

Eco-JOURNAL

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ECO-NETWORK ECOLOGIQUE
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Minister reneges on deal

by Toby Maloney

Relations between environmentalists and Manitoba Environment Minister Glen Cummings have reached a new low with the passage of a Clean Environment Act amendment last month. The legislation reneges on a compromise reached with the minister by environmentalists.

Before Christmas, Cummings agreed to several changes in Bill 24, legislation to allow joint federal and provincial environmental assessments under Manitoba's Clean Environment Act. Representatives of several groups including the Manitoba Eco-Network, Winnipeg Water Protection Group, Time to Respect Earth's Eco-Systems (TREE) and Friends of Oak Hammock Marsh met with Cummings and premier Gary Filmon to outline serious problems with the bill as presented. With the full support of the two opposition parties who threatened to force the legislature to sit over Christmas holidays, an agreement was reached to amend Bill 24 and to hold hearings at the Standing Committee on Law Amendments before

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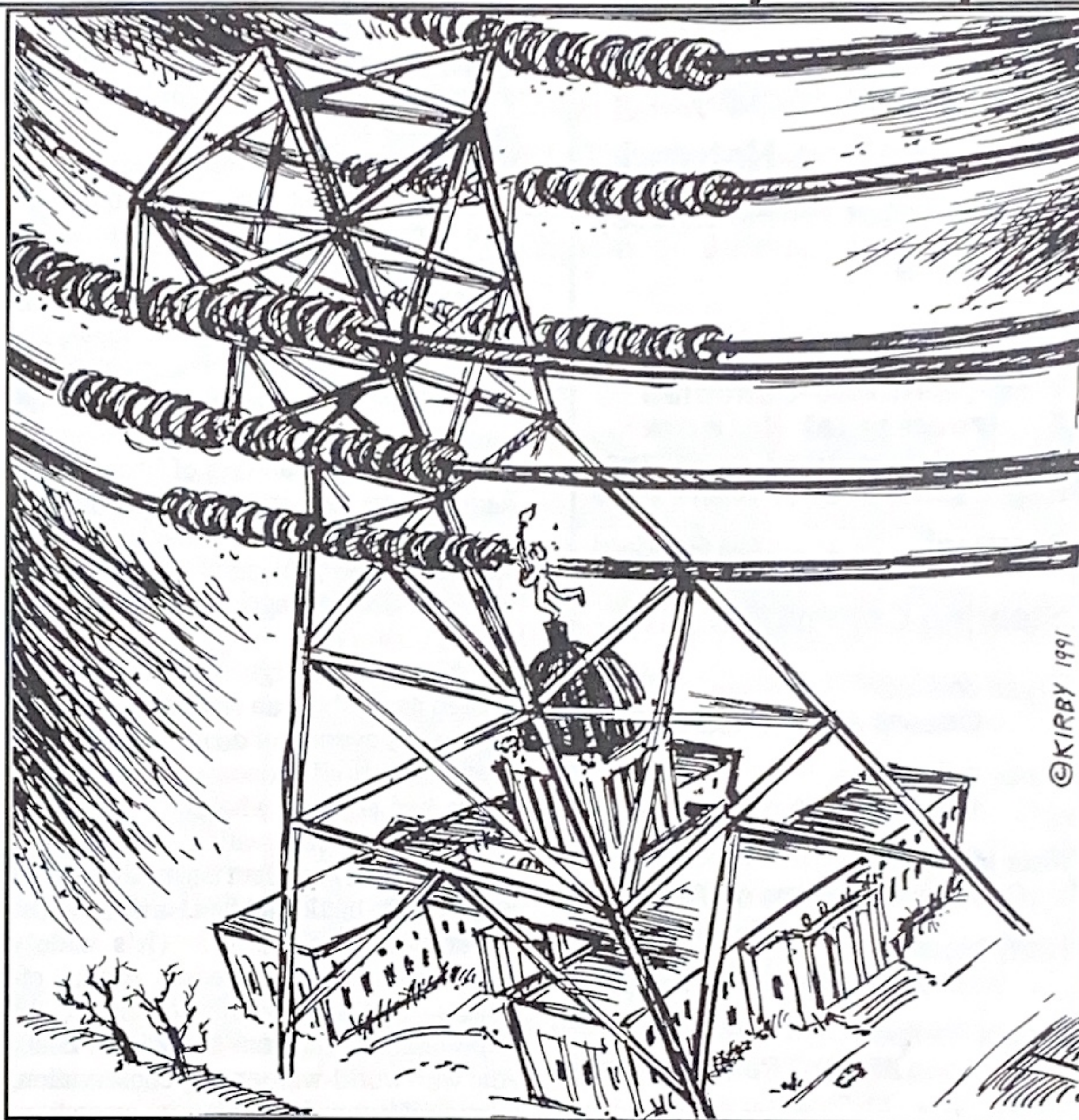
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The Gulf War:

An Environmental Assessment

WELCOME TO 1991.

As Network co-ordinator, my task for this first newsletter of the New Year should probably be a cheery and rousing column informing our readers of our new office (same building - Room 201), our new-look newsletter, and our new status as a Registered Charitable Organization. I'll do all those things, but it's impossible for me to pretend that business is "as usual" when war is raging in the Persian Gulf.

I've been away on vacation for a week, and even knowing that war was imminent, it was a shock to return from a glorious day

hike at Point Reyes National Seashore in California, to hear the dreadful news of the attack on Iraq. And more of a shock to be so far away from home. My first reaction was a desire to get home - fast!

A friend asked why this war is different from any other war - Afghanistan, for instance, or Panama. In some ways, it isn't different - innocent people, including children, get maimed and killed in any war. But to me, this one is different because the stakes are so high, and the possibility of global devastation so great. In the Middle

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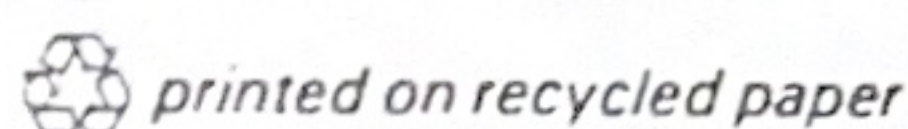
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Damage potential escalates

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East, all the cruelest weapons mankind has yet devised are arrayed against each other in the hands of belligerent combatants: Iraq has chemical and biological weapons, Israel and the United States have nuclear weapons (the U.S. reportedly has several hundred nuclear warheads at ready in the Gulf). Add to that the conventional weaponry with which Saddam Hussein may ignite the region's oilfields, an action which will dump millions upon millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, disrupting the global climate and destroying the food supplies of the majority of the human population. There is cause for alarm the world over.

As environmentalists - people who care about our health, our communities, and the sustainability of life on Earth - we must be concerned with this conflict and its consequences. We have to understand that not only is war morally unacceptable, it is the ultimate environmental threat. It not only devastates the physical environment, it sucks up vast quantities of financial and human resources that could be directed towards improving life for the poor, and to restoration and protection of the Planet's vital air, forests, agricultural lands and water.

Also, I would argue that this war is (at least in part), about an environmental issue: the use and overuse of oil in a wasteful and greedy industrial economy. If the United States had adopted wholesale energy efficiency and conservation over the last decade, would President Bush have rushed so quickly to battle Saddam Hussein for the "liberation of Kuwait"? (It's widely believed that with increased energy efficiency the U.S. would not require the importation of oil from the Middle East). And with world-wide energy conservation, would oil continue to play its incendiary role in that region? The world has already seen wars over famine and poverty in Africa. How long will it be till we see pitched battles over air and water?

Relieved as we are with the end of the "Cold War", the Persian Gulf crisis illustrates that even the nature of "regional" war has changed. The spectre of global destruction is just too high a price to pay for the resolution of conflict.

War is an ecological issue. It seems to me that it is part of our environmental

work to speak out and do all we can to promote an immediate ceasefire, and a peaceful resolution to the Gulf crisis and to all wars. Our member group, Project Peacemakers (775-8178), and associate group, the Winnipeg Co-ordinating Committee for Disarmament (786-8938) are organizing local events and actions to help put a stop to the war in the Middle East. It's a good time to get involved, give them a call.

And what better time than now to learn about energy conservation, and what we can do to make ourselves less wasteful and more efficient in our energy use. The Eco-Network Resource Centre has lots of information on the subject. We welcome everyone to our new larger premises to look through the material on file. The Resource Centre is open from 10 til 4 on working days, and some Saturdays from 10 till 2. Give us a call to check on dates (956-1468).

And here's where I return to my announcements: the Network is indeed now a Registered Charity. This means we can issue tax receipts for your donations. We're hoping this will help us out of our (as usual) somewhat beleaguered financial situation.

Our newsletter will henceforth be known as "Eco-Journal" under the editorial direction of Toby Maloney, and we're planning to expand our coverage of environmental issues in and around the Province. Some other things we're considering are a Letters to the Editor section, a regular directory of member groups, maybe some book reviews. We'd welcome your suggestions! Also, if readers are interested in contributing to the publication of the newsletter (with artwork, advertising searches, reporting....) please let us know, we can always use the help of regular volunteers.

We're hoping (and praying) for a busy and vibrant year at the Network. Thanks for your continued support!

ATTENTION: Is there an environmentally friendly accountant to advise the Network on accounting procedures? Please contact Anne at 956-1468.

Deadline for March-April issue of Eco-Journal is March 15. Articles, cartoons and advertising welcome. Suggestions and ideas also welcome. Call 956-1468 or mail submissions to Box 3125 Winnipeg, Mb. R3C 4E6.

CALENDAR

OF EVENTS

[Province of Manitoba Sustainable Development Energy Strategy workshops are being held across the province in February. Call 945-4295 for the time for the time and place in your area]

Thursday February 7: Public Workshops by the Ad-Hoc Committee on Pesticides and Herbicides. Conference Rooms 1,2 and 3, Administration Building, City Hall. Written briefs and photocopied materials are encouraged. Includes presentation by Dr. G. R. Crosby on "Ethical Issues of Non-User exposure to Pesticide Spray." For more info: Councillor Terry Duguid 661-6099 or Dorothy Browton, 986-2171.

Sunday February 10 (and every Sunday): **UMREP** (University of Manitoba Recycling and Environmental Group) holds paper sorting sessions from 1 to 6 p.m. at University Centre, U of M. Call 474-9118 for details.

Tuesday February 12: **Workplace Health and Safety Centre**: Seminar - "Health Impact of Air Pollution in Northern Mining Cities."

Monday February 18: **Naturalists Society**: Indoor program "Purposes and Benefits of Wildlife Rehabilitation" with Barb Haffner. Basic Medical Sciences Building 8 p.m. For information call 943-9029.

Tuesday February 19: **Mennonite Central Committee** is showing two videos, "Walking on Holy Ground" (on programs to help rural landless women in Bangladesh) and "Service: Learning While Helping" (follows youth groups working on variety of programs). Also, Peter Peters will speak on his experiences in India. 7:30 p.m. 134 Plaza Drive. For information call Tom Edge at 261-6381.

Sunday February 16: **Naturalists Society** Fundraising social at the Canoe Club. Tickets \$8. Call 943-9029 for details.

Thursday February 20. Organizing meeting for **International Women's Day** event. International Centre, 408 Edmonton St. 7:30 p.m. All women welcome. Also meetings on February 27 and March 4.

Saturday February 23. Winnipeg workshop on provincial Sustainable Development Energy Strategy, Fort Garry Hotel (Lavarendrye Room) 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 945-4299 for details.

Sunday February 24. **U of M Continuing Education** Afternoon Series "A new look at life on earth ... Our relationship with our planet." 2:00 p.m. Centennial Library Auditorium 251 Donald "Fashioning a world we can live in" with Carl Ridd.

Tuesday February 26. **Workplace Health and Safety Centre** seminar "A comparison of Swedish and

Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Enforcement Models."

Wednesday February 27. **University of Winnipeg Distinguished Lecture Series**: J. R. Vallentyne (Johnny Biosphere) 8 p.m. 1L13 U of W.

Monday March 4. **Naturalists Society**: Indoor program "Riding Mountain Dark Bear Management Plan" with Pat Rousseau. 8 p.m. Basic Medical Sciences Building.

Sunday March 3. **U of M Sunday Afternoon Series** "Stories from Mother Earth" with Joe MacLellan. 3:00 p.m. Forks Market Pavilion.

Tuesday March 5: **Occupational Health Centre**: Seminar. "Description of different Pulp and Paper Processes"

Tuesday March 5: **TREE**: Regular monthly meeting, Unitarian Church @ Sargent and Bannatyne, 7:30 p.m.

Friday March 8 and Saturday March 9: **Organic Producers Association of Manitoba**: Organic Farming Seminar. Theme "Life in the Soil" featuring Dr. Stuart Hill and Fred Kirschenmann. Also panels on Marketing and Organic Gardening and Composting. Registration (advance) \$17.50, \$27.50 for couples; (at the door) \$20; \$30 for couples. Includes organic refreshments and lunch. Virden Collegiate, motel info. available. Call 1-748-1315 for details.

Saturday March 9: **International Women's Day**: March and rally. Begins 12 noon at Legislature. Rally at Riddell Hall, University of Winnipeg at 1 p.m. with guest speaker Ellen Gabriel, Mohawk Nation. Music and displays. Child care provided.

Sunday March 10: **U of M Sunday Afternoon Series** "The emergence of the Green City" with Kent Genecke and a panel on community ecology. 2:00 p.m. Indian Family Centre 470 Selkirk.

Tuesday March 12: **Manitoba Eco-Network**: Steering Committee regular meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday March 17: **U of M Sunday Afternoon Series** "Ethics in Advertising" with Arthur Schaefer. 2:00 p.m. West End Cultural Centre.

Monday March 18. **Manitoba Naturalists Society**: Indoor meeting. Basic Medical Sciences Building. 8 p.m. MNS Research Projects: "Dutch Elm Project" and "Grey Wolf Ecology and Fossils."

Sunday March 24: **U of M Sunday Afternoon Series** "Healthy Self, Healthy Community" with Laurie Bell. 2:00 p.m. Logan Community Project.

ON THE SHELF: MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK BOOKSTORE

GST does not apply to materials purchased at the Manitoba Eco-Network

- **As Long as the Rivers Run: Hydroelectric Development and Native Communities in Western Canada**, by James B. Waldram, 1988 (hardcover, 253pp)....\$29.95
- *Business and the Environment**, by Georg Winter, 1988 (softcover, 248 pp)....\$17.95
- **Call to Action: Handbook for Ecology, Peace and Justice**, edited by Brad Erickson, 1990 (softcover, 250 pp)....\$19.95
- *The Canadian Junior Green Guide: How You Can Help Save Our World**, prepared by Teri Degler and Pollution Probe, 1990 (softcover, 120 pp)....\$12.95
- *Dam the Rivers. Damn the People: Development and Resistance in Amazonian Brazil**, by Barbara J. Cummings, London, 1990 (softcover, 132 pp)....\$13.50
- **The End of Nature**, by Bill McKibben, 1989 (softcover, 226 pp)....\$12.95
- Garbage Management in Japan: Leading the Way**, by Allen Hershkowitz and Eugene Salerni, 1987 (softcover, 131 pp)....\$30.00
- Green Cities: Ecologically Sound Approaches to Urban Space**, edited by David Gordon, 1990 (softcover, 299 pp)....\$19.95
- **Green Future: How to Make a World of Difference**, by Lorraine Johnson, 1990 (softcover, 231 pp)....\$14.95
- How Nature Works: Regenerating Kinship with Planet Earth**, by Michael j. Cohen, 1988 (softcover, 263 pp)....\$15.50
- **Lessons of the Rainforest**, essays by Norman Myers, Randall Hayes, Frances Moore Lappe and others, edited by Suzanne Head and Robert Heinzman, 1990 (softcover, 275 pp)....\$18.50
- Organic Agriculture Directory**, Les Editions Humus, 1989 (softcover, 1987 pp)....\$8.00
- *Paradise Won: The Struggle for South Moresby**, by Elizabeth May, 1990 (hardcover, 318 pp)....\$27.95
- **The Real World of Technology (CBC Massey Lectures Series)** by Ursula Franklin, 1990 (softcover, 132 pp)....\$8.95

COUP II CALL FOR PAPERS

Pursuant to the Canadian Organic Unity Project (COUP, Phase II) meeting held in Montreal April 20 to 22, 1990, a working committee dealing with the organization of a national accreditation body was established.

Step one of the mandate of this committee is to solicit proposals for the structure and operation of this national accreditation body.

Proposals may recommend any organizational forms or structures for accreditation. Many of these will include a national umbrella organization. The rules, composition and funding of individual structures within the whole organization should be addressed. As well, proposals should contain mechanisms for updating standards and resolving disputes.

Wherever possible please identify funding structures and sources. Please keep the models generic -- those which advocate specific, existing non-governmental organizations will not be accepted.

Typed material may be submitted to:

COUP Accreditation

c/o Bryan Johnson	OR	c/o Jacques Tetrault
1019 MacMillan		Maison de L'upa
Winnipeg, MB		555 Boul. Roland-Therrien
R3M 0T5		Longueuil, P.Q.
		J4H 3Y9

Deadline for submissions is May 1, 1991. For more information call Bryan at 453-7026.

- **Secrets of the Old Growth Forest**, by Gary Braasch, Gibbs Smith Publishers, 1988 (softcover, 100 pp)....\$19.50
- *The Social & Environmental Effects of Large Dams**, by Edward Goldsmith and Nicholas Hildyard, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1984 (hardcover, 404 pp)....\$44.95
- *Soft Paths**, by Bruce Hampton and David Cole, Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1988 (softcover, 173 pp)....\$14.50
- *2 Minutes a Day for a Greener Planet**, by Marjorie Lamb, Harper Collins, Toronto, 1990 (softcover, 243 pp)....\$14.95
- *Where Have All the Birds Gone? Essays on the Biology and Conservation of Birds that Migrate to the American Tropics**, by John Terborgh, 1989 (softcover, 207 pp)....\$18.95
- **Where on Earth Are We Going?** by Jonathon Porritt, BBC Books, London, 1990 (softcover, 232 pp)....\$19.95

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- *Good Planets are Hard to Find! An Environmental Information Guide, Dictionary and Action Book for Kids (and Adults)**, by Roma Dehr and Ronald M. Bazar, 1989 (softcover, 39 pp)....\$7.00
- *Good Planets are Hard to Find! Ecology Action Workbook and Dictionary**, by Ronald M. Bazar and Roma Dehr, 1990 (softcover, 21 pp)....\$3.00

AND MANY MORE WE JUST COULDN'T LIST!

No Nukes is Good Nukes - That's What I Say

(presentation to Federal Environment Assessment Review Panel on Plans for Disposal of High Level Radioactive Waste)
by Bryan Johnson

No nukes is good nukes - That's what I say
And millions of Canadians feel that way.
FEARO's terms of reference
Show industrial preference
While no issues of relevance may come into play.

To have public confidence in this great show,
There are quite a few things Canadians must know:
Long term human health costs?
Do profits justify lives lost?
True cost of production - is it really so low?

I've studied their effects upon our environment,
They suggest this industry's early retirement.
Genetic mutation,
Environmental degradation,
Any credible report would address such content.

Uranium transport and reprocessing,
Are dangerous buffoonery and most distressing.
Major spills in Great Britain,
And France likewise smitten,
Their absence turns this review into window dressing.

And what of Candu's role in nuclear war?
Is that what Candu was really made for?
We've made sales to Pakistan
Negotiated with Iraq but then
We gave the bomb to India in seventy-four.

Twenty million people were not given the choice.
Industrial corruption bought political voice.
Before we could reject their plan,
And declare this nuclear-free land,
Government stopped our progress with political toys.

But if FEARO expands its terms of reference,
Shows that Human issues are given preference.
Examines the environmental toll,
The health and military role,
Then this report may yet earn global deference.

Out of the flame and into the frying pan

by Toby Maloney

The Resource Recovery Institute has been yanked out of the grave yet another time as Winnipeg City Council's Executive Policy Committee voted to extend two more months of interim funding for the organization's curbside recycling program.

Reform-minded WIN councillors led the last gasp attempt to keep RRI running at least until the end of March after an effective rally complete with blue bags in front of City Hall.

RRI's Executive Director John Barker says that the organization will stay need to win a battle for longer term funding when the issue is finally heard in March. The latest proposal to city hall is based on a limited paper-based collection plan for the two areas, Wolseley and Wildwood Park currently served by the blue bag program. RRI will no longer be picking up bottles and cans and will concentrate on newspapers, corrugated cardboard and milk cartons. Newspaper pickup will also be maintained in the seven other neighbourhoods that have been service by that program in the past.

Pickup in the Wolseley and Wildwood Park areas will go to bi-weekly rather than weekly, says Barker, because of the reduced volume. The idea is to "maintain the program at a housekeeping level" until it can be decided on finally.

Barker says that he can handle being



shut down because the city has a better plan for recycling but feels that most of the discussion has centred around politics. Instead of centring on how best to implement curbside recycling or whether Winnipeg should be conducting a curbside recycling program, all the of the debate has focussed on whether Resource Recovery Institute should be funded or not.

The impact of laying off workers rehiring them and always operating on a day to day basis has affected the productivity of the organization, Barker says. Higher absenteeism, high turnover of employees who take other jobs and low morale all hamper RRI's efforts. As well the organization's volunteer board is overstressed from the constant emergency meetings and lobbying efforts, often taking time away from their jobs and home life to keep RRI alive.

Barker says he still hopes to operate a

drop-off depot for those that still want to recycle their glass and metal containers at RRI's new location (450 Oak Point Road). Recycling Council of Manitoba depots at two suburban shopping centres, St. Vital and Unicity could be another alternative for some of the blue bag users.

Barker hopes, however, that recyclers will evaluate the full environmental impact of their actions, and combine a drive to a recycling depot with another "more necessary" trip because with car use "the net impact of your action may not be environmentally friendly."

Barker said that supporters of RRI or curbside collection are being encouraged to call their city councillor. He also suggests that "you need to be informed ... we see a lot of people making decisions about the RRI based on second, third and fourth hand information."

Groups disappointed by government

Continued from Page 1

the Bill went back to the legislature for third reading.

Among the measures agreed to by the minister in meetings with the coalition were:

- that there would be no delegation of environmental assessments to other jurisdictions
- that any joint assessment would be at least equivalent to Manitoba's own environmental process
- that intervenor funding would be provided
- that regulations would be introduced to ensure that joint assessment panels members would be free of political influence and have specific expertise and qualifications in the area under consideration

The committee hearings on January 16 and 17 were well attended by the environmental community. Speaker after speaker pressed the government to honour its

agreement and improve rather than weaken environmental assessment laws, but the Conservative majority on the committee was unmoved. With little argument or even comment Cummings led his party in defeating opposition amendment after amendment at the committee meeting which lasted until 2 a.m.

The final wording of the amendment allows for wide ranging ministerial discretion in the area of intervenor funding and in determining whether assessment panel members are free of bias and have specific expertise and qualifications relevant to the are under consideration.

Leaving the minister with discretion ignores the fact that in very large projects the government itself is often one of the proponents. That is the case for both the REPAP expansion and conversion and forest agreement where the government is involved as the vendor, investor, and regulator, and with the Conawapa Generat-

ing Station and transmission line to Ontario where the government has signed an agreement with Ontario to sell the power.

The mad rush to institute a joint assessment process is widely seen as the government's attempt to keep Manitoba Hydro on schedule for that power deal with Ontario. The legislation will streamline the assessment of that project, but perhaps avoid the sort of delays court challenges would cause, as in the Rafferty-Alameda fiasco in Saskatchewan.

Brian Pannell, who led the coalition in its meetings with the minister, said that this process is an attempt to enact "the lowest common denominator" from the federal and provincial assessment processes. Since Manitoba is the first province to move toward a joint assessment process, the precedent set here, should send a "tremor of fear" through the Canadian environmental community, Pannell said.

Eco-Journal

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The Manitoba Eco-Network, P.P. Box 3125, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4E6

Please sign us up as a member group of the Eco-Network ☐

Our cheque is enclosed for group membership and subscription: \$20/year

I/We support Network activities and wish to receive Eco-Journal

☐ \$10 (Individual Subscription)

☐ \$5 (Limited Income)

☐ \$40 Organizations, agencies, government departments and corporations that do not otherwise qualify for membership*.

Enclosed is a donation of \$_____

I would like to do volunteer work for the Eco-Network. Please call me! ☐

Name or contact person _____

Group _____ Telephone # () _____

Mailing Address _____ Postal Code _____

* Membership is open to any non-government, non-profit group that has as one of its objectives the enhancing or furthering of environmental quality, protecting the environment or environmental education.