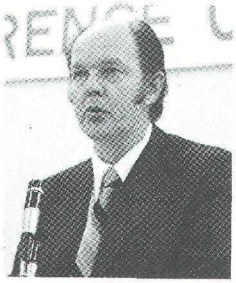
Basin Electric Report

JUNE, 1978

"Sun Day" Tours Held

See Page 3

Feragen Accepts REA Position



Feragen

Bob Feragen, general manager of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company since 1974, will leave that position on July 1 to assume the job of deputy administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in Washington, D.C.

Feragen was general manager of the Northeast Public Power Association from 1971 to 1974. Prior to that he worked for Basin Electric for eight years, first as information director and later as assistant to the general manager. He was also employed as information director for East River Electric Cooperative, Madison, SD.

Basin Electric General Manager James Grahl said, "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish Bob the very best in his new job. He has made outstanding contributions to the public power program and will continue to do so in his capacity as deputy administrator. We look forward to working with him."

A native North Dakotan, Feragen holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the State University of Iowa.

Severson Named REA Assistant

Harlan M. Severson has been named assistant to Rural Electrification Administrator David A. Hamil. He will work specifically in energy conservation and load management for REA.

Severson began his career in rural electrification as editor of the South Dakota High Liner paper and later was information director and assistant to the manager of East River Electric Power Cooperative, Madison, SD.

For the past two years Severson has been assistant to Bill Matson, general manager of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Harrisburg.

He is the author of **Stepping Forward, Boldly**, a 25 year history of East River, and **Miracle Blessing**, the story of rural electrification in Pennsylvania.

Severson also worked on the staffs of Senator James Abourezk (D-SD) and fromer Representative Frank Denholm (D-SD).

National G&T Accountants Schedule Meeting in Bismarck

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Central Power Electric Cooperative of Minot, ND, and Minnkota Power Cooperative of Grand Forks, ND, will host the 27th annual meeting of the National G&T Accountants Association Monday through Wednesday, June 19-21 at the Kirkwood Motor Inn in Bismarck.

Featured speakers include: Win Curtiss, Basin Electric Power Cooperative; LeRoy Meier, Minnkota Power Cooperative; Bernard Cooper, University of South Dakota, Vermillion; Sheldon Chazin and Lew Marsh, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C.; Lloyd Omdahl, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks; Robert Vold, Colorado-Ute Electric Association, Montrose; and Harold Shoaf, Kansas Electric Cooperative, Topeka.

Plans for the three-day meeting include an outing to Medora, ND, Tuesday, June 20.

An estimated 100 accountants representing 49 generation and transmission cooperatives from 24 states are expected to attend.

Power Plant Construction Enhances Job Opportunities

New power plants and related construction trade activities are healthy for the economy. According to a recent study released by the Departments of Energy and Labor, increased electric power plant construction will create approximately 36,000 additional jobs in 29 different construction trades by the end of 1981. Projections indicate a rising demand for pipefitters, electricians and similar skilled workers who require long periods of training.

Basin Electric presently has more than 150 permanent employees at the Leland Olds and William J. Neal Stations. About 200-300 people are expected to be employed at the Missouri Basin Power Project's Laramie River Station near Wheatland, WY, and it is anticipated that about 150-200 permanent employees will be needed to operate and maintain the Antelope Valley Station near Beulah, ND.

Cooperatives Were Formed On These Principles

1. Open Membership
2. Neutrality in Politics and Religion
3. Democratic Control (One-man, one-vote)
4. Limited Return on Share Capital
5. Net Earnings Belong to the User-Owners
6. Education of Members
7. Cooperation among Cooperatives

WESTERN FUELS THIRD ANNUAL MEETING
July 27-28, 1978
BROWN PALACE HOTEL
Denver, Colorado

Basin Electric
Report

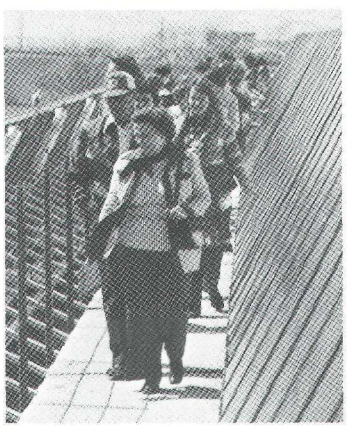
This month's cover: A view of Basin Electric's solar collector system located in Bismarck, ND.

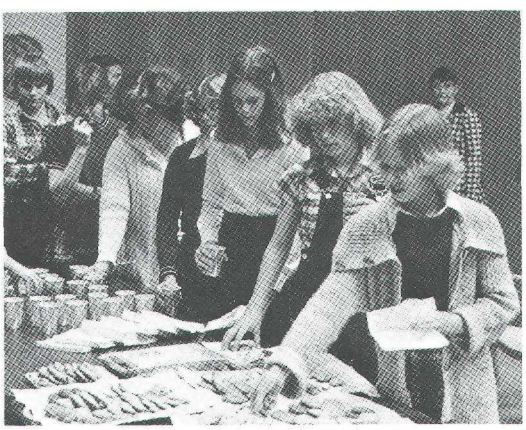
Report is published monthly by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, 1717 E. Interstate Ave., Bismarck, North Dakota 58501.

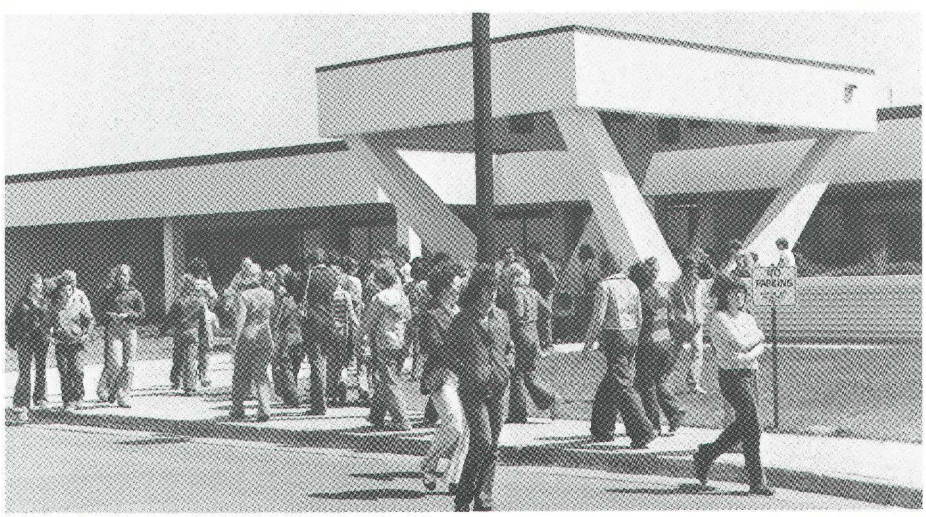
Editor . . . . . Dave Harper

Energy from the Sun

'SUN DAY' at Basin Electric







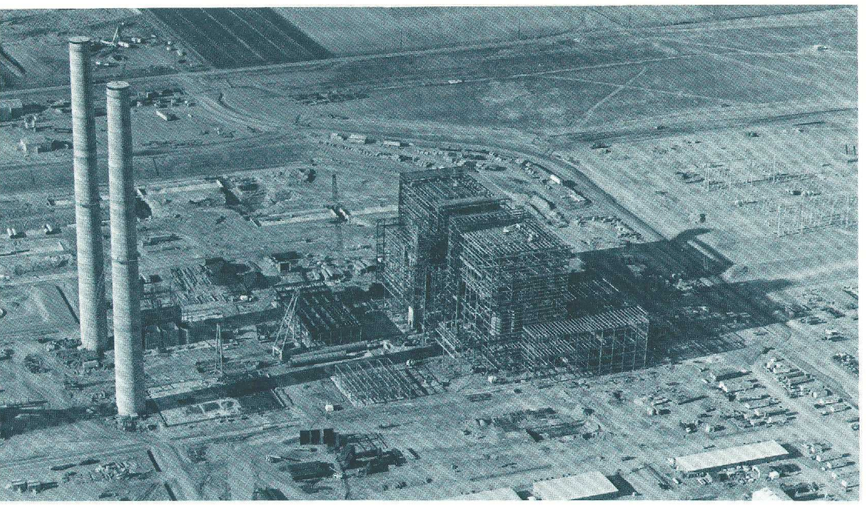
Basin Electric conducted tours of the Cooperative's recently completed supplemental solar heating system on May 3 in conjunction with "Sun Day" -- a national observance to demonstrate the potential of solar energy.

Over 1900 visitors including twelve hundred local school children toured the solar heating facilities. The half-hour programs, coordinated by the Information Services Department, included a short narration on Basin Electric's purpose and history, a slide presentation on the demonstration solar heating project, and a tour of the solar collector site.

The solar heating system for 67,000 square foot building is a joint demonstration project with the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) of the Department of Energy (DOE). The Cooperative owns and operates the supplemental heating system; the energy agency will monitor the system's performance to determine feasibility and cost-benefit ratios.

Construction on the project began in the fall of 1977 with the system beginning operation in May 1978. Full-scale monitoring of the solar heating system will start in the fall. The supplemental system will provide approximately one-third of the heating needs of the Cooperative's four-story headquarters.

Public tours of the solar heating system will be conducted Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer; however, Basin Electric's member cooperatives can arrange tours for any date by contacting the Information Services Department, 1717 East Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, telephone 701-223-0441.



The turbine-generator components for the first two units of the Laramie River Station began arriving at the MBPP plant site last month. Construction of the first two units is about 27 per cent complete.

Turbine-Generator Components For Laramie River Station Arrive In Wheatland

Construction of the Missouri Basin Power Project's Laramie River Station near Wheatland, WY, is now approximately 27 per cent complete according to Al Francis, manager of plant design and construction. Seventy-seven (77) contracts have been awarded with an escalated value of approximately $460,000,000.

Turbine-generator components for Units 1 and 2 began arriving on the site during May. Installation is scheduled to begin in early June.

Ninety-eight (98) per cent of the structural steel has been erected for Unit 1 and 89 per cent has been erected for Unit 2.

During the past month, the last concrete pour for the Unit 2 sulfur scrubber foundations was completed.

Construction of foundations and structural steel erection at the 345 KV substation continued. Foundation work in the 69 KV substation also continued. Work on the 230 KV substation is approximately 70 per cent complete.

Construction of the Stegall-Sidney (Nebraska) substations began May 1st. The Nebraska Public Service Commission has approved construction of MBPP transmission lines in that state. Field crews have nearly completed staking out the transmission towers in Nebraska and have begun staking in Wyoming. Archaeological studies for the Nebraska lines have begun and studies in Wyoming will begin when transmission tower staking is completed.

Most of the design of the Grayrocks Dam and Reservoir has been completed. Five contracts have been awarded with an escalated value of $33.5 million. Construction work at the damsite continued on a double-shift basis with excavation for the emergency spillway, morning glory spillway, access shaft, pump shaft, and north abutment. Site work for the concrete batch plant and diaphragm cut-off wall continued during the past month.

The combined construction workforce at the Laramie River Station plantsite and Grayrocks site is now approximately 1650 people.

Platte County Plans MBPP Appreciation Day

The Platte County (WY) Chamber of Commerce will host an appreciation day for the Missouri Basin Power Project (MBPP) on June 24. The event will be held at Lewis Park in Wheatland beginning at 4:00 p.m. (MDT) and is open to all members of the MBPP participants, consultants and construction workforce.

The Chamber is sponsoring the event in recognition of the social and economic benefits Platte County has received because of construction of the 1.5 million kilowatt Laramie River Station five miles northeast of Wheatland.

Construction of the plant began in July 1976. The first two 500,000 kilowatt units are 27 per cent complete. Work on the Grayrocks Dam and Reservoir began earlier this year. The first two units of the station are scheduled for commercial operation in 1980 with a third same-sized unit to enter operation in 1983.

Over 1600 construction workers are now on the MBPP job site.

Injunction to Halt Grayrocks Construction Withdrawn

Three environmental groups and the State of Nebraska last month withdrew a motion for a temporary injunction to halt construction of the Grayrocks Dam and Reservoir.

The State of Nebraska, National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society, and the Nebraska Wildlife Federation had sought the injunction as part of a suit filed April 13 against Basin Electric (as MBPP project manager) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In the suit the plaintiffs are asking the Court to reverse the action of the Corps in issuing a Section 404 Permit to MBPP.

The Federal court has set July 24 for hearing testimony on whether the Corps followed its own regulations in issuing the permit for construction of the Grayrocks Dam and Reservoir. The Permit was issued on March 23, 1978, almost 30 months after the Project applied for it. The court will issue a decision on the motion for a permanent injunction to halt construction of Grayrocks following review of the hearing testimony.

Grayrocks will supply water for steam and evaporative cooling for the 1,500 megawatt Laramie River Station under construction by MBPP near Wheatland, WY. The dam is to be completed and water impounded by late 1979. The water will be needed in time for the scheduled operation of Laramie River Station unit 1 in early 1980.

In a separate and unrelated suit filed in late 1976 against the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), the State of Nebraska claimed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by REA for the Missouri Basin Power Project was "inadequate" and that operation of the Grayrocks Dam and Reservoir would jeopardize water flows into Nebraska. Among the intervenors joining Nebraska in that suit are the National Wildlife Federation, Nebraska Wildlife Federation, and the National Audubon Society.

A decision on that suit will come following a hearing scheduled for October 2, 1978, in Federal District Court in Lincoln.

Bartholomew Named Assistant Manager of Wyoming Operations

Bartholomew

George Bartholomew, assistant right-of-way manager and transmission right-of-way coordinator for the Missouri Basin Power Project (MBPP), has been named assistant manager of Wyoming operations, according to Basin Electric General Manager James Grahl. Bartholomew's promotion is effective June 1, 1978.

He joined Basin Electric's staff in 1970 as a right-of-way specialist and was named assistant right-of-way manager in January 1975. He transferred to Wheatland, WY, two years ago to head the MBPP right-of-way program.

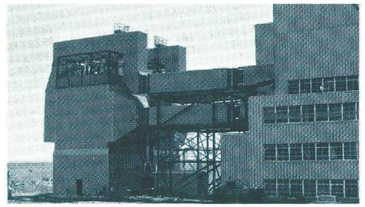
In his new position, Bartholomew will be in charge of the MBPP Wheatland office and will, in addition, complete all work associated with his responsibilities for MBPP transmission line right-of-way. He will also direct various other programs and activities handled by the Wheatland office.

A native of Turtle Lake, ND, Bartholomew is a graduate of Bismarck Junior College. Before joining Basin Electric he was employed as a right-of-way agent for five years with the ND Highway Department in Bismarck.

Precipitators Tied-In

Neal Plant Back In Operation

Basin Electric's William J. Neal Station near Velva was returned to the line in late May following its annual maintenance overhaul.



The $3.5 million electrostatic precipitator system was tied into the Neal Station last month.

During the inspection the plant's new $3.5 million electrostatic precipitators were tied into each unit. Art Carlson, project coordinator, reports that initially the precipitators are working satisfactorily. Tests will be run in the near future to assure the precipitator performance brings the plant into full compliance with North Dakota air quality standards. The plant had been operating under an approved compliance schedule from the North Dakota Health Department.

Construction contractors for the precipitator project were Industrial Contractors, Inc. and Edling Electric, both of Bismarck, and Eggan and Sons of Minneapolis.

Upgrading of the Neal Station to increase generating capacity by 10,000 kilowatts is also progressing. Rich Fockler, Basin Electric's manager of operations, reports that superheater tubing was replaced during the plant's annual inspection. This and other modifications will allow the boiler to operate at 100% of nameplate capacity when upgrading is completed next year.

Cooling tower foundations and basins have been started with construction on the towers scheduled to begin in late July. Cooling tower modifications involve the addition of two cells to increase summertime condensing capacity.

Modifications to the generator cooling system will be made in early 1979.

The Neal Station became part of Basin Electric's thermal generating resources in July 1973, when the plant was purchased from Central Power Electric Cooperative, Minot, ND.

Basin Electric Adopts Policy On Conservation, Energy Efforts

A policy regarding alternative energy sources and conservation was adopted by Basin Electric's Board of Directors in May, according to James Grahl, general manager.

Under the new policy, Basin Electric staff will develop a positive program encouraging conservation and exploration of the feasibility of utilizing solar and windpower within the Missouri River Basin. In addition, the policy directs staff to consider Basin Electric's role in developing and collecting information for use by the members, financing of selected demonstration and test projects, and similiar activities.

"The cooperatives can help consumers test the practicality of such things as solar hot water heating, solar house heating and possibly wind energy applications," Grahl said. "If these can become practical, then consumers and the cooperatives will have developed alternative sources of energy competitive with energy from fossil fuels. This not only will conserve the fossil fuel reserves but also provide some degree of restraint on the continual escalation in the cost of electric service.

"The member systems of Basin Electric have played a leadership role in such things as mined-land reclamation and pollution controls on power plants. Conservation and exploration of alternative energy forms provide these systems with yet another opportunity to be of service to their ratepayers."

Grahl also noted that the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) is considering including conservation programs as a requirement of any loans made by REA to rural electric cooperatives.

In a recent statement Assistant Agriculture Secretary Alex Mercure, who oversees REA, directed that agency to "develop a draft policy that would require rural electric cooperatives to dedicate a reasonable amount of resources, both monetary and personnel, to aggressive energy conservation programs."

Mercure said applications for future REA loans would include a description of such conservation initiatives, results of current activities and a copy of the policy adopted by the Boards of Directors mandating energy conservation.

Rural electric leaders are urged to make suggestions to REA concerning the new directive, Mercure noted.

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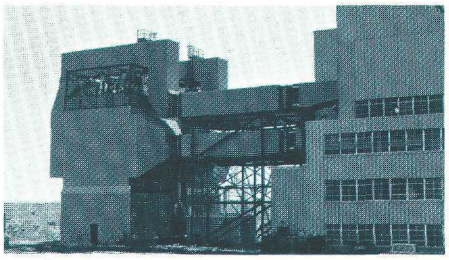

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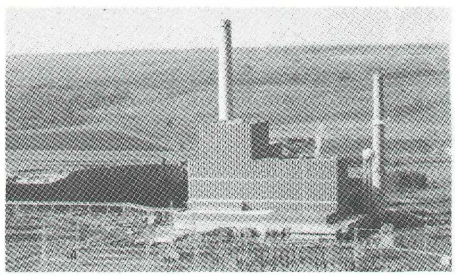
PLANT REPORTS

LELAND OLDS STATION



Net generation for Unit 1 was 116,837,000 KWH with average gross generation of 177,000 KW, according to Plant Superintendent Fred Mistal.

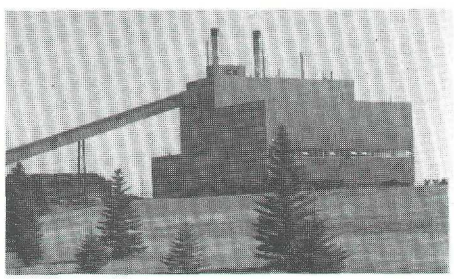
Availability for the month was 94.8% bringing the year to date average to 97%.

Unit 2 net generation for the month was 250,100,000 KWH with average gross generation of 381,000 KW.

April availability was 99.8% for unit 2 bringing the year to date average to 95.7%.

The two units burned 327,000 tons of coal during the month. Coal stockpiled at the plant site totals 1,387,021 tons or the equivalent of 107 days' burn for both units at full load.

WILLIAM J. NEAL STATION



Net generation for April totalled 22,120,000 KWH with average gross generation of 39,700 KW, according to Carl Pelto, plant superintendent.

The Neal Station had an availability for the month of 86.5% bringing the year to date average to 96.6%.

The station was taken off the line late in the month for annual maintenance, tie-in of electrostatic precipitators and work on upgrading the generating capacity by ten megawatts. The plant is expected to be put back into operation in late May.

The station burned 26,477 tons of coal during the month. Coal stockpiled at the plant site stands at 69,661 tons or the equivalent of 72 days' burn at full load.

Films Available For Use By Basin Electric Members

The following films are available for showing and can be obtained by contacting the Information Services Department, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, 1717 East Interstate Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501 or calling 701-223-0441

A Career In The Electric Utility Industry
Videocassette, Color, 10 min., Junior and Senior High

Describes many of the careers involved in the electric utility industry. Examines jobs ranging from Power Plant Operation, to Customer Service. Specific occupations include, groundmen, and substation operators. For use only where video playback equipment is available.

Counselor Films, Inc.

[A general brochure, Careers, outlining types of employment within Basin Electric and other rural cooperatives can supplement this presentation].

Mr. Edison's Dilemma
16mm, Color, 18 min., Junior High - Adult

When American homes and businesses have needed electricity, it was there. Today, however, the distinct possibility exists that one day the lights won't go on when the switch is thrown. Having enough electricity depends upon realistic pricing which recognizes rising costs - which means higher prices people are not eager to pay. This films convincingly portrays the financial facts of life in the business of supplying electric energy today. Although the film concentrates on investor-owned utilities, the majority of situations cited apply to consumer-owned utilities as well. Animated.

Edison Electric Institute, 1976

Electricity, The Way It Works
16mm, Color, 15 min., Junior High - Adult

Electricity, today, is mankind's most versatile and needed form of energy. This film and narration explain, in detail, where electricity comes from, what it is, how it is produced and transmitted, and what are America's future needs and sources. Thus, at the flick of a switch Americans have electricity - wherever, however, and whenever it is needed.

Screen News Digest, 1975

Saving Energy At Home
16mm, Color, 13 min., Junior High - Adult

This film pinpoints the major sources of energy waste around the house and gives the viewer specific tips on how to cut down on home energy consumption. The film discusses common myths about which appliances are big energy users and which are, in the long run, insignificant. Straightforward facts and suggestions are provided so the viewer can make intelligent decisions about home energy conservation.

Ramsgate Films, 1975

The Prairie Is Our Garden
16mm, Color, 28 min., Senior High - Adult

Beginning with paintings by the South Dakota artist Harvey Dunn, this film unfolds the story of the Plains pioneers and the growth of rural electrification. It reveals how the region's coal and lignite are being used by rural electric cooperatives to meet increasing demands for electric power.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, 1970

Power For The Plains
16mm, Color, 43 min., Senior High - Adult

A documentary film tracing the development and progress of the rural electric cooperative movement in the Missouri Basin; consumer control; regional power supply planning; efforts in reclamation; and, environmental aspects of long-range power planning.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, 1973

The People Plan
16mm, Color, 37 min., Senior High - Adult

Environmental, social and economic concerns related to the development of the Missouri Basin Power Project's 1500 MW Laramie River Station near Wheatland in Platte County, Wyoming, are the focal point in this film. The film highlights planning efforts by people, government and industry in cooperatively developing comprehensive impact alleviation plans.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, 1975

A Time For Cooperation

The following remarks are taken from testimony by Gary Williamson before a hearing of the joint NRECA-CFC Power Supply Study Committee and are reprinted from the NRECA Rural Electric Newsletter. Williamson is general manager of Central Power Electric Cooperative, Minot, ND. Central Power is a Class A Basin Electric member.

We cannot separate agricultural and energy issues in rural America. Agriculture is now energy intensive and inexorably linked to energy supply. We need to be concerned that the Department of Agriculture show the Department of Energy the disastrous effect a hydro rate increase will have on the already depressed agricultural community. We also need to have the Department of the Interior and DOE communicate and resolve the administration's goal of converting to coal.

While the administration is pushing energy independence partially through increased coal development, the Department of the Interior is making arrangements out of court which will practically bring coal land leasing in the West to a halt until 1980 or 1981.

We also need to encourage the federal government to continue vigorous energy research and development on an effective and coordinated basis. The refusal of the government to make a grant to assist Central Power in its load management program was a disappointing case in point. It seems the federal government willingly provides grants to study everything from the circulatory systems of mouse ears to preserving the ability of native Americans to make flint arrowheads. We feel that in view of the energy crisis, we deserve as much.

The public is inundated with energy rhetoric and perhaps it is not surprising that opinion polls tell us that the majority of U.S. citizens are ambivalent toward the energy crisis. So. . .we would urge the committee to work on a unified approach to consumer and public communications. It is time for the communicators to take a rightful place on the front lines next to managers, engineers, lawyers and financial planners. We must gain consumer acceptance and understanding before any of our plans will be timely, relatively economical or ultimately successful.

Additionally, we must create a better understanding of one another. We must be forthright and forward in our internal communications. Lately to a greater degree, and all too often in the past, we have met, decided on the common problems and common solutions only to go home and do things in our own way. Cooperative leaders have the observed ability to come together as congenial gentlemen, conveniently avoiding conflicting issues in a spirit of conditioned camaraderie.

If the desire of the majority of rural electric cooperatives is to take a "respectable" place beside their corporate cousins; if the RECs are embarassed by being called cooperatives; if they are ashamed of low interest rates because it makes them second class citizens; when social acceptance becomes more important than low-cost housing projects for rural areas - then Central Power suggests that the rural electric movement has lost its way and a portion of its soul!

We should be beating the Congress and the Administration on the head with all of our might. We should be exhausting ourselves to protect and expand the benefits from REA. We should be establishing public power districts throughout the country through legislation which would enable the cooperatives to enjoy the advantages of tax-exempt revenue bond financing, as do our city cousins within the municipal systems. The list is endless.

But above all, we should remember why cooperatives were formed, and if we find that we don't believe in them anymore, we should stop kicking a dead horse and unabashedly join corporate America in its pursuit of those lofty goals of wealth and power.

It is time, gentlemen! Time to purge our thoughts and bury our petty grievances. Time to put aside our personalities and personal jealousies. It is time to stop competing internally and exercise the antithesis of competition. Gentlemen, it is time to COOPERATE!

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