings, lack of corridor inventory, and lack of an adequate need forecast. Several lawyers and para-legal people who have been working with the G.A.S.P. Legal Defense Committee are involved with these legal efforts, along with MPIRG.

Meanwhile, folks on the southern line are running into the same type of arrogance and disrespect that people along the DC Line route have had much experience with. An outfit called "Brown Engineering" was hired to do the test drilling. They've also been chasing local folks off the road, using unlicensed vehicles, running around with overweight rigs on soft roads, using equipment on public roads that have noticeable mechanical deficiencies, and not only that, they also leave their test holes, which are up to 60' deep and 7" in diameter, wide open. Underground water is being contaminated. Local authorities and state bureaucrats are busy pointing fingers at each other, and once again, it looks like it's up to the people. . . .

A U.S. district court judge in San Diego has struck down as unconstitutional one of California's nuclear safety laws. The statute, which was enacted in 1976, prohibited construction of nuclear plants in the state until adequate waste disposal technology has been demonstrated and certified by the Federal Government. Following a January 1978 determination that no acceptable waste disposal options were available, California became the first state to adopt a de facto moratorium on nuclear construction.

In a 22-page advisory opinion, Judge William Enright found that Federal law preempts conflicting state laws on nuclear waste disposal. Enright's decision reflects his conclusion that the national commitment to develop nuclear power, established in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, would be thwarted if every state were to adopt a statute similar to California's.

The judgement comes on the heels of a December ruling by a New York federal court that voided a New York City ordinance forbidding reactor construction on similar grounds. While such constitutional interpretation may signal rough times for some state and local nuclear regulations, California's Energy Commission has vowed to appeal. According to Richard Maullin, energy commission chairman, "It is not uncommon for a lower level federal court to assert strong federal powers over a state. I am confident that California's nuclear safety laws are constitutional." Moreover, Maullin points out that the law remains in effect pending the outcome of the appeal.

Copies of the ruling, Pacific Legal Foundation et al. v. California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, are available for \$1.50 from NIRS.-----GROUNDSWELL, MARCH 1979

General Electric, which manufactures nuclear generator equipment, has canceled sponsorship of an ABC-TV Barbara Walters special, apparently because the program contains material critical of nuclear power.

The Walters special will feature an interview with actress-activist Jane Fonda involving her forth coming film, "China Syndrome" - a fictional account involving the cover-up of an accident at a nuclear generating plant.

GE says it will withdraw its sponsorship of the show, but the announcement did not mention Miss Fonda - an active campaigner against nuclear power plants.

The GE announcement said:

"General Electric has sponsored the Barbara Walters 'Interview Specials' since December 1976, a relationship that has served us well. However, we decided not to sponsor the program produced for telecast on March 13 because it contains material that could cause undue public concern about nuclear power. This is an issue of significant public controversy and, and as a supplier of nuclear power equipment, it would be inappropriate for General Electric to sponsor the program. Our decision on this particular program in no way alters our respect for Miss Walters and her staff who produce the series of interview specials."

It was not clear if the GE objection was to comments made by Fonda in the interview, or to film clips from the movie.-----SAN DIEGO TRIBUNE, FEB 1979

Three Mile Island is not the first major accident or near-miss at a nuclear plant:

*December 1952: Partial fuel meltdown and release of more than 1 million gallons of radioactive water inside the NRX experimental test reactor at Chalk River, Ontario.

*October 1957: Uranium fire in the British government's weapons production reactor at Windscale, England. Farmlands were contaminated over a 200-square mile area; more than a half-million gallons of milk poisoned with radioactive iodine had to be dumped.

*January 1961: U.S. government test reactor at Idaho Falls, Idaho, went out of control. Three workers were killed, one of whom was impaled on the reactor ceiling by a control rod.

*October 1966: Partial meltdown at the Fermi breeder reactor near Detroit. Nuclear explosion was narrowly averted.

*March 1975: Fire at Browns Ferry plant in Alabama destroyed control cables for many safety devices, including emergency core cooling system. By rigging up a makeshift cooling apparatus, operators managed to avert a meltdown.

These are some, but not all, of the most dramatic nuclear mishaps. In a recent two-year period, there were more than 2,000 "reportable" accidents at nuclear plants in the United States alone.-----NORTHERN SUN NEWS, MAY 1979

A wide variety of energy experts have calculated that with more efficient energy use, conservation measures, and an emphasis on solar, wind, and other alternative technologies, the U.S. could meet all its energy needs without a sacrifice in the quality of life. For workers, the advantage of this approach lies in its capacity to provide a huge number of safe, productive, permanent jobs. A number of recent studies have emphasized the connection between jobs and energy:

*A study completed by Fred Dubin for the Department of Environmental Control in Long Island found that a program of energy conservation and solar energy would produce four times as many jobs as would building two nuclear power plants.

*Calculations by the Council on Economic Priorities showed that installation of solar heating units alone would provide 500,000 construction jobs a year - three times as many jobs for each dollar spent as would be provided by further nuclear development. These jobs would be for plumbers, laborers, sheet metal workers, carpenters, and teamsters.

*A Massachusetts Energy Policy Office study found that by 1985 more jobs could be made available from solar power (directly and indirectly) than from producing equivalent amounts of energy from offshore oil recovery and new nuclear construction combined.

*A 1975 study for the Sheet Metal Workers International Association found that solar heating and cooling could create \$240-\$300 million in yearly salaries for sheet metal workers.

*An American Institute of Architects study calculated that a good conservation program for new and existing buildings would create half a million to more than a million direct jobs through 1990 and save the equivalent of 12.5 million barrels of petroleum per day.

*A 1978 study by the California Public Policy Center concluded that during the 1980's, California's solar industry could create 376,815 new jobs annually without displacing existing jobs, yielding \$41.2 billion in increased personal income, and \$19.8 billion in tax savings.-----GROUNDSWELL, MARCH '79

Tests show that highpowered electrical fields might cause biological changes in some animals. Effects were confirmed in three experiments out of dozens conducted during the past four years, says R.D. Phillips, manager of electromagnetic programs at Battelle Northwest Laboratories. But the tests did not give any solid evidence that energy radiating from high tension power transmission lines might be dangerous to animals or humans, Phillips said.

In one experiment, rats were exposed to high-power levels for one month. Their nerve ganglia then were removed and stimulated. The nerves showed a higher level of excitability than those in an unexposed control group, Phillips said, adding that reactions were subtle, but could be important in showing interaction between electrical fields and the nervous system.

In another experiment, rats exposed to high energy fields had a hard time fighting off foreign protein, suggesting effects on the animal's immunity systems, Phillips said.----- (unknown, sorry, it's a clipping from Canada)

President Carter, a life-long lover of the outdoors, has been given the "Conservationist of the Year" award by the National Wildlife Federation for his environmental achievements.-----ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE, FEB 1979

(Sorry about that last one, but we couldn't resist!!)

EQB'S MESS UP REPORT...NOW WHAT???

8

One of the plaintiffs in our complaint filed with the Environmental Quality Board against the utilities and more specifically the "mess up" crews finally got the results in the mail. The results we're speaking of here are the soil tests run by experts and the EQB investigator. In this particular instance, here's some of what they found:

- 1) Soluble salts. This test provides an indication of the presence of dissolved ions, such as calcium, ordinarily found in soils and is based on measurement of the electrical conductivity of a soil-water extract. The uncontaminated soil samples revealed conductivities of 1.4-1.5 mmhos/cm while the conductivity of the contaminated sample was 2.8 mmhos/cm. The elevated conductivity of the contaminated sample seems to suggest elevated concentrations of calcium ions. The effects of soluble salts on plants are usually negligible when a soil-water extract conductivity of 0-2 mmho/cm is maintained. Conductivities of 2-4 mmho/cm could result in yield reduction of very salt-sensitive crops.
- 2) Calcium carbonate equivalent (CCE). The CCE of a material provides an estimate of the acid-neutralizing capacity of the material and its expressed as a weight percentage of pure calcium carbonate. Pure calcium carbonate is the standard against which other liming materials are measured, and its neutralizing value is considered to be %100. For comparison, most agricultural limestones have a neutralizing value, or CCE, of %90-%98. The uncontaminated samples collected had a CCE of %1-%2 while the CCE of the contaminated sample was %25. The possible presence of calcium hydroxide in the sample may be responsible for this phenomenon.
- 3) Soil pH. Soil pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a soil solution. The solution may be a mixture of soil and distilled/deionized water or, soil mixed with a diluted calcium chloride solution. Use of the calcium chloride method is sometimes preferable to use of other methods since it will produce a pH measurement which is practically independent of the initial amount of salts present in the soil. In this particular case, both methods were used and are in close agreement with each other. The uncontaminated samples showed pH ranges of 7.6-7.8 and 7.4-7.6 for the distilled/dionized water and calcium chloride methods respectively. The contaminated sample had a distilled/dionized water pH of 9.2 and a calcium chloride pH of 9.1, again possibly suggesting a relatively high concentration of calcium hydroxide.

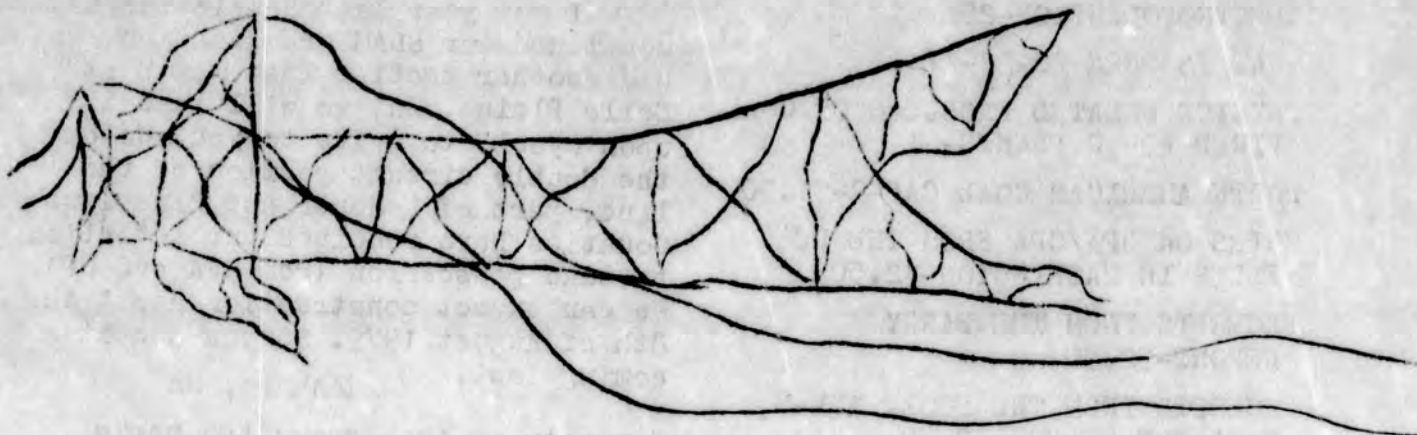
If you think that's something, here's the report's suggestions for "dealing with the problem".

- 1) Leaving the material in an undisturbed state. Although this method probably be the least expensive of those suggested, it is unlikely that the problem would correct itself in the near future.
- 2) Incorporating the material into surrounding soils as a means of diluting the effects of the material. Again, there may be a considerable time period involved before correction of the problem occurs.
- 3) Removing as much of the material as possible to an Agency permitted landfill and thoroughly incorporating the remainder into surrounding soils. Since the areal extent of the material is quite limited, it is thought that implementation of this alternative could be easily achieved by use of hand tools to remove the material for subsequent loading and transportation to an appropriate landfill. Any remaining material could then be incorporated into the surrounding soils by use of normal tillage equipment. Implementation of this alternative would lead to an expedient resolution of the problem.

Well, we had a reader who was kind enough to submit to us an explanation of what that last part is talking about. It goes like this:

Three alternatives methods of dealing with the problems are offered as follows:

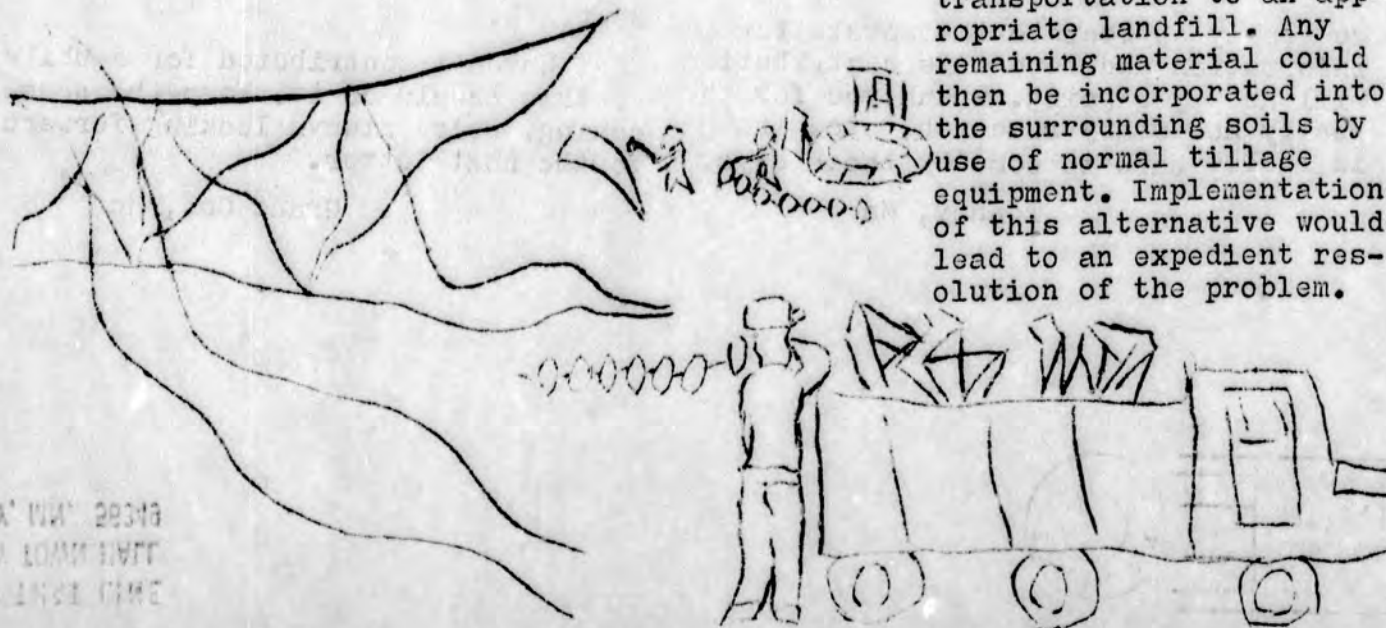
- 1) Leaving the material in an undisturbed state. Although this method would probably be the least expensive of those suggested, it is unlikely that the problem would correct itself in the immediate future.



- 2) Incorporating the material into surrounding soils as a means of diluting the effects of the material. Again, there would be a considerable time period involved before correction of the problem occurs.



- 3) Removing as much of the material as possible to an Agency permitted landfill and thoroughly incorporating the remainder into surrounding soils. Since the areal extent of the material is quite limited, it is thought that implementation of this alternative could be easily achieved by use of hand tools to remove the materials for subsequent loading and transportation to an appropriate landfill. Any remaining material could then be incorporated into the surrounding soils by use of normal tillage equipment. Implementation of this alternative would lead to an expedient resolution of the problem.



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(Send all orders to HTL, Box 5, Lowry,
Mn 56349 - including postage is help-
ful, we'll provide the envelope. By
the way, when items you've seen before
are not listed, that means we're out
and making more. So be patient and
look in future newsletters for their
listing.)

LETTERS

We really appreciate the newsletter
information and hope this contribution
will keep you going. Thank you for the
really necessary research, etc. Truth
is really hard to come by these days.

Tonney, Mn

Enclosed is \$25 donation. Keep up
the good work. Hope we can do away
with all this Nuke etc.

Sheridan, Illinois

Hold That Line,

I saw your last newsletter had
mentioned our SLAM organization. We
had another meeting last May 8 at
Belle Plaine, Mn, so will take it
upon myself to write to you. We on
the double circuit portion of the
line, part of LeSeuer and Blue Earth
Counties have received our intention
to take possession from CPA and UPA.
We can expect construction about the
8th of August 1979. So you see it's
coming fast.

Mankato, Mn

Seems to me once every two weeks
should get the job done. Keep up the
good work.

Hiram, Ohio

Enclosed is a check in the amount of
\$25 to help keep your newsletter. We
hope you can keep it coming. We go to
a jury trial soon in our battle over
the transmission lines. The eminent
domain rule was enforced and we were
condemned. One line has been constr-
ucted and the next one soon will be.
How I wish Wyoming towers would fall
as those in Minnesota do! Keep up the
good work.

Yoder, Wyoming

Dear Hold That Line,

As soon as I saw the new issue
of Science News I thought of you.

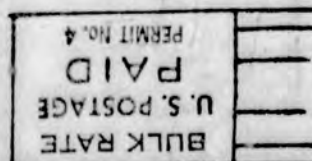
Thank you for sending Hold That
Line. It keeps us up on news from the
Front. We're in it for the duration.

Summertown, Tennessee

Dear HTL,

Haven't contributed for a while,
so this should do it. Keep the news
coming. We're always looking forward
to the next letter.

Grant Co., Mn



LOWRY, MN. 56349
LOWRY TOWN HALL
HOLD THAT LINE

POWERLINE PROTEST NEWSLETTER***PRESS RELEASE

* * * * *

FRIENDS AND FAITHFUL READERS - WE AT HTL ARE GOING TO TRY SOMETHING NEW AND NEED YOUR FEEDBACK AS READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS AS TO WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT IT. RATHER THAN PUTTING OUT A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER, AS WE HAVE FOR THE NEAR YEAR WE'VE BEEN IN OPERATION, WE'RE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING GOING TO ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS. THE REASONING BEHIND THIS DECISION HAS MANY ANGLES, ONE OF THE BIGGEST BEING \$\$\$\$\$\$. WE WANT OUR NEWSLETTER TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT ALL THE TIME, AND IF THAT MEANS GOING TO EVERY TWO WEEKS THEN THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO. BUT AS STATED BEFORE, THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER AND IF YOU'RE NOT HAPPY WITH THIS NEW MOVE, LET US KNOW!!! SO, UNLESS WE'RE TOLD OTHERWISE THROUGH YOUR LETTERS AND DONATIONS, YOU CAN BE LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT EDITION OF HTL THE WEEK OF APRIL 23. THANK YOU KINDLY!

* * * * *

COURT CAPERS

Jackie Thurk went before Judge Grey Wednesday afternoon for sentencing. The courtroom was full. Before imposing the sentence, the judge had some interesting things to say. He said there are three areas for a judge to consider when determining someone's sentence. The first was rehabilitation. The judge made it clear that he did not think Jackie needed rehabilitation, and commented that the sign she was carrying last February 10 expressed concern for the health and safety of future generations. The second area was punishment for wrong-doing, and the judge noted that he takes a dim view of anybody messing around with law-enforcement personel. But he also said that he was aware of the ordeal Jackie has already been through while waiting for trial and the trial itself. The third area was the deterrent factor a sentence has on keeping similar situations from occuring. The judge said how he understood the unusual chain of events and circumstances which led to Jackie's arrest, and then he said, "I have exhausted my imagination in trying to figure out why society needs to protect itself from people like Jackie Thurk." With that, he sentenced her to 6 months unsupervised probation. There is no jail or fine, stayed or imposed.

We are thankful that this whole sorry situation has finally been concluded without more pain and anger. People like Jackie make us proud to be a part of this movement. We can only add to Judge Grey's closing comment by saying that there are many people like Jackie Thurk involved with this movement, and there will be many more. When the state decides its interests are best served by bringing criminal charges against people like her, then society is no longer being protected.

The day before the sentencing, the Pope County courtroom was full as Judge Claeson heard evidence on our Discriminatory Prosecution Motion in the case of the Villard 3. Eight specific events, out of many which have occurred, were brought before the court to illustrate the biased law enforcement Pope Co. residents have had to put up with. In order for an event to be used, our lawyers had to show that 1) identifiable workers or security had violated the law, 2) law enforcement personel were either at the scene of the crime or notified of the incident, and 3) the cops did nothing to enforce the law.

The day started out with Ira on the stand and Ken Tilsen conducting the examination. Ira and the records of the Pope Co. Sheriff's Dept. were subpoenaed, but only Ira showed up. According to the sheriff, there is no written record of any powerline related incident. There is no record on file of any

of the arrests, any of the troopers' activities, or any of the hundreds (2)
of complaints registered by protesters or by the utilities. Ken Tilsen asked
if any additional names or details of these incidents might make it easier to
find some written record, and Ira responded that the filing system in use
makes it difficult to locate any information which might be available, but
maybe additional information would be helpful. "In other words," said Ken,
"what you're saying is, 'I don't know...I'll go check.'" Without making a
sound, protesters in the audience doubled up and almost started rolling on
the floor. We are very well behaved in court. But Ira agreed, and he was
instructed to go check during the next recess.

Needless to say, Ira's recollection of any of the incidents was either
very vague or non-existent. That is not surprising, being as it is much
easier to have no records or recollections of illegal behavior than it is to
admit the records exist, the illegal behavior happened, and the law was not
enforced. The prosecutor helped us out a bit with his cross examination when
he got Ira to say that the number of complaints registered by protesters is
about even to the number of complaints registered by the utilities - in spite
of the fact that a lot of protesters are the only ones who have been arrested.

Tom Thumb (remember the former special powerline prosecutor?) was the
next one called to the stand. The first thing that that little fellow did
after taking the oath, was to ask to approach the bench. Seems that the only
things he could testify about concerned the Grand Jury proceedings, which are
supposed to be secret, and Tom Thumb was not at all anxious to expose himself
before the public. So they all went into chambers to discuss the matter. We
never saw the rascal again. So, if you're ever passing through Olivia, why
not drop in for some coffee and donuts.

Protesters took the stand in the afternoon, this time with lawyer Mark
Wernick taking the reins, to document the events which had been confusing to
Tom and Ira earlier. As event followed event, one was amazed at what folks
out here have been putting up with. Judge Claeson will have the briefs on
the motion by April 16th, and will make a ruling sometime afterwards.

* * * * *
Landowners along the Delano-Mankato line met in Kasota
April 2 to discuss their situation. The utilities seem
* to be ready to condemn the land and begin construction *
on at least the southern part of that line which is
supposed to be a double circuit 345kv ac line. People
* from west central Minnesota were on hand to talk about *
how to deal with the condemnation proceedings and var-
ious other lessons we have learned in the past several
* years. Spirits are high and there will be resistance *
along that line should the utilities be foolish enough
to pursue the path of their own destruction. We'll keep
you posted.
* * * * *

HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

Hold That Line is committed to maintaining its reputation as a fair and
unbiased reporter of the facts, and so, based upon an article in the March 26
edition of the West Central Daily Tribune, it is our privilege to present
this Honorable Mention Award to our favorite Pope County Sheriff, Ira Dale
Emmons. It seems that Phil
was speaking to the Kandiohi
said, among other things,
ing I flew up and saw the tower
night in Pope County. Now some
of that, think it's a great
them have said, but I'll tell
saw it. It's very, very discour-



Martin, UPA General Manager,
Coop Annual Meeting, and he
"Before I came to this meet-
that was downed on Thursday
people may get a big kick out
Christmas present, as some of
you, I damned near cried when I
aging."

"And I say," said Martin, "it (the creative removal) is not being done (3) by farmers. It's being done by a handful of 15 to 25 people who have the mentality of 7 year olds, who have no respect for law and order, and who are getting their kicks out of destroying insulators and cutting down towers.

"There are 427 miles of transmission lines from the middle of North Dakota to the Twin Cities," said Martin, "2 counties, 2 counties is where the destruction is. There is no destruction all the way across North Dakota, and they're farmers, too. There is no destruction in other counties, just in Pope and Stearns."

"I defy anybody to tell me that there is law and order in Pope County," said Martin, "when you can go out night after night and destroy insulators and towers which cost you and I millions of dollars. And they can't catch anybody? Poppycock. There's no law and they have no respect for it."

Here comes the award part. Ira said he had "No comment" when told of Martin's accusations. "I just consider the source. I'm not responding to Phil Martin or anyone else. I've heard it all before." Three cheers for Ira. Hang in there Phil old boy, when you get discouraged enough maybe we'll have an award for you too!

* * * * *

When the tower fell a couple of weeks ago, Don Jacobson said they'd have it up in 2 or 3 days. They have yet to touch it, and Rumor Control has learned that it is not likely to be touched until road restrictions are lifted May 15. Or maybe they just don't have enough steel. Even though winter is still hanging around, it seems that hungry wire worms came out of hibernation and chewed their way through the conductor that was on the ground. The utilities managed to put some of it back together a couple days later and they've had a security force out there ever since. Rumor Control has learned that the security force is armed with shotguns and small caliber weapons, and is extremely nervous. There are several shadows with holes in them.

* * * * *

BOOZ, ALLEN, HAMILTON REPORT

Sometime last summer, UPA and CPA retained an outfit called Booz, Allen and Hamilton to help them figure out their problems with the Coal Creek Power Plant. Evidently they are having trouble with some cost overruns and schedule delays. Unfortunately, the B, A and H report just skims the surface, "During the course of our evaluation," the report says, "we were unable to cross-check the validity of information provided us by the contractors." Later it says, "However it should be recognized that our impressions are not based upon a comprehensive evaluation of contractor work but rather on the limited amount of information supplied to us by Black and Veatch (the prime contractor) and our experience on similar assignments." Such a report.

The report isn't as juicy as the Barry Report. Instead it paints a generalized picture of mismanagement all over the place. "A combination of factors suggests that work on Unit 1 may not be completed per the acceleration schedule, and that further schedule slippage is highly likely." "Work on Unit 2 is lagging and will worsen unless specific problem areas are corrected in the near term." "Under the best circumstances, additional project cost increases will be incurred, although the total amount has not yet been determined."

Due to a wide variety of reasons, including a remarkable inability to get the right material and engineering documents to the right place on time, it was deemed necessary to do a lot of the work "out of sequence". It's a bet that most of that work had to be taken apart and done over again. The report lists four major systems in which the engineering had not been completed even at that late date, and goes on to state that "The contractors

have reported problems with the engineering and design work which, if not (4) corrected, could in their opinion begin to impact the project progress."

The report rattles on awhile about problems with maintaining a work force, and productive vs. non-productive manhours of the work force (which turns out to be an average of about 42.4% non-productive time industry wide). It also discusses the lack of organization between UPA/CPA, the prime contractor, and all the little contractors. As we said, a general picture of mismanagement. But there are a few specific highlights which deserve mentioning.

For example, "approximately one million feet of cable two conductor size 12 could not be located." My goodness! After the engineering is supposedly done and the contractors are called in to get to work, "some contractors believe that the engineering work is not yet complete...primarily in the electrical area. The report says that the prime contractor is having particular difficulties with the contractors providing the 1) Piping and Equipment Insulation, 2) Ash handling system, 3) Control and Instrumentation Construction, and 4) Electrical Testing Services. In addition they say "No minor problems" whatever that means, with the Lignite and Ash Storage Construction.

In conclusion, Booz, Allen and Hamilton state, "We believe that a concerted improvement effort on the part of all the contractors, with UPA/CPA spearheading the effort, will make a significant impact on improving productivity at the project site and preventing further degradation of the Coal Creek schedule and budget." Let's hear it for "improvement efforts" and "further degradation."

* * * * *

Exploratory drilling for uranium is being done in Benton County, and some unexplained drilling is going on near Greenwald, St. Martin and Belgrade in Stearns County. *
When asked, the drilling crews say they don't know what they're doing. Someone should probably tell them that they're in the wrong place...

* * * * *

IF THEY DON'T WAKE UP, THEY MIGHT START DREAMING!!

Another chapter in the continuing saga of "The Dream Machine vs. The Steamroller" was written April 2 at the state capitol in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee has been considering a bill (Senate File 251) which would legalize mail ballots and forgive those coops that used them illegally in the past. About 15 coop lobbyists, directors and managers were at the hearing to testify, along with a representative from DREAM.

While the director of the Minnesota Association of Coops and Coop lobbyist Ed Sletton was testifying with flowery words on the virtues of the proposed legislation, Senator Sckorski brought up a recent letter to the editor of the Minneapolis Tribune regarding closed meetings of the Board of Directors. The Senator asked Edward to defend that policy. Edward's tongue became thick, and his words dribbled down his chin and messed up his new suit. The Senators began looking at him through the corners of their eyes.

It was then brought to the Senators' attention, and documented through a recent article in the Alexandria newspaper, that the votes of the coop membership at the annual meeting doesn't really mean very much. The article states that the management and directors of Runestone look at such votes as "recommendations to the board", and the directors and management has the right to refuse to comply with such directives.

The Senators appeared to be quite disturbed by this whole state of affairs. Runestone General Manager Vernon Jutila happened to be present, so he was asked to testify and try to explain what is going on with illegal balloting, closed meetings, member "recommendations", and so forth. Now, we must all be patient and understanding with young Vernon. After all, he isn't old enough to fully appreciate the thrilling experience of explaining to Senators what a silly nuisance all these laws and things are. So it was perfectly natural that he was very confused and shook like a leaf in the wind.

Right there in the full committee hearing Senator McCutcheon amended the

bill to include open board meeting and the committee referred the entire (5) bill back to the Law Reform Judiciary Sub-committee. There seems to be a possibility that if the bill ever makes it out of sub-committee again, it will say that mail ballots will still be illegal, board meetings must be open to members, directors and managers must comply with membership votes, and maybe even that these coops will once again be subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission. That would be quite a switch! A letter or 2 to the appropriate politician in this regard might be in order. Meanwhile, Runestone asked for a change of venue on the court hearing which will determine whether or not the current law on mail ballots must be surfaced. If the judge decides we must stop all this running amok in civilization and follow the law instead, there will be a new election. No date is set for the hearing, but the coops are worried.

Of course, Runestone isn't taking all this sitting down. Considerable amounts of pressure are being brought to bear against the DREAM people who have sued Runestone over the mail ballot issue in an attempt to get the suit dropped. It is not likely that such tactics will improve the situation of the utilities. On the other hand, because of the management's retaliations against DREAM efforts to become involved in Runestone affairs, the Commissioner of the State Dept. of Agriculture has been asked to intervene in this whole state of affairs. That would make things very interesting.

*
* It seems the General Accounting Office *
* has set up a hot line for good citizens *
* to call in toll free to report cases of *
* governmental fraud and waste. Should *
* anyone know anything about such devel- *
* opements, they are urged to call 1-800- *
* 424-5454 weekdays between 8 and 5pm. *
* ROBBIE AND THE GOVERNOR *

Robbie Stevenson, the governor's "trouble shooter" who was up here the first part of March, finally sent us a letter addressed to G.A.S.P., just like he was supposed to. The letter was dated March 28, and says:

Dear Members of G.A.S.P.,

Thanks for the hospitality shown me during our recent visit to Lowry. In an effort to best respond to your request for some type of an open meeting, would you as a group answer the following questions for me:

- 1) Location - We would like your recommendations of where the meeting should take place. (St. Paul, Alexandria, Glenwood, etc.).
- 2) Who - From your collective thoughts, who should attend from the state and the powerline companies.
- 3) Format - Do you want a panel discussion, comments by the representatives of the state or listening to your comments only.
- 4) Outcome - What do the members of G.A.S.P. hope to have as the outcome of the meeting?

Please send back your comments so the meeting can accomplish what you want.

Evidently, Robbie forgot much of what he learned in Lowry on his way back to St. Paul. Anyway, G.A.S.P. met April 5 to discuss the matter and get a response together. Our letter was addressed to the Governor and Mr. Stevenson, and reads as follows:

The General Assembly to Stop the Powerline met April 5 to discuss the questions presented in your letter of March 28, 1979.

We would like to meet with Governoe Quie and the President of UPA and CPA in the Lowry area at your earliest convenience.

The purpose of the meeting, as stated in the mail-grams sent to (6) Governor Quie in January and as stated to Robert Stevenson during his recent visit to Lowry, will be to initiate negotiations between G.A.S.P. and UPA and CPA which will set the terms for a public forum to investigate all aspects of the CU Project.

So, now we get to wait around to see what happens next. There will be another meeting called as soon as we get a response from the governor.

SAVE THE HILLS * * * * NO MORE HARRISBURGS

March 30, 31 and April 1 an incredible thing happened in Rapid City, South Dakota. A few hundred people from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, California, New York, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, Illinois and South Dakota gathered together to figure out how to save the Black Hills.

The Black Hills have been deemed a National Sacrifice Area for utility exploitation. If corporations like Union Carbide, Exxon, Tennessee Valley Authority, Shell and Gulf Oil get their way, in the very near future the Black Hills will be a giant energy park, complete with uranium and solution mining, nukes and coal plants and of course, many, many, powerlines.

The people responding to the call for help at the conference a week ago represented many organizations doing various work in and out of the Energy War, who saw the need for the Hills to be a national focus in the coming year.

Friday, March 30 was mainly conference registration - with a program of speakers at a local junior high school. Those speaking included reps from Union of Concerned Scientists, Black Hills Alliance, Friends of the Earth and G.A.S.P..

The bulk of Saturday was spent in workshops after an opening session with speakers from the American Indian Movement, the Alliance and local ranchers. People had to choose 1 out of 4 workshops to spend their day in. They consisted of Mobilization, Litigation and Documentation, Education and Communication and Fundraising. Good work was done in each area, with the outcome being fairly concrete tasks for people to do all over the country and specific national actions planned for in the Hills over the next year. The first of such actions will be a March from Craven Canyon to Edgemont, South Dakota on July 7 and 8. G.A.S.P. will be having a rep working on that one and it looks like SOC is trying to get a bus.

After the workshops on Saturday, each state met to compare notes on what each of us have to do to spread the word and build support back home. Sunday was wrap-up, goodbyes and for part of the Minnesota delegation a chance to drive through this breathtaking target of the utilities.

A truly impressive part of this conference - was the learning experience that took place between people. People from all walks of life; Indians, Ranchers, Farmers and Urban people. Learning about the incredible oppression of the Indian people, who have lost hundreds of lives in the fight to stop the utilities. To stop the desecration of the land such as what they now want to do in the Hills or with shale mining in the Rockies. Feeling the power of what's happening all over the country today, not just at home.

Another incredible thing happened during the conference in the Black Hills. They've come to call it Harrisburg. Through our contacts at the conference - we had a pipeline straight into Harrisburg, and folks you ain't heard the 1/2 of it or the last of it. We are not going to talk here in technical terms, about the bubble, the valve that doesn't exist and the back-up systems that didn't back-up. But rather, about the cover-up. About the fact that everyone within a 30 mile radius of that plant should have been evacuated and not returned even now. The fact that people should have been instructed to bottle their water because of contaminated reservoirs and to eat only packaged, frozen or canned food. The fact that everyone should have been taking potassium iodine tablets to deter radiation from going to their thyroids. The fact that we have the type of government which would suppress life-saving information from the people because we have a nuclear engineer

for a president who puts on yellow booties, hikes around a bit, says (7)
everything's ok and has Rosalyn go weld her name into the Trident nuclear
submarine.

The only way we can stop another Harrisburg from happening is to stop
nuclear power and coal power and begin to use the renewable resources avail-
able before man walked the earth.

How can we sit by while a government supposedly of the people - destroys
the people? The Black Hills is the beginning of that destructive fuel cycle -
Harrisburg is the end. Save the Hills - no more Harrisburgs - no more power-
line.

NORTH DAKOTA UPDATE

Contrary to what Phil Martin would like you to believe, North Dakota's
popping! The utilities are still trying to blow all the miscellaneous garbage
out of the pipes in the boiler so it doesn't end up in the turbines. They've
collected wrenches, welding rods, dinner pails, hard hats and who knows what
else. The noise of that operation reached a level of 130 decibels about a
mile from the plant. It could be heard 24 miles away. Naturally, there are
no North Dakota laws on noise pollution.

Perhaps one of the reasons we haven't seen so much of the airplane cruis-
ing on the Minnesota side lately is that they crashed on the North Dakota
side. One man escaped with a broken ankle, but the other was badly hurt.

* * * * *

April 21 from 9:30am to 3:30pm there will be a
* conference entitled Energy and the Farm, Decrease *
Energy Cost and Increase Farm Profits. It's going
to be held at Willmar Community College and will
* cover such topics as wind, solar, biofuels, wood, *
crop-drying and irrigation. The cost is \$4 per
person and \$6.50 per family and includes lunch.

* * * * *

BEWARE OF THE THUGS

Folks should be taking care to look out for each other, 'cause the
utilities are showing signs of desperation. It's hard to say what they'll be
trying next.

In the early hours of April 7 a local man was walking home when a pick-
up truck approached him from behind. 2 guys were in the truck, and one asked
him, "Are you for this powerline?" The man said, "No.", and they beat him up.

The 2 guys were taller than 5'9", clean shaved, husky and wear glasses.
The man has lived in the Lowry area his entire life and has never seen the
2 before. The interior of the pick up was white, and it's a '72 or '73 Chevy
without running lights.

The sheriff was notified about 2:05am and the deputy got to the scene
some 40 minutes later. He took a statement and was instructed that it would
be wise if the department would start keeping records of such activities.
Be careful!

* * * * *

Now that spring is finally springing, all sorts of
* interesting creatures are running amok in civilization. *
Migrating feathered friends of assorted species have
* been pecking away at insulators up and down the line, *
and have attacked one 3 mile section with a vengeance.
* 3/4s of those insulators are missing. Then wire worms *
wormed their way passed the security by the downed
* tower and chewed through the tow conductors again. It *
just doesn't seem that this powerline will ever be too
reliable. It should probably be removed.

* * * * *

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REPORT-\$2.50

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"UNSAFE/UGLY"-75¢
"FARMLAND FOR FOOD"-75¢

(send all orders to HTL, Lowry, Mn
56349 - including postage is very
helpful, we'll provide the envelope)

* * * * *

LETTERS

Am sending you a 25.00 check.
Keep on plugging away, you have done
more good for the future of this
country than most people realize. God
Bless you all.

St. Joe, Mn

Sorry 'bout missing last month's
donation. Here's a "double".

Mpls, Mn

Dear G.A.S.P.,

Can't you investigate why these
towers keep falling down? Something
needs to be done. Every day I check if
you are making any progress. You can

count on hearing from me again as
you get further into your investiga-
tion.

Crystal, Mn

If you get a chance to send them
with someone, or happen to be coming
down before I get up your way. I
would be needing 4 copies of the
Barry Report.

Sauk Centre, Mn

Hold That Line:

Not only are we fighting high
voltage lines and Tyrone in western
Wisconsin, but we are trying to re-
direct the electrical coops from the
bottom up. They will have to eventu-
ally help with conservation and re-
newables. When...depends on the mem-
bers.

I especially enjoy reading about
DREAM. Are there any other coops
besides Runestone which are under
seige? Thank you for your newsletter.

Hager City, Wisconsin

Hold That Line,

I enclose \$20, which I hope will
keep your newsletter coming. I became
acquainted with Minnesota's situation
when I attended the National Energy
Facility Siting Conference at Glenwood
last fall, and I support the efforts
of Minnesotans to reverse the trend
towards centralized energy and the
rapidly growing web of HV lines in
which we are becoming entwined. I
appreciate staying informed on the
situation there, and I find your
excerpts from news around the country
quite helpful.

Terre Haute, Indiana

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find our check in the amount
of \$25 along with a copy of a letter
from this office to Dr. Bradley. As
you see, Dr. Bradley has requested
that we make a contribution on his
behalf to HTL. This contribution is in
consideration of his testimony in
Stearns Co.

Willmar, Mn

POWERLINE PROTEST NEWSLETTER***PRESS RELEASE

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Anger has replaced the shock felt by people of this movement when a jury in Alexandria convicted Jackie Thurk on March 21. Shocks are nothing new to us. And we have been living with our anger now for many years. Many times before the hammer of injustice has beaten on the red-hot steel in our souls, time enough to forge a strong and tempered movement. Perhaps this latest beating serves to help us better understand how close to each other we have become through the commitments we share, through the bonds which unite us. Jackie and Kenny and the kids want to thank all their friends who have shown their love and support through this difficult time. It is deeply appreciated.

No doubt there will be other beatings as the utilities and the state begin to understand what they're up against. That will also make us stronger. Let would be tyrants beware!

Before the trial began on the 19th, the prosecutor reduced the charge to simple assault, a misdemeanor. He made his case by parading 4 troopers before the jury, each of them expanding on a cock-and-bull story made up the night before the trial began. They gave proof to the old saying that if you tell a lie big enough and say it often enough, people will believe you. Especially if you're a cop in a fancy uniform who claims to suffer spasms after being clobbered by a Sunday School teacher. After 7 hours of deliberation, the jury needed to ask what "to-wit" means.

Not all the news is so hard to take. "Laumeyer's Lament" was more than leaning as the clouded sun rose Friday morning. The 6th tower to fall was definitely down on the ground northwest of Villard. The cops were there by 2pm to confirm the report. The only trouble was that it was reported on the news at 8am, and by 11am UPA had 4 or 5 guys tromping around out there to see what happened. Then KCMT tv showed up to examine the situation, and protesters began to arrive. Before long there was a well-worn path through a quarter mile of deep snow as small groups of protesters walked out to get a closer look, take some pictures and so forth. It seems that some of them also relieved themselves, that being a perfectly natural thing to do.

By 2 pm, when Ira, a deputy, and the BCA boys arrived, there was a group of protesters sunning themselves up on the corner, protected by the trees from the north March wind, and three more protesters out looking at the remains of a tower. So Ira and his buddies climbed into the helicopter and went to investigate. They found a toppled tower and many trampled paths. They took some filings from the sawed-off leg for evidence, and noticed that additional "evidence" was still being walked on by good, upstanding citizens of Pope County. That made Ira very angry, and the BCA called those citizens "dim wits" who could be arrested for doing things like that. The protesters thought that was very funny and watched as the cops looked around for more evidence. The only other thing they could find was a patch of yellow snow. The cops collected as much of it as they could find and stuffed it into little plastic bags. Dear Ira, don't eat the yellow snow!!!

Soon the cops left, their investigation complete, and protesters came and looked and departed. The utilities made no attempt to put it back together and they may run into some difficulties when they do.

Meanwhile, UPA/CPA are experiencing some difficulties in North Dakota. It seems that insulators and conductors between Hawkenson and the Minnesota state line keep getting into trouble. Not only that, but they had a big fire by the coal mine near Underwood a couple of weeks ago. It caused an estimated \$500,000 worth of damage to construction headquarters for the great big Falkirk dragline. Tools, blueprints, and equipment were lost, work is shut down, and the cause of the blaze has been chalked up to mismanagement.

They had another fire in the converter station a week later when some line shorted out, and while blowing out the boiler, they also blew out a chunk of the pump house wall, causing it to get flooded. The plant superin-

tendant got so angry that he said the plant should have been built in .(2)
Minnesota, and his buddy said Florida would have been better.

The people around Underwood have an awful lot to put up with. On top of everything else, when they blow out the boilers there is such a racket, that 3 miles away it sounds like there's a jet plane in the yard. So when they do it, they offer to move everyone in the area into the motel and feed them at the cafe. That's so nice of them.

* * * * *
Remember the discriminatory prosecution
* hearing for the Villard 3 is coming up *
starting on April 3 in Glenwood Quite
* a few protesters will be testifying on *
the "pick-and-choose" prosecution policy
in Pope County. Everyone is welcome.
* * * * *

NO WORD YET, EXCEPT...

On March 15, Robbie Stevensen, the governor's aid and "trouble-shooter" promised that the governor's office would respond in writing to G.A.S.P. on our request that the governor use his office to initiate negotiations between G.A.S.P. and the utilities to set the terms of a public forum. We are still waiting. At that same meeting, Kris Sanda of the Office of Consumer Services said she would do what she could to help. On March 22, Hold That Line received a packet from Kris and the Consumer Services people. The packet included a cover letter, 2 leaflets describing the Office of Consumer Services, 2 survey questionnaires which ask, among other things, "how many of the items in a supermarket's newspaper ads do you believe are reduced in price" and "what in your opinion, is the most serious problem facing consumers today?", pamphlets on buying a new car, buying an old car, how to shop, conciliation court, medicare supplemental insurance, and Minnesota's 3 day cooling off period. We don't get it...Anyway, if anyone has any problems involving the things listed above, feel free to contact Kris Sanda or Richard L. Auld, Office of Consumer Services, Metro Square Bldg, 7th and Robert, St. Paul, Mn 55101, (612) 296-2331.

* * * * *
* Jackie Thurk's sentencing comes up *
on April 4th in Alexandria at 1:30
* pm. A good show of support would *
be nice.
* * * * *

THE DREAM and REA

The excitement for Runestone Electric Ass'n. Board members didn't start Saturday, the day of the annual meeting but rather on Thursday afternoon when the sheriff showed up at the board meeting to serve them papers asking them to appear at a hearing in Glenwood Friday. A group of REA members had filed a suit against them for sending out "mail in" ballots, and were asking for a restraining order holding the ballots of the annual election till the court could decide whether they're legal.

According to several sources it has been illegal for cooperatives to have mail in ballots since 1956. This was brought up several times to the board but they denied that it was illegal and proceeded to send out the ballots. In the meantime rumor has it that someone (manager?) was down at the capital working to get a bill passed to make mail in ballots legal and to forgive past trespasses.

The board members didn't look too happy in the courtroom, but (3) their lawyer quickly made a motion to replace Judge Claeson with some other judge (they really like Judge Roberts). Then they all packed up and left because it took too long to locate another judge. The Clerk of Court finally got Judge Willette from Willmar instead, and he denied the restraining order against the mail ballots because the Plaintiff DREAMERS didn't show that they would suffer irreparable harm if the election took place. So the mail ballots got counted and the election is being officially contested. Judge Willette set the hearing for the injunction against mail ballots for April 20 at the Courthouse in Glenwood.

When Saturday rolled around the manager and Board members had the annual meeting all prepared so things wouldn't happen like they did last year. And sure enough, things didn't, because some very fine things got done instead. But it all started with the chair asking for a motion from the many "friends" he brought along with him to limit the time for each person speaking. He tried so hard to get the old steamroller moving. The directors all got red and blew smoke out their ears, the parliamentarian whistled "out of order" at regular intervals, lots of Board members from neighboring Rural Electrics heckled the DREAMers, and even the new manager's wife was sitting in the audience adding her little derogatory comments.

But the old steamroller just ain't greased up like it used to be, and despite all the noise and hullabaloo the people came through with another victory. All the by-law amendments supported by DREAM were passed. So it is now possible for REA members to have an alternative source of power without being cut off from REA and also get paid for any electricity put back into the system. The voting system will change from voting for directors at large to voting by district for directors, and it was voted to re-apportion the districts. It was also voted in that an appointed board member must run for office at the next annual election instead of completing the term, which is how it was done before. The only by-law amendment which did not pass would have changed the age limit for a board member from 65 to 70. Not a good day for the steamroller - but the best was yet to come.

After everyone had their free lunch and the crowd dwindled, the manager gave his speech. When everyone was awake again, a resolution was made that the board meetings be opened for members to come in and sit and listen. Cussin' and discussion followed. The voice vote sounded like it passed, and there was a call for a show of hands that looked like it passed. The manager wasn't satisfied with that either, but after a vote by ballot carried the resolution he had to accept it. Runestone Members: Welcome to Your Cooperative!! Treat It Gently But Firmly.

At this point it seems appropriate to note that the Board members have seen fit to make a resolution that shows disapproval of CPA management, and calls for the resignation of CPA management. In this resolution, the directors brought up both the Barry Study and the Boose, Allen, Hamilton Study, a study that talks about problems with the Coal Creek Generating Plant. The members were told they could come in and take a look at this Boose Allen study, so we hope to have more information on it soon.

Being as mail ballots were counted, there wasn't so much success this time around with the election of board members. The two incumbant directors were re-elected. But there is a very good chance that on the 20th, the court will tell them that they have to follow the law, and there will have to be another election. Some directors will be voted out. We'll have to get the rest of them to mend their ways. They can start by making sure they learned the lesson of March 24: The membership is the boss. Then they can make sure they learned the other lesson of March 24: The directors tell the manager what to do, not the other way around. Joe the Shmo is gone and the likes of him will not be tolerated!

All things considered, it was a fine day! The people out-organized the steamroller, and congratulations to all those who made it possible!!!

URANIUM MINING

It may seem one of the best kept secrets in the state, but it's true -- the "Minnesota Uranium Rush" is on. Over 100,000 acres in two northern counties have been leased or bought by three Colorado mining firms seeking "yellow-cake" -- processed uranium ore. They say the odds are against it, but Rocky Mountain Energy (a subsidiary of Union-Pacific Railway), Energy Resources and Martin-Trost Associates are betting that substantial pockets of the precious ore lie deep under the glacial drift of Carlton and Pine Counties.

Their keen interest stems from a 1976 survey which indicates that the geology of these areas is similar to the parts of Australia and Saskatchewan where the world's richest uranium fields are located.

The uranium is being sought to fuel the 70 nuclear power plants now operating in the United States. Soaring uranium prices in the past few years have sent prospectors scrambling all over the country with geiger counters in hand. 16 states, including 8 western states that have been long time suppliers of uranium, are being vigorously explored.

The most intense exploration in Minnesota is along a broad belt about 20 miles wide from Duluth to Denham in northwestern Pine County. But counties in southwestern, northwestern and central areas of the state are also being eyed hungrily by such energy giants as Exxon and Kerr-McGee. (Surveys show that another potential uranium hot spot is the BWCA.)

Unbeknownst to nearly everyone but the leaser, mining companies have been combing these areas for over 2 years. Last year at least one of them, Rocky Mountain, began punching test holes into the earth. The competition is intense. The companies aren't disclosing their findings. Hearsay has it that only "diffuse" occurrences have been found so far -- too little to mine but enough to prompt Rocky Mountain to budget \$5 million for at least 3 more years of drilling.

Over a third of Carlton County has now been leased for uranium prospecting. The figure is expected to grow since latecomers, like Martin-Trost, are offering twice the going price for leases. In some cases they are buying the farms outright for double their market value.

Not everyone, however, has caught "uranium fever" and signed away their land. Some are holding out for higher prices. Others have been put off by the confusion surrounding the leases. (Depending on the company and the property, leases may vary in price from \$2 to \$5 per acre per year and may either be open-ended or set for a specific number of years.)

A few persons are holding out with environmental concerns about this potentially hazardous activity. Far too few, says Bob Eikum, a Carlton County resident. Eikum heads a local Sierra Club group that is questioning the unrestrained exploration. "We're not pointing fingers at anybody," said Eikum. "We just want to stir up some questions in minds clouded by dollar signs." Questions like how thoroughly the test drilling is being monitored? What happens if a drill hole accidentally connects the water table with a pocket of radioactive ore? If uranium is found and mined, to what extent can the land be reclaimed? How will radioactive dust from the milling be sequestered? And perhaps, most importantly, how will the radioactive discards of the milling process be kept from the environment?

These concerns are commanding increasing attention, including that of staff members at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Pollution Control Agency (PCA). Elwood Rafn, chief of the DNR's Mineral Division, and Dale McMichael, PCA Director of Environmental Analysis, participated in a seminar organized by Eikum in December. Over 600 people packed in the Moose Lake auditorium to hear geologists, mining company officials, attorneys and state officials discuss the vices and virtues of uranium mining. Judging from the Moose Lake newspaper coverage, the major message delivered at the meeting was Rafn's. The state, he said, is unprepared to handle uranium mining. There simply are no state regulations governing this potentially hazardous activity. The issue has never been faced in Minnesota before.

Because the exploration has been limited so far to private lands, (5) the companies are not required to report their activity to the state. "The only way we can get a handle on this is if they ask to lease public lands," he said. Since the state owns a quarter of both Carlton and Pine Counties, that may happen soon.

One of Rafn and McMichael's immediate concerns is the protection of aquifers, the underground pools of water that feed wells. The northern branch of the Jordan Aquifer, a huge water table that feeds the deep wells in the Twin Cities, stretches under Carlton County. The test holes may be punching through it. If a radioactive ore body is reached, the aquifer could become contaminated with radiation. To prevent this, the holes must be plugged with cement from the bottom up. Rafn has received assurances from Rocky Mountain that this is being done, but state officials have yet to check the test sites.

When in the earth, the radioactivity of uranium is locked safely in solid rock. But when the ore is mined and milled, large amounts of it are released into the atmosphere. Uranium ore is usually less than one tenth of one percent uranium-235, the material used to power reactors. To extract it, the ore must be crushed to a fine powder, mixed in a slurry and chemically separated.

The process is not entirely efficient. A good share of the radioactivity remains in the discards -- known as tailings. Common practice has been to dump these along side the mill. The fine, sandy tailings then begin to discharge radioactive dust, radon gas and gamma radiation into the atmosphere. Decay products of radon can cause lung cancer. They are responsible for the notoriously high incidence of this disease found among uranium miners.

Adequate containment techniques for tailings have not yet been developed. An earthen cover helps, but in time the earth yields to erosion. In western states, some 100 million tons of tailings have been abandoned to the winds and rain. Radioactivity from these have been detected in lakes in Colorado and Wyoming and in wells in New Mexico. "We know about these problems," said Rafn. "We've talked to people out there about our situation and they say 'hey watch it!'" Rafn said the state legislature is being asked to appropriate \$25,000 for a one-year study outlining the technology and the problems of uranium prospecting and mining -- "something documenting the state of the art in the layman's language," he said.

The Moose Lake meeting was essentially the first public disclosure of the explorations. And it marked the state's first efforts towards intervention. At present, no state agencies are monitoring the prospecting. Part of the difficulty with monitoring lies in keeping track of the rapid developments, said McMichael. "Sometimes it's like a wild goose chase. You've got to keep calling counties all over the state to find out what's going on."

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the activity may also be in the offing. The PCA would require one prior to mining. But McMichael suggests that it might be appropriate for the PCA to prepare one now. The PCA is assigning a subcommittee to the issue and may hold public hearings soon, he said. McMichael added that the PCA's involvement should probably go beyond health and safety concerns. "The PCA board has a policy that nuclear power should be used as a last resort only. Wholesale permitting of uranium mining would be inconsistent with this." He continued, "An ultimate policy decision could be that Minnesota not allow any uranium mining until a means for disposing nuclear wastes is developed and implemented." Some people contend that under no circumstances should Minnesota, a state that has eyed nuclear power skeptically all along, become an exporter of the nuclear industry's fuel. Don Olson is one of them. A member of the Twin Cities Northern Sun Alliance, he has travelled to Moose Lake many times in the last year to rally opposition to the explorations. "I'm opposed to anything involving the nuclear industry. The activity in Northern Minnesota just gives them another boost," he said. Another environmentalist tracking the issue is Steve Chapman. Chapman, a former MPIRG research director, is said by many to be the top source for information on this issue. He is now a member of Clear Air - Clear Water, a group that has requested the PCA to hold public hearings on uranium prospecting and to prohibit the exploration of public land until

regulations are established.

(6)

MPIRG is also taking an active interest in the issue. MPIRG lawyer Jim Miller and environmental researcher Bob Harding are considering petitioning the state Environmental Quality Board to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on uranium prospecting. "It's important that the state decide now whether it will accept the risks of uranium mining," said Harding. "If the mining companies get their hands on any ore, they won't let go."

-----State Watch, January 29, 1979

BLACK HILLS ALLIANCE

Uranium mining is about to begin in the Black Hills of Western South Dakota. The Black Hills - the sacred ancestral lands of the Lakota People - are a place where over the centuries the Lakotas have gathered in prayer and ceremony - a place of power.

The Black Hills now - a place where local residents - both Indian and non-Indian - have hopes of raising children and guaranteeing a safe and healthy future for them.

Uranium mining - the beginning of the nuclear fuel cycle - a highly toxic undertaking, proposed by large, energy developing companies with apparent disregard for the wishes and needs of the local residents.

We are the Black Hills Alliance - an organization of united Indians and non-Indians who have banded together in the effort to save the Black Hills from their imminent destruction.

Several companies, including Union Carbide Corporation, Gulf Oil, along with the Tennessee Valley Authority have over a million acres already staked out. Open pit mines, strip mines, solution mines, new railroad systems and the influx of hundreds of thousands of boom town workers - these are some of the visible effects that we can expect if they are allowed to mine. There are other, less visible effects: The town of Edgemont, South Dakota, in Fall River County, for instance, had a uranium mine in the late 50's. To this day there are large hills of radioactive tailings emitting radioactive dust and leaking into the water system. Fall River County has twice the cancer rate of any county in South Dakota according to Dr. Judith Jhonsriud, a noted scientist in the nuclear waste storage field. Dr. Jhonsriud visited Edgemont in late 1978. She said, "It takes 20 to 30 years for the signs of cancer to become truly evident. No. I wouldn't live in that place (Edgemont)."

The uranium deposits already staked out lie in a crescent shaped formation which circles around the eastern edge of the hills from Edgemont in the south and as far as the northwestern corner of South Dakota. The massive mining about to begin here will be the source of nuclear fuel for many reactors and inevitably will provide material for more nuclear weapons.

We would like to ask you to consider this carefully: There are many local citizens now actively in opposition to the construction of nuclear power plants; there are also many groups against the proliferation of nuclear armaments. Nuclear power and armaments are founded on the mining of uranium and resistance to uranium development is resistance to each. We believe the Black Hills are significant, not only because of what they represent historically, but also because they are within the lands guaranteed to the Lakota People by the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty with the United States.

G.A.S.P., along with many other organizations, is a part of the Black Hills Alliance, for we too see the need for such a show of solidarity in the issue of mining exploitation. March 30, 31 and April 1st there will be a conference in Rapid City, South Dakota of this newly formed alliance. A delegation from G.A.S.P. has already made plans to attend, and we urge anyone interested in going, to do so. . The weekend promises to be a true learning experience for many people of all backgrounds, ages, colors and beliefs, coming together with a common goal in mind. For more info call 283-5428.

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REPORT-\$2.50

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"G.A.S.P."-\$5

BUTTONS "IF YOU KILL OUR FARMS
YOUR CITIES WILL DIE"-\$1
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"QUESTION AUTHORITY"-50¢

BUMPERSTICKERS "NO POWERLINE"-75¢
"DECENTRALIZE ENERGY"-75¢
"UNSAFE/UGLY"-75¢
"FARMLAND FOR FOOD"-75¢

(send all orders to HTL, Lowry, Mn
56349 - including postage is very
helpful, we'll provide the envelope)

* * * * *

LETTERS

Keep up the good work, reading
"Hold That Line" is the only way that
most of us can find out what's going
on.

Wheaton, Mn

Hold That Line -

Enclosed is \$10. Would you please
send your "Hold That Line" newsletter
to the following address in Texas.

These people are also fighting a
powerline on their land and they al-
ready got 2 - and are interested what
the people in Minn. are doing about
ours and what they can do to fight
theirs.

Hoffman, Mn

Thank you for sending me Hold
That Line. I wish I were there to
help you. Keep up the good work.

Denver, Colorado

Dear Friends,

A little something to help keep

"Hold That Line" going. We enjoy (7)
receiving your news. It's so much
more informative. Keep up the good
work. Your friends to the north.

Sebeka, Mn

Dear Hold That Line,

As you say and I believe that
you are running low on funds, so I
am sending you \$25.

We live a few miles away from
the line same as hundreds of others
but we have helped fight all the
way. I would like to see those farm-
ers who got good pay for the line to
show an appreciation and donate a
couple thousand to you. Also the new
officials who voted in through the
powerline could show an appreciation.
Keep up the good work. Thanks for
the paper, I enjoy it.

Elrosa, Mn

Dear Gaspers -

Herewith \$2. I very rarely get
U.S. currency here, but had the luck
just as I had sent to me from a
fellow ex - Farwell relative your
"The Powerline Will Affect You".

During our election campaign I
gave to a local candidate a News
Week article detailing bad effects
of power pylons and high voltage
transmission lines. I asked him to
pass it on to some candidate in So.
Auckland which is plagued with pylons
etc. However, I do not know whether
he did so. There are no pylons in
the affluent suburbs of Auckland.
Please post to me by surface mail
any bulletins which could aid prot-
ests here. Good luck and thank you.

Auckland, New Zealand

* * * * *

"DEAR IRA"

Dear Ira,

Is it true that Friday morning
you got a call that said "A tower
went down" and you thought they said
"Stop running around" so you stayed
in your office all morning in total
confusion?

A Secret Admirer

Dear S.A.,

I don't know...I'll go check.

("Oh, come on now you guys, I got
it straight when the BCA showed up!")

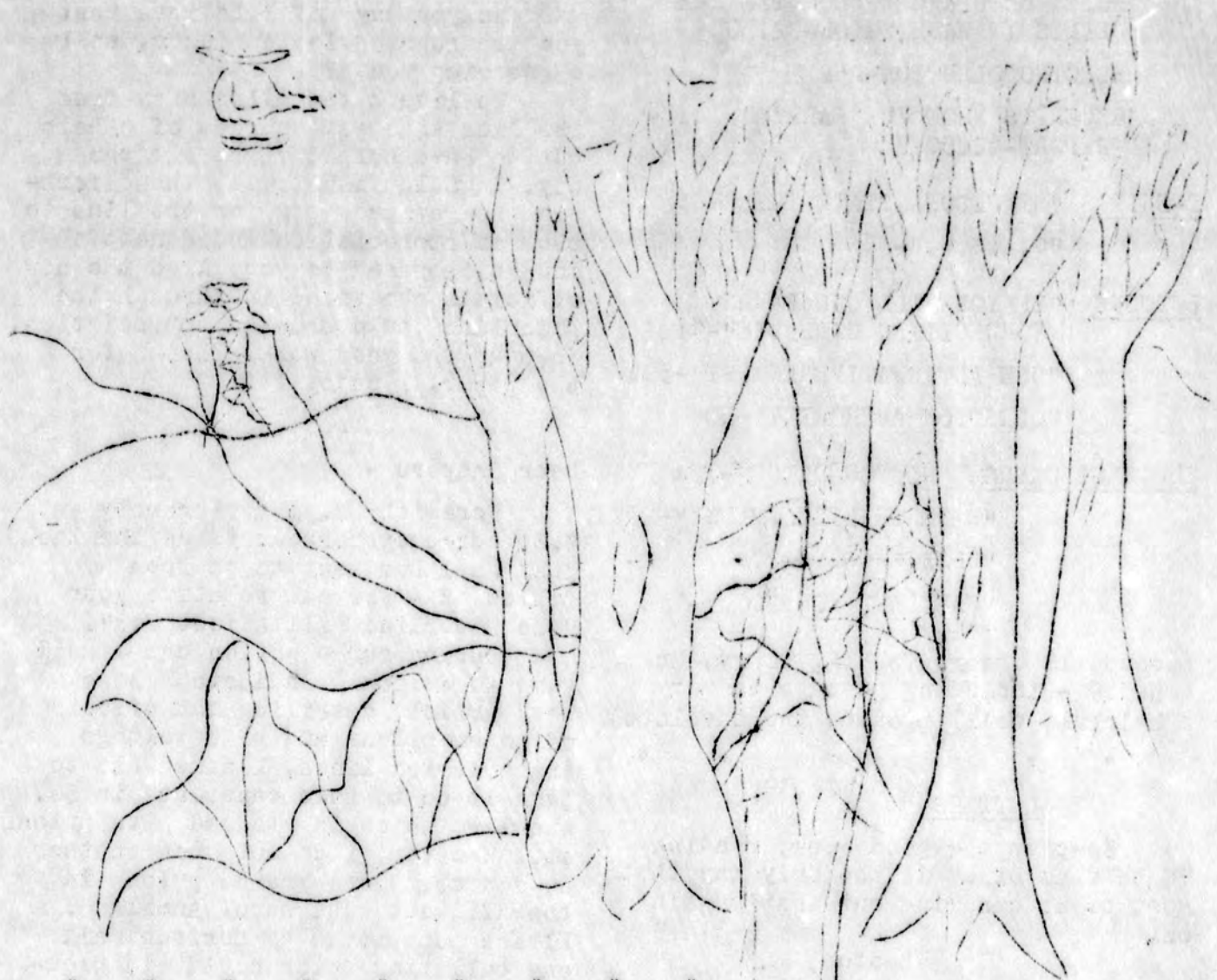
Dear Ira,

Is civilization really running amuck?

Spring Fever

Dear Spring Fever,

I don't know...I'll go check.



* * * * *

Because of the Black Hills Alliance
* Conference in South Dakota. Hold *
* That Line will be skipping a week *
* the week of the 26th-1st. This way *
we can free more people up to go
to the conference. Look for your
next Hold That Line April 2-8!!!!!!

* * * * *

Beware The Ides of March!

An interesting thing happened on the way to the public forum. On the evening of the Ides of March over 150 protesters from up and down the line got to watch great gobs of good faith oozing from the pockets of Albert's errant boy, a Mr. Robbie Stevenson. Also present was Representative Fjoslien, who is in a difficult position and being very helpful in maintaining useful communications. Three people from the Office of Consumer Services were there too. The people from Consumer Services said they'd send some information on just what services they have to offer, and we'll pass it along when we get it.

Robbie was very sweet. If Ronnie Brooks would have been like that, Rudy would have taken her along with him to Yugoslavia. Robbie even said he wanted to start a "relationship", and he wasn't there to bargain, either. "Nobody's at fault," he said. "Lots of people are at fault in small ways," he said. "Just like in Pogo down in the swamp, 'the enemy is us!'" he said. Folks could not quite figure out if he was just speaking for himself or for Albert too.

After Robbie made his pitch, and after Consumer Services said they really wanted to be helpful but didn't know if there was anything they could do or how to do it, a very good thing happened. Two area farmers talked with us about these secret meetings we've been hearing about for the past couple months. They had attended several CPA board meetings previously, and when they suggested meetings in West Central Minnesota, good old Charlie (CPA prez.) thought it was a trap. The big wigs must be paranoid. Anyway, at the board meetings and the secret meetings both, it seems that a good share of the time was spent reading the directors the riot act. The directors heard for the 490th time (7 X 70) that the first thing they have to do to reestablish a bit of credibility is get rid of most of the present management. That might be very helpful in so far as it could be a prelude to getting rid of the powerline. It is really good that this report came back to G.A.S.P. Solidarity makes us strong.

* * * * *

* Including the newsletter, and not counting law-	*
* yers fees, this powerline protest movement costs	*
* almost \$1500 a month. Our bank account is get-	*
* ting low, we have legal expenses coming up, and	*
* it's kinda hard to tell what else might happen	*
* out here. We are going to beat this powerline,	*
* but we do need money. Please help us out. Make	*
* checks payable either to G.A.S.P. or Hold That	*
* Line, Lowry MN 56349. Thank you.	*
* * * * *	*

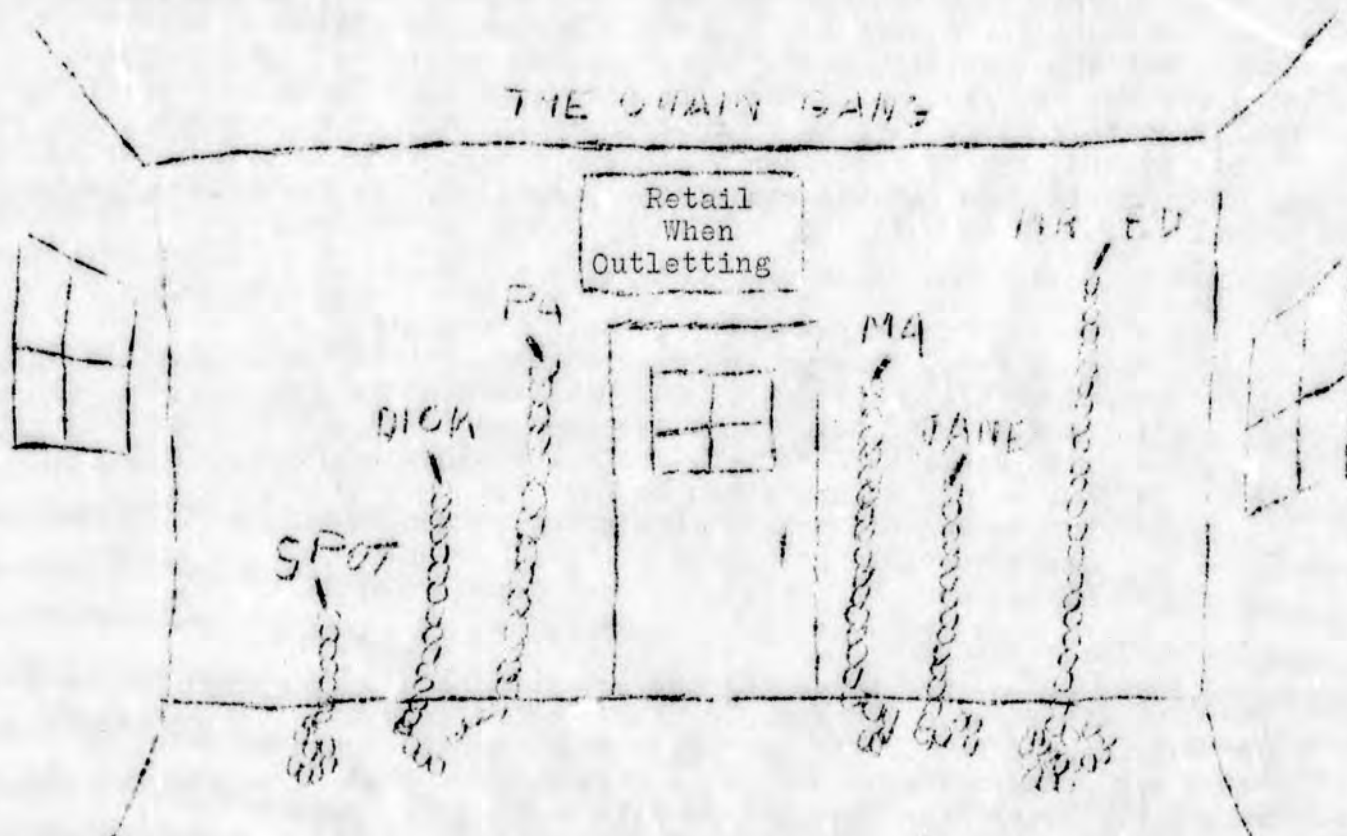
After that, Robbie was asked why the governor hasn't responded to our proposal for a public forum. There was a "hem" and a "haw" and then the flood gates opened. Many times in the past five years protesters have eloquently presented their case to anyone who would listen. But that night has got to take the prize. Everything that people said was said so good that night! Robbie got his mind blown on every issue from health and safety, cost and need to civil rights and centralized energy systems. There was more information in that room about what is going on, Robbie concluded, than there was anyplace else in the country. Protesters politely agreed, told him the line has to come down, and asked him why the governor hadn't responded to our January proposal for a public forum. Robbie said that he had to take more heat when he met with the utilities than he was taking from protesters, and besides, the only reason Albert left a secure seat in Washington was that he was very disturbed about the fact that all the power seems to be getting out of local control and into the hands of a few big shots. Protesters thought that was nice, told him the line will come down, asked him why Albert hadn't responded to the proposal for

a public forum, and what's going on between Albert and Bob Bergland, anyway?

2

Robbie said he didn't know about the Bergland part, and that sometimes the protest newsletter hurts his feelings, but protesters really shouldn't want to have a public forum anyway. It's much more important to get to the few people who make the decisions, he said. Protesters politely but firmly disagreed, stating that it's not a matter of enlightening big wigs about anything. They know exactly what they're trying to do. It's a matter of stopping them from doing it. Robbie's head started to spin. He was told a few more times that the line is coming down, and when his head stopped spinning he said very quietly that the governors office would contact a spokesperson to get some sort of meeting together. Protesters said no. Instead, you will contact G.A.S.P. in writing about what the Governor will do to initiate negotiations between G.A.S.P. and the utilities to set the terms of a public forum to investigate the CU Project. Poor Robbie, his head starting to spin again, finally saw the logic behind it and agreed that that might be the best thing to do. He promised that G.A.S.P. would be receiving such a message shortly. After several very moving statements and rousing comments, the meeting was adjourned. And we are on the move . . . we hope.

We also hope that Robbie doesn't lose his job for the promise that he made. In Underwood N.D. on Friday morning you could almost hear his boss exclaiming, "You did what!??", and "Oh my goodness gracious me!!!" Nobody's heard from UPA/CPA about it yet. Either they got in a huff again and aren't talking, or else they're in a state of shock. We will keep you posted!



* * * * *

Rumor control has learned that once CPA started thinking of itself as a seller of bulk power, the management and directors began to think of themselves as little tin gods who needed a castle in the clouds in which to live. So they spent \$17,000 per acre for 30 acres of land in south Edina. Then they made plans to spend \$5.00 per month for every CPA member for the next 30 years to get the thing off the ground. That amounts to a whopping \$230,400,000.00 over the 30 year period. It is unclear if CPA was also able to get the plumbing included for that price. What next?

What follows is a little more thorough discussion of the infamous "Barry Report", commissioned by CPA. In a couple of weeks we will have copies of selected pages for those who request them.

The report says that CPA had nothing to do with the site selection. That was done by some outfit called "Burns & McDonnell" with a bit of assistance from UPA. Interesting - seeing as how CPA has a 56% share of the ownership of the facilities. Burns and McDonnell, the report says, failed to define site selection criteria, and failed to use explicit weighting of site selection criteria. That leaves the final site selection open to an arbitrary decision. The choices were between the Coal Creek site and a plant near Big Lake, Minnesota. That is a bit outrageous in itself considering that studies show that they could have generated 4 to 5 times as much hydro-electricity for the same amount of money.

Looking at the plant costs, the report says that the North Dakota plant is projected to cost \$222.3 million more than a comparable plant in Minnesota. They expected to make up the difference on fuel savings by having a mine-mouth plant. They used a base price of \$0.233 per million Btu in their computations. But even at that price there would only be a savings of \$40 million over the life of the North Dakota plant as compared with the Minnesota site.

The Minnesota site would have used Wyoming or Montana coal which has about 9,000 Btu/lb as opposed to about 6,500 Btu/lb for the North Dakota lignite. The cost of that coal shipped to the Minnesota site was calculated to be \$0.431/Million Btu. On spot market checks for that high quality coal, the current price would be about \$1.00/MBtu for coal delivered to the Minnesota site. Yet UPA/CPA expect to pay between \$1.16 and \$1.33/MBtu for this North Dakota lignite. That is an industry high, and that price goes up a whole lot more if one considers the cost of this powerline. One should consider the powerline cost because it must be compared to the cost of delivering coal to the Minnesota site.

Beyond that, the report says that the cost of production for coal from the Falkirk mine is not worked out. So UPA/CPA don't know what the coal will cost them. While the initial negotiated standard selling price of the coal was \$3.42/ton (including \$.55/ton Falkirk profit), the current estimates range from \$14 to \$16 per ton. Falkirk is also scheduled for a fee of 3.5% of the cost of production for managing the mine. So if Falkirk produces 5 million tons of coal in a year at \$15 a ton, they get \$2,625,000 in management fees. But if they say it costs them \$20 a ton to produce 5 million tons, they get \$3.5 million. Maybe that's why we have inflation. To add insult to injury, there are no premium/penalty adjustments in the coal sales agreement. Falkirk gets its bucks no matter what kind of garbage they throw out of the ground, and whether or not they get enough garbage where it's supposed to be at the right time. Instead of protecting themselves with a rational coal sales agreement, UPA/CPA have relied heavily upon Falkirk's management expertise and integrity of operation. No kidding.

Damaging as the report is to the utilities, non-the-less it appears to be a bit skewed in their favor. The report computes the cost per kilowatt to be about \$650.00 for the project, compared with an industry average of around \$450.00/Kw for fossil fuel generation of electricity in the year 1980. Yet if one divides the cost of the project (\$1.246 billion) by the number of kilowatts (900,000), one gets \$1,348 per kilowatt. This figure, of course, is ignoring line losses, interest payments, and it assumes the thing will be run at close to full capacity all the time. Oh my goodness!

The report goes on to talk about public relations:

The public relations strategy has been changed for the Delano-Mankato transmission line. Information sessions are being held locally to discuss the impact of the line with those landowners who may be affected. The response from these landowners, as well as the absence

of a strong protest movement against the line indicates that this strategy is worth while.

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That's what the report says. The question that pops immediately to mind of course, is what makes them think there won't be a very strong protest movement along the Mankato line if the utilities ever manage to get their act together enough to start building the darned thing? Anyway, the report also says that CPA needs to do a substantial PR campaign to get everyone to fall for the rate increases which are coming. The report applauds the UPA/CPA trip to California a year ago because that trip quelled everybody's health and safety fears and showed the people that UPA/CPA are responsive to their concerns...so responsive that they're getting ready for a 3rd unit at the Coal Creek site.

The report leaves a bit to be desired. But it ain't bad considering that it comes from the utilities. The report recommends that CPA re-negotiate a couple contracts, re-estimate a few costs, develop some contingency plans for fuel supply in case Falkirk decides to take the money and run, and hire a few specialists. We have an additional recommendation or two. After examining all the evidence, and looking at all the sordid facts and most of the other ones, we have finally and painfully come to the conclusion that the only thing to do is wrap the blasted thing up and send it to Tuktoyaktuk.

* * * * *

It seems that all the reward money the utilities have been offering hasn't gotten them very far, so now they're trying something new. In fine print at the bottom of some of the easement papers which just came out is a little section which offers landowners money for any information which may be used against their neighbors. Too bad for them that Judas died a few years ago.

While we're at it, someone ought to put a tail on the big new Winnebago that has tax-exempt plates and three antennas sticking out.

* * * * *

Dear Ira,

What do you think is the best way to take care of these new fangled insulators that they are starting to put up?

Foggy Nite

Dear Foggy,

I don't know, I'll go check . . . (maybe you should try putting them to bed and giving them lots of liquids.)

Dear Ira,

Are those new insulators they got out there what you call a technological breakthrough?

The March Hare

Dear March,

I don't know, I'll go check (hey Mr. Walter, sir, . . . a breakthrough, now, um that's illegal, isn't it?)

Dear Ira,

When we get the public forum going, can we call on you to testify about civil rights, common decency, and so forth?

Remembering

Dear Remembering,

I don't know, I'll go check . . . (don't you think Judge Roberts would be a little better for that?)

Dear Ira,

Robbie Stevenson from the governor's office said that the utilities gave him more heat than protesters did. Do the utilities give you more heat than protesters do, too?

Protester

Dear Protester,

I don't know, I'll go check . . . (gee, you mean they're giving it away now? I always had to pay the bill for it before!)

NEWS FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE

The American Nuclear Corporation said it had had preliminary talks with the Standard Oil Company of California concerning the possible acquisition by Standard Oil of American Nuclear, which is engaged in uranium exploration and production.

American Nuclear said it could not expect an offer to be made for several months until Standard Oil had evaluated the properties in which American Nuclear has an interest. American Nuclear stressed there was not any assurance that Standard Oil would make an offer or that such an offer would be accepted by American Nuclear's board.

If the possible offer were made based on American Nuclear's closing price of 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ in the over-the-counter market yesterday and its 3 million outstanding shares, the offer would involve more than \$39 million.

-----New York Times, Dec. 6, 1978

The US Supreme Court refused yesterday to review a lower court ruling that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has the right to reroute transmission lines already approved by state regulatory agencies. The decision supports the NRC's rerouting of transmission lines proposed for the Seabrook, N.H., nuclear power plant, a change the NRC proposed to protect the environment.

The Public Service Co. of New Hampshire, which owns 50% of the plant now under construction, had appealed the appellate court ruling, maintaining it would bring about a "sweeping change" in federal-state relations. The proposed route change for 2 of the 86 miles of Seabrook transmission lines would only cost \$500,000. However, company officials said they challenged the ruling as a matter of principle.

Decisions that can have disastrous effects on local landowners are now to be made by a federal agency in Washington, D.C., rather than by - and indeed contrary to those of - locally elected or appointed officials, Public Service attorneys argued in a brief to the US Court of Appeals earlier this year. While Public Service acknowledges that the \$500,000 cost of rerouting is miniscule compared with the \$2.3 billion cost of the plant, it has maintained that the case has significant national implications.-----Boston Globe, Dec. 12, 1978

41 Catholic Bishops from the Midwest are considering adopting a policy statement on the ownership and use of land in the American "Heartland" and will be hosting a number of public hearings over the next few months to receive public testimony on a draft statement. Titled Strangers and Guests: Toward Community in the Heartland, the draft document is a strongly worded critique of present values and trends in the land issue. It reaffirms longstanding Church doctrine favoring private ownership of land and the right to enterprise, but reminds that Church doctrine as sharply supports the public interest in the widespread ownership of property and the proper use of land resources. The rights to property and enterprise "must not be used as shields to protect the sins of avarice and greed," the draft statement says. Copies of the statement and information about the hearings to be held in your area can be obtained from the Catholic Church Diocesan Office.-----Center for Rural Affairs, March 1979

Upcoming Bills

- HF 565 _____ Voss (DFL) Relating to public utilities; placing certain cooperative electric associations under the jurisdiction of the public service commission for rate making purposes.
- HF 649 _____ Kahn (DFL) Relating to nuclear energy; providing for the storage and disposal of certain radioactive wastes; requiring licensure of radioactive waste management facilities in Minnesota.
- HF 650 _____ Kahn (DFL) Relating to large energy facilities; establishing certain conditions for the issuance of certificates of need.

AVAILABLE LIT AND OTHER STUFF

LIT THE POWERLINE WILL AFFECT YOU-25¢
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ELECTRO POLLUTION-25¢

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"G.A.S.P."-\$5

BUTTONS "IF YOU KILL OUR FARMS YOUR
CITIES WILL DIE"-\$1
"USE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY"-50¢
"QUESTION AUTHORITY"-50¢

BUMPERSTICKERS "NO POWERLINE"-75¢
"DECENTRALIZE ENERGY"-75¢
"UNSAFE/UGLY"-75¢
"FARMLAND FOR FOOD"-75¢

(send all orders to HTL, Lowry, Mn
56349 - including postage is help-
ful, we'll provide the envelope.)

* * * * *

LETTERS

Hold That Line,

Keep up the good work in your
area! We like to receive your paper.

The line is sure disgusting - a
disgrace for farmers. Also the line
going from Delano to Mankato comes
only 100 feet away from our house!
Were to the capitol to see the govern-
or but seems it all don't help.

Like to get your magazine Hold
That Line. Enjoy reading it. Sending
a check along.

Cologne, Mn

Enclosed is 10 dollars to use to
keep up the good work.

Parkers Prairie, Mn

Dear Sirs,

Just a small contribution to
help with expenses. Have enjoyed
your letter and keeping us informed
keep up the good work.

Glenwood, Mn

Dear Hold That Line,

I'm sending you my Easter outfit
money as I don't need it because I am
now wearing a grin so big that no
one would notice me if I just had on
my Jay Bird outfit. I loved that
statement from the power co. saying
"we won't grant any more interviews".
Anyway, next sitting Bob Sheldon
comes on t.v. and says "we did the
right thing by putting up the power-
line". It took them a while to come
up with that cute statement. If you
have a meeting with Bergland, please
call me collect. I love to watch him
scream at farmers. Oh! Don't forget
to invite the Farmer Protesters that
were in Washington, as long as they
couldn't see him there because he
hid for 3 weeks. Good luck in every-
thing and God Bless.

Elbow Lake, Mn

* * * * *

DON'T FORGET THE RUNESTONE
ANNUAL MEETING IS COMING UP ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 24th AT THE
CENTRAL JR. HIGH SCHOOL IN ALEX.
THE EXCITEMENT WILL COMMENCE AT
10:00am SHARP. TO FIND OUT WHAT
THAT MEANS...BE THERE! SPECTATORS
ARE ALSO WELCOME!!!!!!

* * * * *

ON EFFECTS OF EXTREMELY HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION

by Louise E. Young

RECEIVED

JAN 24 1977

Executive Officer
Min. Dept. of Health

In response to the request of the Environmental Protection Agency for information on environmental effects of extremely high voltage transmission lines (as published in the Federal Register, March 18, 1975), I am forwarding a copy of my book Power Over People which deals with the subject and a copy of an article from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists of which I was co-author. Since the publication of this book and article I have been engaged in further research into the electrochemical and electric field effects produced by 765 kv lines. This research is not complete but some of the results obtained to date appear to be significant and I summarize them below.

Electric Field Gradient Measurements

It is only very recently with the advent of extremely high voltage transmission lines that the measurement of electrostatic fields has become an important issue and some confusion still exists because of the different measuring techniques that have been employed by scientists here and abroad. It is important to recognize that the measurement of a truly unperturbed field is impossible because the presence of any measuring device and the observer perturb the field. The size and position of the meter and the observer are very important factors in determining the degree to which the field is perturbed. When the measurement is made at a height above ground the degree of perturbation caused by the meter and the observer is greater than it is at ground level.

Up until just a year or so ago the electrical engineers in the United States reported the electric field gradients under transmission lines at ground level. In this case the instrument in contact with the ground does not appreciably distort the field. However it was found that the results did not always correspond with theoretical ground level gradients because the presence of vegetation and irregularities in the ground surface caused significant variations in the electric field intensity.

More recently measurements in the United States have been made at about one meter above ground with an instrument held on a hot-stick or similar

long insulating handle. Measurements made in this way agree very well with theoretical calculations of the unperturbed field. It must be remembered, however, that these unperturbed values are useful only for evaluating one transmission line with another. From a biological standpoint, it is important to consider the fields that actually impinge on the body of a person exposed to the electric field. For example, the intensity of the the field impinging on the top of a man's head may be as much as fifteen times as strong as the unperturbed field at that position.¹ The taller the person (or other perturbing object) the greater the field intensity at head height. In order to evaluate the biological significance of electrostatic fields we must consider the effect on people exposed to these fields.

The most extensive studies of health effects from exposure to alternating electrostatic fields of powerline frequency have been conducted in Russia. The results of these studies were first reported at an international symposium in Paris in 1972.² Four other reports on this work have subsequently become available in translation.^{3,4,5,6} The Russian scientists concluded that long-term exposure to fields that exist under their 500 kv and 750 kv lines do cause significant and important biological effects. As a result of these studies they set up safety regulations designed to protect their workers from the influence of these fields.

Safety Regulations - U.S.S.R.

Nos.	Electric field Intensity kV/m	Permissible duration of personnel stay in electric field during 24 hours min	Notes
1.	5	unlimited	Points 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the regulations are valid if 1) all the remaining time a man is in areas where electric field intensity is less than or equal to 5 kV/m 2) a possibility of electrical discharge influence is eliminated
2.	10	180	
3.	15	20	
4.	20	10	
5.	25	5	

In trying to interpret the significance of the Russian results in relation to our own lines, a number of difficulties have been encountered. The principal one is that there appears to be an important difference between the electric field gradient levels measured under their lines and those reported by our