

Government sponsors energy conservation projects

Federal Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie has announced that the Office of Energy Conservation of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources will employ 1,033 students on 67 projects this summer under the Department of Manpower and Immigration Summer Job Corps Program.

The energy conservation job creation projects are possible through a federal contribution of \$2 million out of a total \$10 million earmarked for the Summer Job Corps Program. Under the program, government departments and agencies were invited to submit proposals for job creation projects that are designed to give students a meaningful and challenging work experience while contributing to Canadian life.

"Our energy conservation projects are dealing with a matter of serious national concern," Gillespie said. "Energy conservation is high on the list of government priorities, and these projects provide an opportunity to increase public awareness on these matters and to involve Canadians in energy conservation solutions." The 67 energy projects will operate in each of

the provinces and territories.

1. ENERSAVE FOR HOME INSULATION: The largest of the conservation programs, it will employ a total of 594 students. This project is designed to help homeowners in 37 locations across Canada, save money and conserve energy. The homeowner, assisted by a project number, will be asked to provide specific and accurate information regarding the home's heating and insulation characteristics.

The homeowner will then receive a computerized analysis identifying specific re-insulation; the anticipated fuel and dollar savings; and the payback period.

2. FURNACE EFFICIENCY PROJECT: This program will employ 190 young people in eight locations in Canada. It has two main objectives: to increase efficiency thereby saving energy dollars; and to provide a data base for any further federal programs involved in upgrading home heating systems. A team of two project workers will visit selected homes and, through the use of combustion efficiency testing equipment, will

calculate furnace operating efficiency and collect data on furnace operation.

3. INFORMATION BANK: This project will operate in Toronto and Montreal to provide employment for 14 students of Library Sciences and Journalism. The purpose of this program is to create English and French resource centres to provide com-

prehensive information on energy conservation and all its facets for the use of editors, freelance writers, mass media journalists, researchers and students at the post-secondary level.

4. ENERGY AWARENESS FOR SMALL BUSINESS: Senior or graduate students of an engineering program will be interested in the type of employment this project offers. It will

employ 165 persons in 11 cities across the country. The program is designed to provide information to the proprietors of small business establishments and help them eliminate wasteful and inefficient use of energy.

Two-person teams trained by the Office of Energy Conservation will visit small businesses (restaurants,

dry cleaners, corner groceries etc.) in order to help the owner identify ways in which he can reduce his costs by saving energy. The establishment's insulation characteristics and heating system will also be assessed to determine methods of reducing heating bills during the winter months.

5. THEATRICAL

TROUPE FOR CHILDREN: Students of drama or young people interested in theatre will find this an attractive employment opportunity. The project will employ 70 people in 10 locations. Participants will relay the message of conservation to children in the 4-8 and 8-13 year age groups, using comic and satirical skits, puppet shows, plays and films.

Ontario's energy demands increase

Ontario's energy demands will continue to increase at the historical rate of 6 to 7 per cent yearly despite conservation measures now being implemented by the Federal and Provincial Governments.

That was the thrust of a brief presented earlier this year to the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning by the 230-member Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (EEMAC).

"The benefits of these conservation measures will become increasingly more important," the brief noted, "but those who predict substantial short-term savings from energy conservation programs are badly misguided."

EEMAC's prediction is based on the assumption

that the swing over to electricity from other energy sources (notably fossil fuels) will more than offset savings accomplished by conservation programs in this interval.

In fact the 6 to 7 per cent figure may be low. The EEMAC brief points out that "there are significant risks in this projection... with the potential to drive electric power demand growth above the 6 to 7 per cent rate. We are vulnerable on the projected timing and savings through conservation."

"The experience of our members indicates that significant conservation savings can be gained through planning and analysis, a disciplined follow-up system, and use of new

technology. General appeals to the public will not produce permanent results. And arbitrary legislation could produce more problems than solutions."

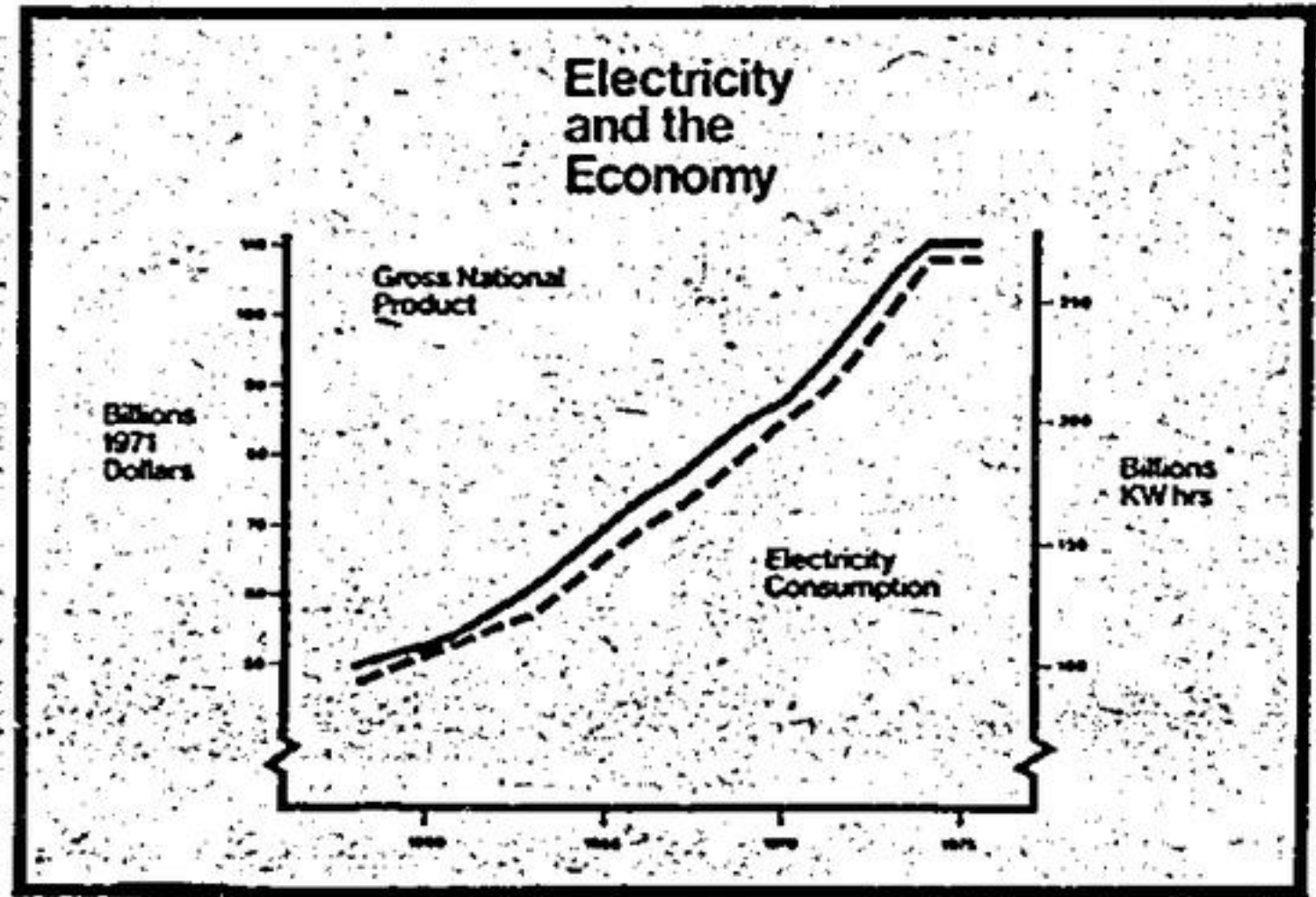
The consequences of underplanning power needs, of not having power available when it is required, are underscored in the brief. "Late decisions can take years to correct and lead to very serious economic consequences. They will create trade-offs in short-term generating capacity, and can delay bringing more efficient base load generation on line."

Most importantly, Ontario's industrial complex is exposed to the threat of unreliable electric power. EEMAC's brief warns

"The economic consequences are serious. The Ontario economy, and the Canadian economy, are based on the production and upgrading of natural resources, particularly pulp and paper, iron and steel. These processes are energy-intensive, and as a result our whole

economy is relatively energy-intensive."

The EEMAC brief stressed that the key to Ontario industry maintaining an internationally competitive position is sustained productivity improvement, and with its high labor rates industry would pay a heavy toll if deprived of reliable power.



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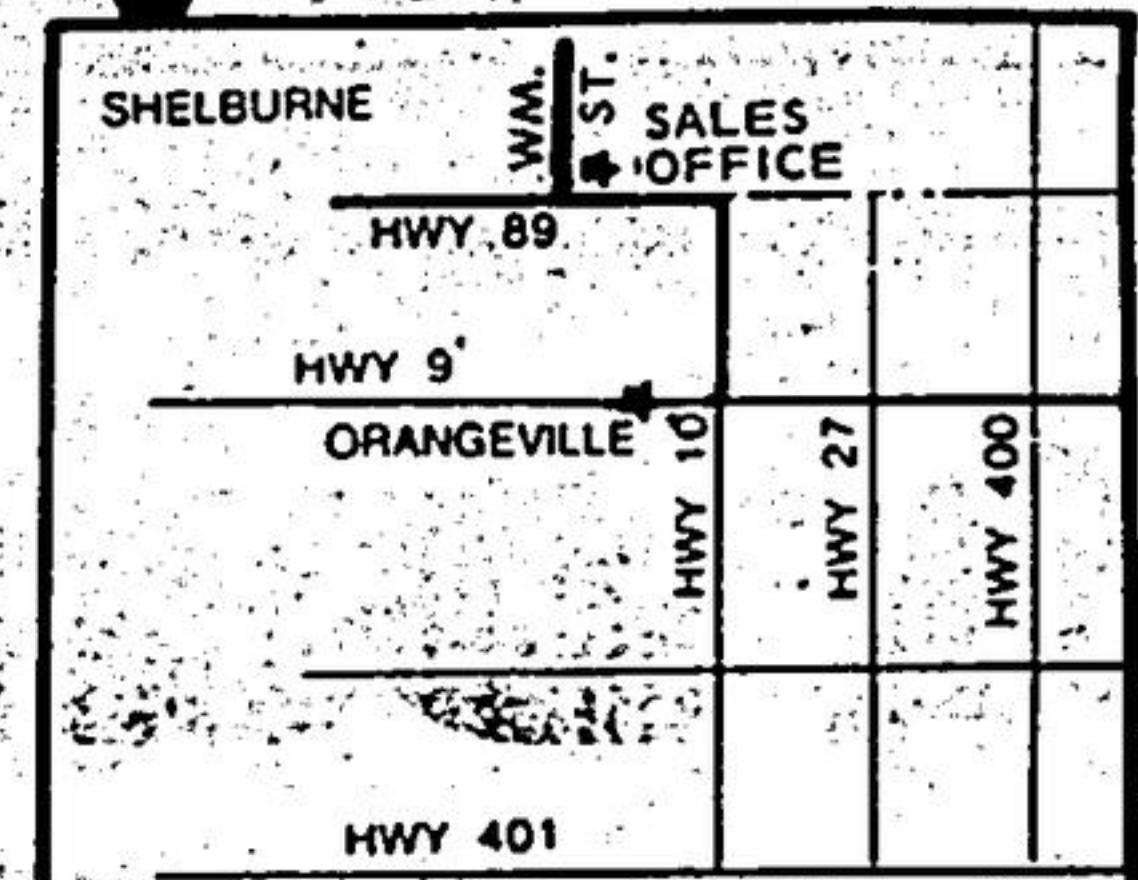
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