

CANADA WILL IMPORT MORE OIL THAN IT EXPORTS

(CUP)---Canada will begin importing more oil than it exports in two years because its oil wells are beginning to run dry.

The oil companies say the solution to the impending shortage is to pour as much oil as possible through pipelines into the United States while raising prices (and profits) astronomically to pay for more exploration.

But Carleton Geology professor Kenneth North, says the companies and government officials who support them are selling phoney facts and figures.

"It is now impossible to avoid the crisis, there is nothing we can do about it, Canada has no right course left," he told a meeting of alumni and students at the University of British Columbia.

To prove his point, he displayed a chart prepared by the Canadian Petroleum Association(CPA), the oil industry's federal and provincial government lobbying organization.

The chart shows oil production from know reserves will begin dropping in two years at a rate of 93 million barrels per year.

It is included in a pamphlet, Canada Energy Future, published by the CPA and the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada in September for distribution to Members of Parliament and other government officials.

The companies say in the pamphlet that there are plentiful "potential reserves" (marked on the chart with question marks) that can be discovered and put into production if the government stops taxing the companies and allows them to increase exploration with all the new profits they will be making. Additional exploration capital can be raised by exporting oil to US markets, they say.

North, who fought for five years with oil company executives, said the "potential" reserves are based on false assumptions that the fields have the same geological qualities as American ones and that the oil would be economically feasible to remove.

"No other nation besides Canada habitually expresses potential reserves as reserves," he said. And the only Canadian industry that bothers documenting potential reserves is

the oil industry, said North.

The two allegedly major potential reserve areas are the Alberta tar sands and massive Arctic sea fields.

The oil companies say the potential is in excess of 300 billion barrels and it will cost at least \$30 billion to discover these potential reserves in the next 10 years.

"The required amounts won't be available if governments continue to increase the share they take from industry revenue," they warn in their lobbying paper.

North said this amount of money might need to be spent but not much oil is going to be found with it.

He said even the most optimistic predictions about apparent promising reserves in the Arctic Balfour Sea show exploration and development costs to be more than \$6 billion. And while the development might be completed by 1985 and produce more than 500,00 barrels per day, Canada by then would be short at least 150,000 barrels per day.

The Alberta Tar Sands are equally unpromising, he said. "If the proven reserves in the McMurray Tar Sands were dug out and brought into market, they would extend oil use for four years only," he said.

Most of the tar sand oil is buried so deep that it would take more energy to remove it than the reserves could produce. And in any case shortages of power, money and materials such as steel platforms make it impossible to put more than one massive tar sand field in production every two years, North said.

To keep up with the shortage it would be necessary to open two giant open pit holes every year, he said.

North said that while he disagrees with the oil companies' "solution" he doesn't have an easy answer himself.

One solution is to allow the price of natural gas to rise substantially, he said. Large gas fields which don't have oil in them could be discovered if gas wasn't as underpriced as it currently is.

Other solutions involve nuclear power and increase use of coal. He said the most effective solution may be for the government to force conservation measures

on the people, even though such austerity would be difficult in a democracy.

"Without optimism, the petroleum industry can't

survive," North said. "You can't manage exploration without optimism. But, "Optimism has become irrational," he said.



CAPTAIN HOOK

University Objectives-We Like To Get High

When someone comes to U.P.E.I., he sees that most everyone is carrying a burden of work on his shoulders. And when the weekend comes, some flock to pig & whistles, while others go off to a quiet place to get stoned.

Everyone's looking for the same feeling. We just want to be free, to feel high inside, and we'll do anything to get there. But is a couple of nights in a whole week enough for us? After all, if we can be high for one moment in our life, will we ever be satisfied without that pure feeling

When we feel love, some place inside us is getting touched. It's there inside us, when we're in a history exam or a chemistry lab, as well as any time. But we're not aware of it.

How can we feel it? How can we be high 24 hours a day? How can we meditate on that spot inside, that's so beautiful that nothing could bring us down?

Come find out Friday, November 29 at 7:30 P.M. in Duffy Amphitheatre.

Alex Perlman