

Capitalism

They're selling free enterprise on campus

By TIM RICHARD

The day after Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden were in Michigan frankly selling socialism, the National Association of Manufacturers was selling free market, free enterprise capitalism to students from four community colleges.

They got a warm reception and friendly questions last Wednesday at the Auburn Hills campus of Oakland Community College. Some 250 students and faculty members from OCC, Macomb, Schoolcraft and Wayne County community colleges attended NAM's "college-industry dialogue."

"We had our difficulties on campus in the '60s," William C. Adams, president of Federal-Mogul Corp., Detroit, said in an interview. "But those students have grown up and become part of the community."

Added Charles Donnelly, vice-chairman of Bendix Corp., Southfield: "I've never been harassed by the academic community."

"We started this five years ago and have had fine receptions no matter where," said William F. Grier, NAM staff man, citing Wayne State University, Lawrence Tech and the University of Toledo.

ON THEIR BAD list were price controls (especially on oil, but also on other commodities and wages), delays in bureaucratic decisions, overregulation, low productivity, inflation and taxes on corporate profits.

"When we tax business and industry

at 50 cents of every \$1 they earn," Robert Navarre, president of Simpson Industries Inc., of Litchfield, "we are denying reinvestment of those funds. In competition with Europe, American business is suffering in its ability to invest."

While Germany's productivity is increasing at the rate of 3.4 percent a year and Japan's at 4.5 percent, American productivity is currently rising at 0.3 percent, said Navarre.

Asked by a student what could be done about low productivity, Navarre replied: "Work harder. Give the employer what he's paying for. We have too many lunch hours turning into hour-and-a-quarter lunches and too many 10-minute coffee breaks taking 15 minutes."

GENERAL MOTORS Vice-President Robert F. Magill said government regulations cost the auto manufacturer \$1.4 billion year — an amount equal to all the dividends paid to GM stockholders.

Government regulators need to ask themselves, "Is this really necessary?" said Magill, a lawyer by background. "Suppose you had to fill out the equivalent of a form 1040 every week. The auto emissions standards require this. The cost to GM was \$25 million, it required the full-time work of 2,500 employees, and it generated a 15-story mound of paper."

Regulations conflict with each other, he said. An emissions regulation could prevent manufacture of the diesel en-

gine, a great fuel saver.

In response to a question, Magill said that although emissions should be controlled, a better method than regulation would be monetary incentives through the tax system. He didn't elaborate.

INDUSTRY HAS been more successful than government in cutting energy consumption, said Federal Mogul's Adams.

"Frankly, we've had an incentive — cost reduction, profit margins, a desire to survive," he said.

To a question on whether the oil shortage is "real," Adams replied: "There is a limited supply, and it may be exhausted by the middle of the next century. The supply of oil comes from politically unstable countries."

To the question of whether oil com-

pany profits are excessive, Adams said: "The U.S. Department of Energy's \$10 billion budget is larger than the combined profits of the oil companies in 1978 . . . The profits are respectable but not unusually high."

Asked whether the federal government should decontrol oil prices, the executives agreed, "The less control, the better. Let the free enterprise system work without disrupting the economy."

Said Adams: "If companies don't have incentives to invest in oil production, they won't invest . . . There have been no new major oil refineries built (in the U.S.) in the last decade."

He cited "the near collapse of restraint in most elements of society when it comes to asking for more." And he quoted comic strip character Pogo: "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Sears recalls ARC welders

Emerson Electric Co. and Sears, Roebuck and Co. today asked consumers to return 13,000 arc welders sold by Sears between June 1978 and July 1979.

They said electrical insulation on some of the welders may be damaged, exposing the user to possible shock. No injuries have been reported.

The arc welders being sought were sold through Sears catalog and retail

stores. Two models are involved — a 50-amp unit, model number 113.291420, which sold for approximately \$60, and a 20- to 70-amp unit, model number 113.291430, which sold for approximately \$100. Both arc welders bear the Sears Craftsman Home-Shop name.

Owners are asked to contact their nearest Sears store for replacement or refund.

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