

It's smart to conserve not consume raw energy

By WARREN M. HOYT

Because Michigan is operating from what Gov. William Milliken has said is a "potentially problematic" position, gas should be the last and a waste to conserve rather than consume.

Michael Davis, director of Michigan's Energy Administration, says: "We must

change people's attitudes about how they live and their unchecked consumption of scarce energy resources. We must encourage people to use efficient appliances and change in buildings to save energy and could save as much as 20 percent of the total energy consumption," he contends.

Results of a home insulation, weatherization and financing program appear to bear out

that contention at least in part. A public service commission report says that since the fall of 1973, when his been lifted to 20.23 Michigan homes have saved enough gas to heat another 30,372 homes.

The part two to the average residential customer who installs insulation in an existing home is substantial, says Davis. "It's a tremendous cost-saver," he says.

Consumers aren't the only ones con-

cerned about energy. A recent informa-

tion survey asked 4,000 people what they

thought about the cost of fuel. More than 22 percent of the respondents

said yes, but another 43 percent said no.

Along with the cost, the federal energy department's Paul Zwick says that

the United States doesn't have the capacity

to produce heating fuels and gasoline will skyrocket in the next 10 years.

Michigan has about 100 million cords

of wood chips that's left on the forest floor and the rest that's burned by sum-

mer industries.

Davis says use of such wood could help ease the state's energy shortage. Research engineer at Michigan Technical University, Davis says, "I think that using wood chips have about twice the energy content per dollar as coal and three times

the energy content per dollar as oil."

Since most of Michigan's electricity is generated by coal-fired plants and the cost

of coal is rising, coal could be a good

energy source if it's developed as a pos-

sitive alternative to coal," Davis says.

CALLS FOR TAKING politics out of the state government's energy process are growing louder. Paul Zwick has called for changes, noting the partisan nature of energy issues in Michigan. Sen. Jim Tapp, a Democrat, says he's about to do something to correct the situation.

He's calling for a task force to look at the present

system of government and what's re-

quired to have an impartial executive or

statewide basis.

He'd require that system-wide penalti-

es in seven different energy districts

be imposed and that each district have a speci-

al energy manager as a part of the state

board of energy.

Under the Tapp plan, and Davis' for a

predecessor's, would file in their individ-

ual districts, making it easy for the

state to keep track of what's happening in

each district. The two men will meet in early

November to discuss the November general

election ballot. No agreement with the da-

ys of doing something about the current price of electricity is Tapp's but he says he's prepared to help put the question to the ballot through an initiative petition drive if he can't get ten required signatures from legislative colleagues.

MORE THAN \$500 acres of tree plantings completed during 1975-76 says agricultural director Dale Ball. And that, says agriculture director Dale Ball, indicates the strong support of individuals for conservation programs.

Michigan has about 100,000 acres of land for that time period. Michigan Soil Conservation Districts

planted about eight million trees and shrubs as part of their programs.

Nearly 90 percent of the plant materials used were evergreens and a smaller amount of hardwoods and wildlife shrubs.

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The special Dec. 1 election was called to

fill vacancies because of the death of No.

number of HCMA board Chairman Jesse

Rutherford of Washtenaw County.

Clinton W. Heier of Livingston County is

new chairman of the five-member authority

which operates 10 metropolitan parks. George

Welch of Mason County moved up from

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