International common denominator: energy crises

A sticky, hot Michigan summer can erase noughts of bleak winter and the pains of high heat-ig bills. Unfortunately, the thaw is only tempo-

ing bills. Unfortunately, the thaw is only temporary.

By November the grim realities of this state's strong dependence on imported energy will return. Take heart. Recent travels across U.S. borders into Cainda and Mexico confirm that the problems of energy supply and cost aren't peculiar to us. Each of our neighbors must contend with its own brand of energy "hard times."

The solutions are varied and sometimes oddy revened. Take residential housing, for example.

IN 1880 the Canadian government launched a National Energy Program with the goal of independence from the world oil market by 1989. Part of that program deals with the promotion of energy conservation in homes.

Currently a 45-million fund is available to sun-

that program deals with the promotion of energy inservation in homes. Currently a \$6-million fund is available to sup-

analysis

port the construction of 1,000 super energy-effi-cient housing units across Canada. Super-insulated, or low-energy, homes reduce the cost of heating rooms to \$100 or less for natural gas per year. To date, 14 have been built.

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Basically, designers build houses that are suited to local climate conditions. Dwellings are situated to local climate conditions. Dwellings are situated so that impact of winter winds is minimized. Window areas are reduced on the east, west and north facing walls. And insulation, coupled with tight vapor barriers, is given prime attention.

A DIFFERENT energy situation exists in Mexico. Ranking fifth in proven oil reserves worldwide, co. Ranking fifth in proven oil reserves worldwide, on Ranking fifth in proven oil reserves worldwide, Mexico bast he problem of finding lucrative markets for her expanded oil production.

The Mexican press frequently carries stories of fabulous oil deals with foreign countries and the "pesos" these ventures will return.

Thanks to a moderate climate and low domestic consumption, Mexican residential energy consumption is not yet an issue. This could change, Forays around the Yucatan peninsula show new public housing projects that boast improved sanitation conditions, yet are totally unsuited to the local environment. Concrete block walls and corrugated metal roofs have replaced existing self-ventilating homes built of wood and palm batching.

In ultra-modern resorts like Cancun, American-style hotels, with high energy-consuming rates, outnumber their moderst naturally cooled Mexican counterparts. Mexicans fear that in an effort to catch up to the standards of the super-powers, their country too will find herself with an energy deficit.

State Energy Administration officials estimate that \$8.9 billion left the state in 1982 to pay for 87 percent of our total energy needs. Of this, approximately \$1.5 billion could have been saved by using appropriate energy conservation measures.

Rock salt price drops 10%

Salt to de-ice Oakland County roads will cost about 10 percent less per ton this winter, according to bids accepted by the road commission.

That could mean savings of almost \$100,000.*
sald Richard V. Vogt, vice chairman of the three-member board. A savings like that is gratifying.

The OCRC normally uses about 48,000 tons of rock salt during a winter at a cost of about \$182,000.

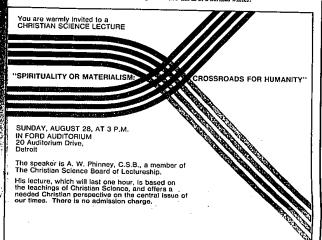
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982,000.
"Neither of the past two seasons were 'normal,'
o we can't make exact comparisons," said Vogt.

In the winter of 1981-2 we used 67,687 tons at a cost of \$1.25 million. Last winter we used only 25,548 tons at a cost of \$569,690.

Morton Salt Division of Morton Thiokol Inc. of Chicago was lowest of three bidders at \$15.40 to. \$18.77 per delivered ton, depending on point of destination. OCRC has seven salt storage sites. Last year, sald Vogt, low bids were \$17.15 to \$21.02 per ton.

The OCRC has \$2,000 tons in storage, enough for two thirds of a normal winter.





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