Sleepy Hollow has a legend

Bill Hamilton, prominent Canadian pro golfter, and one of the joint owners of the Sleepy Hollow property, is shown presenting Robin Hay, executive member of the Golf & Country Club, with a special plaque made from a burned and twisted golf club recovered from the fire which destroyed the club-house last December. The presentation was made at the recent official opening of the new facilities.
Mike Gerhardt

Ottawa Report by Norm Cafik

Crisis: blessing disguised

By NORM CAFIK, M.P.

Citizens have been expressing interest in hearing my views on the energy crisis and what I think can and should be done about it.

First of all let me say that I believe that the crisis may in fact be a blessing in disguise. Some people may react badly to this suggestion but let's look at the facts and try to see the problem in its proper perspective.

The facts are that Canada's energy resources are limited. Known useable oil reserves will last 10 or 15 years at most. Developing new sources and discovering new fields is going to take 10 years at least. Thus in another decade we will be facing this situation anyway, but by then we won't have any oil to tide us over during the period when we will be changing to other forms of power.

The energy crisis may be just the thing we need to spur the country into reversing the trend from coal to oil. It will teach us to make better use of our hydro and nuclear power and not waste it in vast quantities as we do now and to look to alternatives such as solar power. Electric cars will have to be designed to slow the depletion of oil reserves.

We are also learning how important it is to be independent in our energy needs and not have to rely on vulnerable foreign sources.

However, it is not enough to just plug the dike with stopgap measures - we have to have some concrete action immediately and not in four or five years.

Firstly, it is clear that the interests of the people of Canada must take precedence over those of the international oil corporations or individual provinces. Because this is a national problem and not a local one, the Federal Government, and not the oil companies or the provinces, must be the controlling agent. We, as the federal government, are the only ones equipped to handle it properly.

Secondly, I propose the establishment of a National Energy Marketing Board which will buy and sell energy in Canada in much the same manner that wheat is controlled by the Wheat Marketing Board. This, if properly managed, could equalize prices across the country, so that energy poor areas will not suffer unreasonably and the resources will benefit all Canadians equally.

Thirdly, I propose the establishment of a National Energy Development Corp. Exploration and development of oil and natural gas is phenomenally expensive. Just to get adequate supplied of oil from the Alberta Tar Sands will cost billions of dollars. Where do we get it?

As you know, the government has imposed an export tax on crude oil shipments. This was done to equalize the price of Canadian oil with that of the more expensive foreign oil and to allow the benefits of the equalization to be used for the Canadian public, as opposed to providing windfall profits for the multi-national oil corporations.

A National Energy Development Corporation would take the monies generated by such a tax and use it for the exploration of new energy sources. This can be done directly or in conjunction with the oil companies but these profits must be used for exploration and not to fatten corporate pocketbooks.

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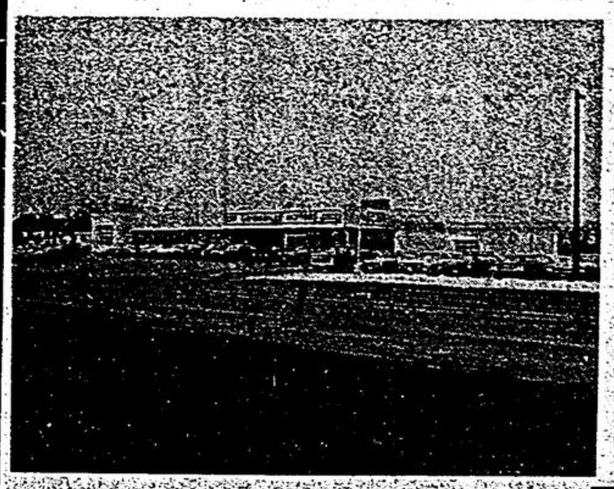

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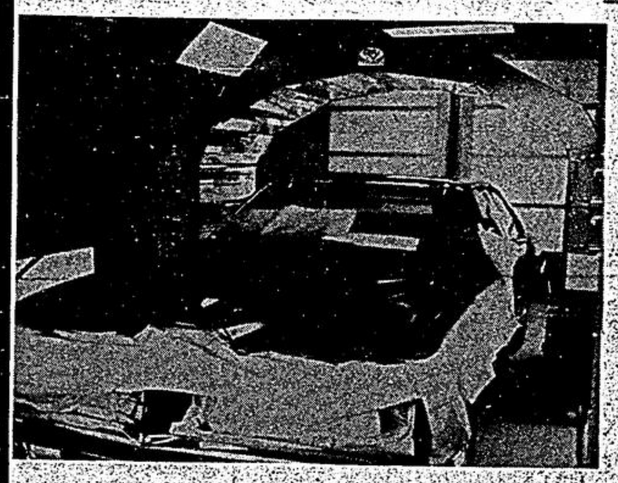

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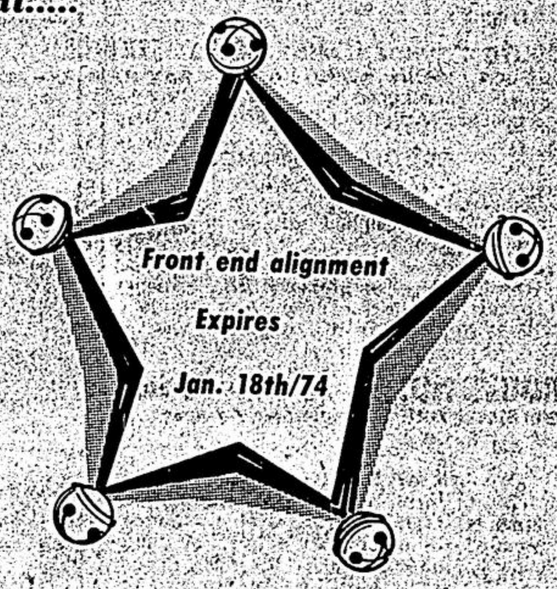

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