

Cole tells HUFFI

Homeowners victims of a federal plot

By ROD JERRED
Special to The Champion

Homeowners suffering financial and medical problems from urea formaldehyde foam insulation (UFFI) are victims of a conspiracy by the federal government, Halton's medical officer of health told an angry group of 90 UFFI homeowners Wednesday night.

"It's very clear to me that the federal government did not take the earliest warnings from the National Research Council about UFFI or those from other countries, particularly the United States," said Dr. Peter Cole.

Speaking at the Oakville chapter of HUFFI (Homeowners With Urea Formaldehyde Foam Insulation) charter meeting Dr. Cole said, "The more I've heard about the problem, the more it becomes apparent to me that no one ever had a handle on it, no one ever did and no one ever will."

"The big issue here goes well beyond UFFI," said Dr. Cole. "It just demonstrates the government's lack of concern with our health."

"I'm extremely upset about the situation," said Dr. Cole. "The more I hear personal anecdotes about problems with UFFI the more I realize what kind of conspiracy you're being subjected to."

After the meeting, Dr. Cole said the federal

government not only ignored warnings against UFFI from the National Research Council, but looked the other way when it didn't even pass the manufacturer's own performance tests.

By dangling "carrots", in the form of \$500 grants to homeowners for the installation of UFFI, the government should be held responsible, said Dr. Cole.

During the meeting, Dr. Cole urged homeowners suffering medical problems linked to the breakdown of urea formaldehyde foam insulation to take immediate corrective measures. He recommended installing a positive pressure fan for about \$200 which would force the urea formaldehyde gas back into the cracks in the walls.

"This is not a long term solution, but it will get rid of the toxic gases for the time being," he said. "The final solution is to get the stuff out of the walls."

Dr. Cole said homeowners can conduct a simple test to determine if their health problems are attributable to urea formaldehyde foam insulation. All they have to do is get away from the house for a few days and see if the problems clear up, he said. If the health problems disappear, they should assume the insulation is the cause, even if measured gas levels are below the federal government's safe level of 0.1 parts per million, he said.

"Don't let anyone tell you different," said Dr.

Cole. "All they are trying to do is underestimate the conspiracy."

Dr. Cole agreed with UFFI's weekly mailing campaign to federal members of parliament.

"The more of a nuisance you cause the more impressed they will be with your plight," he said.

At the charter meeting, new members were urged to write or phone their MP once a week and express their financial, emotional and medical concerns.

"With the stakes at hand, it's not much for every voter in the family to once a week call or mail a letter to their MP," said Bob Ord, vice-president of HUFFI Ontario.

Because some MP's have accused HUFFI members of going after a fast buck, Mr. Ord urged members to stress that all they expect is nothing less than full compensation for foam removal and restoration of their homes.

Mr. Ord said the December announcement of federal grants of \$5,000 for UFFI homeowners who qualify for assistance was intended to appease HUFFI and make the public believe the government was doing something. He estimated the average cost for removal would be \$20,000.

The conspiracy has now extended to a cover-up, said Mr. Ord.

"We're up against the best marketing people in the country," he added.

At the meeting, homeowners learned all their health problems may not be attributed solely to the urea formaldehyde in the foam.

Retired chemist Harold Stevens of Port Hope identified at least six other toxic gases in the foam insulation.

Dr. Cole said this might explain why some people with high readings of urea formaldehyde gas in their homes are not suffering any side effects, while others with low readings are quite ill.

Besides medical problems, UFFI homeowners are suffering financially. It is nearly impossible to sell a UFFI home and some real estate agents now ask whether the home has UFFI or ever had UFFI, said Mr. Ord.

Mr. Ord said one bank refused to grant him a mor-

tgage when he attempted to switch his mortgage from another bank.

He urged UFFI homeowners to appeal to the provincial tax assessors to have their homes reassessed because UFFI had devalued their property. About 20 homeowners indicated they had already done that.

Mr. Ord also warned homeowners to be aware of fly-by-night artists who offer to remove UFFI from homes. "They're probably the same guy that put it in improperly in the first place," he said.

Mr. Ord said there are not any qualified UFFI removal contractors on the market, yet. There won't be until the federal government completes its training program, he said.

Laurie Bennett, who chaired the meeting, said no methods for completely removing the foam insulation have been developed for brick houses.

Region says

UFFI aid should improve

By STEVE ARNOLD
Champion News Editor

Federal plans to help homeowners deal with the problems of ureaformaldehyde foam insulation should be expanded, Halton's health and social services committee has decided.

Committee members gave their support last week to a recommendation from medical officer of health Dr. Peter Cole calling for the stronger action.

Dr. Cole explained that since a program of assistance for homeowners with the potentially hazardous insulation was announced by the federal government, a free testing service offered by the Province has been suspended.

Tests for potential hazards carried out by federal employees cost \$100 each, he added.

"I'm seriously considering starting up our testing program again," he told committee members. "If I can get some feeling that our tests would be accepted by the federal government."

Concern over the possible health effects of the foam have been growing in recent months, especially since the federal government provided subsidies to homeowners who installed the material.

Federal authorities later banned the insulation because of its detrimental health effects.

Dr. Cole explained that before the Provincial Government started to provide tests for hazardous levels of the material in homes, the Regional health department had offered a test that was only a gross indication of problems.

Chamber honors its top individuals

Continued from page one

"Miltowne Realty did not earn its success on its own—it has an excellent staff," Mr. Thomas said. "Through my business, I want to achieve the goal of making Milton a better place to live."

Mr. Chudleigh, who received a tribute from local businessman and former councillor Art Melanson, said owning a business "has to be fun—if you're just in it for the money—forget it."

He stressed the success of Chudleigh's is due to "a gifted group of employees—it's a team effort."

Roy Downs, who paid tribute to Steam-Era organizers the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association, said the association "put Milton on the map."

Association president Ross Calder, on hand to accept the honor on behalf of the association, said the function "just wouldn't be the same if it weren't held in Milton."

"I've been to similar events all across the country and I've never seen or heard of the co-operation and participation that exists between the organizers and the town of Milton," Mr. Calder said.

According to government standards, .1 parts per million of UFFI gas is the acceptable level in homes. Federal tests can measure .05 PPM while the Halton test is only good to .5 PPM.

In a report to committee members, Dr. Cole said the federal program recently announced provides a subsidy of up to \$8,000 for homeowners who want to remove UFFI insulation, an amount that is "well below" the actual cost.

He also noted that the time limit of two years on the federal program is inadequate because problems only develop as the foam insulation dries and cracks, thus releasing the gas which may have harmful health effects.

Burlington Coun. Vern Connell argued the Region shouldn't be getting involved in the insulation debate "because it's none of our business."

"This whole thing has been blown way out of proportion by the press anyway," he said.

Dr. Cole argued that the insulation does have health effects and protecting the health of the community is clearly a Regional responsibility.

"It has always been within the local jurisdiction to deal with the health of the community," he said.

"It is only in the federal jurisdiction because they provided a subsidy. Other than that it is still a local problem and is no less important than communicable diseases."

**HEAT PUMPS
AIR CONDITIONERS
FURNACES**

QUALITY SALES and SERVICE

Since 1967
WE SELL


Carrier

**WE SERVICE ALL MAKES
CALL 844-2940 AND SAVE**

Service contracts available for all makes

24-Hr. Emergency No Heat Service

A-1 AIR CONDITIONING
DIV. MESSENGER MECHANICAL INC.



We at H & R Block are pleased to remind you that we are ready to prepare your 1981 income tax return—now. We suggest you collect all your information slips and receipts and call or drop in to talk to one of our specially trained tax preparers soon. Think ahead, and leave last year's tax problems to us.

THE INCOME TAX SPECIALISTS
H&R BLOCK

Child tax credit only?
Ask about the special price.

133 MAIN ST. — 876-1007

JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE!

Ladies' Gino Verdi Designer Jeans	\$16⁹⁹
G.W.G. Ladies' Cords	\$10⁰⁰
Sasson Clean Front Ladies' Jeans	\$10⁰⁰
G.V.V.G. Femme Fit Jeans	\$11⁹⁹
Sasson Denim Skirts	\$10⁰⁰
Men's Flannel Shirts	\$5⁰⁰
Doeskin Shirts	\$8⁷⁵
Lee Painter Pants	\$12⁵⁰
G.W.G. Natural Ladies' Jeans	\$8⁹⁹

All Kodiak Boots
NOW \$10⁰⁰ OFF

Long Sleeve Ladies' Tops
1/2 PRICE

**WILLY'S
WORK WEAR
& FASHION INC.**
500 LAURIER CENTRE
876-1345

Canada's Largest Leather Goods Store

**the olde
Hide House**
ACTON ONTARIO

49 Eastern Ave., Acton
(519) 853-1031
In the centre of Town by the CNR Crossing

STRETCH YOUR DOLLAR!!!

**FABULOUS
FEBRUARY
FEATURES**

Solid Oak Canadiana Furniture including

★ Cannonball Beds at **\$595**

★ Table and Chair Sets ★ Leather Furniture

at prices a full **40%** Below Competitors up to **50%** Below Most Competitors

**up to 50% off on
Both WINTER and SPRING FOOTWEAR
and ACCESSORIES**

Selected FINE FUR JACKETS and COATS at up to
40% off Toronto prices.

• ALSO •
our **LEATHER SUEDE and SHEEPSKIN
WINTER COATS**

are reduced **35% to 60%** from the manufacturers suggested retail

It's worth the drive to Acton!

CHRISTIAN MOVIES

Now showing every Saturday evening in North Oakville at 7 p.m. Movies are being shown in the Falgarwood School, (corner of Gainsborough and Grosvenor). Free admission, free will offerings.

Sponsored by Sheridan Hills Missionary Church. 844-4645.

**Sat. Feb. 6th., 7 p.m.
My Son, My Son**

The soulstirring true story of a wayward son and a father and mother who relate their problem to the promises of God. A film for all members of the family based on the book by Bernard Palmer.

Up to
**\$1100
REBATE**
with a Carrier Heat Pump



A Carrier Heat Pump is the most effective way to save energy and reduce fuel costs!

\$800 Government Grant Now is the time to convert your home from oil to gas or electricity. Or, add an energy-saving Heat Pump to your forced air furnace.

\$300 Carrier Rebate Install a Carrier Total Comfort System—includes Heat Pump, Electronic Air Cleaner and Humidifier.

NOTE: Unit must be paid for upon installation which must be made within 60 days of purchase agreement!

Carrier
No. 1 air force in the world.

or Central Cooling, Gas or Electric Furnace, Electronic Air Cleaner and Humidifier

NAYLOR
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING LTD.
845-2202

Hurry! Offer effective Feb. 1st. - March 31st, 1982

Gibson

COLD CASH SALE

SELF CLEAN RANGES

Model CS-332

\$499.

LIQUIDATION FEATURE



**5 Piece
KITCHEN
SUITE**

Regular \$429. Now **\$299.**

While They Last!!

**ALL FURNITURE MUST BE SOLD
TO MAKE ROOM FOR
RENOVATIONS AND
CATALOGUE SHOPPING!**

Come Early For Best Selection

OVER \$250,000 WORTH OF FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES SLASHED

• Store Hours •
Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-6 • Thurs., Fri. 10-9

**HALTON HILLS
FURNITURE and APPLIANCES**

352 Queen St. E. • (Hwy. No. 7) • Acton • 853-0211