

FUEL SOLUTION

"The time has come," the walrus said,
"To speak of many things,
Of Arab Sheiks, the price of oil
and the cost of gasoline."

(with apologies to Lewis Carroll)

The price of oil and gasoline is on the rise again and it's going to be hitting us where it hurts, in the pocketbook. There is a way this problem could be easily reduced if not eliminated entirely - convert all the cars to use methane instead of gas. Before you start to shake your head in disagreement, please allow me to present my case.

There's a little old man in Devon, England who calls himself Harold Bates, (I believe he was baptised that too). Harold loved tinkering with his automobile and one fine day built a simple convertor that allowed his car to run on methane instead of the usual petrol (gasoline). Anyway, once he had converted his automobile, he needed a source of methane. So every week he trotted around relieving his neighbors (who happened to be farmers) of all their pig manure. He then took this manure, sprinkled it with bacteria, added a dash of water and let the mixture ferment. After fermenting a little while, methane is produced, good old CH_4 .

The methane converter for the car costs about \$33. and all one needs is a simple switch and the car will revert to a gas consumer for areas where methane may be scarce. Methane being a simpler hydrocarbon than gasoline, pollutes less, is odorless and colorless. It doesn't dissolve in the motor oil and thus doesn't contaminate it; oil changes are reduced to almost four per year to only once a year. Also, because it has an octane rating of 150, it needs and contains no lead so both spark plugs and exhaust system will last longer. Power wouldn't cut down in the engine and the methane costs about 3¢ a gallon.

Why hasn't it caught on then? Well, like many other suppressed inventions, this could cause many people who are now rich from gasoline sales to lose some of their precious money and they have ways of suppressing and censoring "unwelcome" inventions such as this.

It would be quite simple to set up this methane program on P.E.I. There are many types of manure available and the by-product of the fermentation is an excellent fertilizer. The population is small enough



"Well... it isn't as if I were a welfare bum."

to make the whole thing practical and workable. Two or three methane centers could be set up and then the methane could be transported over the short distances to the other parts of the Island. This conversion to methane would free more oil for heating, lessen pollution and

maybe slow the price increase in oil.

The only worry I have is that some capitalist will get control of the methane centers and maybe start to increase the price of methane and start the vicious circle all over again.

Leslie Klewin

SIGN OF THE FISH

Information, referral, support, and a sympathetic ear, for people on P.E.I. is as close as a telephone number. Many worthwhile services are available to people who may feel frustrated, or lonely, because of their inability to contact the services they are in need of. The Fish Movement, a volunteer service, begun in England in 1961, and since established in many centers across the world including Ch'town in 1972, is designed to provide assistance to such people in an effort to helping them to help themselves.

The Fish has been a Christian symbol since the early days of the Christian Church. The Greek word for fish, "ichthus" are the initials for the Greek words for "Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour," and the sign of the Fish Movement is built upon the affirmation of faith. The Fish Movement provides people with a chance to be of service to their community and to express their love and concern for their fellowman in a practical way. Most of the volunteer work is done on the telephone line, but there are other areas such as transportation, friendly visiting, provide a meal, housework for the sick, that are valuable and effective.

Fish telephone volunteers are exposed to an extended screening process, and selected by qualified people before they go on the line. Active services, and require volunteers to keep them active.

They are expected to work with an experienced volunteer for a period of time and are then assigned to a shift of their own. Referral is the key operation of the Fish Movement, as many of the volunteers are untrained, ordinary people who are interested and concerned about their neighbour.

The Fish Movement needs people, people who have a genuine concern for others and who want to help others. This is your opportunity to contribute in a positive productive way, to assist in elevating some of the struggles that less fortunate people than you, are experiencing everyday. Are you interested? For further information call the Fish number 894-Fish (3474) or contact Marion Morrison, Dept. of Student Services.

Marion Morrison