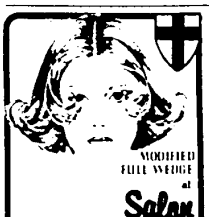

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GM exec says

Energy woes 'our fault'

Many of the energy troubles in America stem from expedient or short sighted political decisions, not deficiencies in technology or natural resources, said Howard Kehrl, GM executive vice president.

Kehrl said the nation has ample energy resources and, for the most part, the necessary technology.

"We have failed," he said, "in not putting the technology and the resources together in an effective manner."

Cutting the nation's energy problems is no pressing than ever, Kehrl said domestic oil production peaked in 1970 and has declined 13 per cent since then.

"AS A RESULT, we are importing more than 40 per cent of our oil today, up from 23 per cent in 1970. Natural gas production has dropped almost 12 per cent in the last two years. These two fuels supply 75 per cent of the nation's total energy needs.

Instead of gaining greater self sufficiency in energy supplies, we seem to be losing ground," he said.

The dangers in our growing dependence on foreign oil are clear. While there's nothing wrong with imported oil per se, a serious mistake would be to pump America dry first. If we fail to develop our own domestic energy alternatives, we become increasingly vulnerable to another disruption in foreign oil supplies.

Kehrl said there has been a five fold increase in world oil prices in the past three years, which is causing a serious balance of payments problem. U.S. payments for oil imports will soar to $35 billion in 1976 up from only $4 billion in 1973.

"It is imperative that we step up research and development in the United States for additional supplies, both in fossil fuels as well as solar, fusion and geothermal sources that seem to be within technological reach," Kehrl said.

"WE ALSO MUST adopt realistic environmental policies that will allow us to use our available resources.

"The first and most important step this country should take is the removal of wellhead price controls on crude oil and new natural gas supplies. The sooner these controls are removed, the sooner we will start closing the gap between the energy we have and the energy we need. The dynamics of a free market will work better than any scheme of central planning or control.

Noting that since the 1973 oil embargo, the nation's energy policy has been concerned primarily with energy conservation, the GM executive said conservation should be encouraged because it will help "buy time in which to develop new domestic sources."

DESPITE A CONTINUAL tightening of emission standards, GM has been able to produce cars showing better than a 10 per cent improvement over last year's average mileage and 50 per cent better than 1974, he said.

If the emission standards had not been tightened, the improvements would have been even greater, he said, predicting:

With some relief on the statutory emission requirements, I'm confident that General Motors can achieve the 20 miles per gallon average that will be required in 1979.

Turning to industrial energy, Kehrl cited GM's collaboration with 20 companies and organizations, including the federal government, on a project that uses powdered coal suspended in fuel oil to save an oil consumption alloy.

Coal oil fuels could provide one of the quickest ways of reducing the need for imported oil.

We must apply all the technology we already have at hand, to increase supplies and develop new sources.

I am certain that the nation that created atomic power and sent man to the moon can also provide an adequate supply of energy for its citizens.

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The Farmington Area Recreation Commission, in cooperation with Racquetball Courts of Farmington, will offer raquetball lessons for beginning and intermediate players, starting Jan. 12.

Classes will meet for one hour each week for six weeks. Equipment will be furnished for those who do not have their own. Child care is available upon request on a fee basis.

Daytime classes are $24. Late afternoon and evening classes cost $27.

Interested persons can register by mail or at the Farmington Area Recreation Commission office in the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile.

Registration deadline for the classes is Jan. 7, 1977.

Webber is a winner in bridge tourney

Bob Webber, 22360 Grand River, Farmington, was among the master point winners at the 1976 Fall North American Championship of the American Contract Bridge League in Pittsburgh, Pa. recently.

Webber won first in his section and second overall in a nine session event in which 1,[illegible] players competed.

The event was among five North American championships and 12 lesser ranked championships which drew 5,000 players to 12 days of competition.

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