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UMR-MEC Conference on Energy / UMR-DNR Conference on Energy

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## Introductory Remarks

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## INTRODUCTION

By

Dudley Thompson

UMR-DNR Conference on Energy

October 11, 1977

Interim Chancellor Jim C. Pogue asked that I convey to you his regrets that he could not be here to welcome you to our campus and to this, the Fourth Annual (University of Missouri-Rolla/Missouri Department of Natural Resources) Conference on Energy. He had planned to. His plans were changed by a summons to appear in Jefferson City - our capitol - to defend and justify our 1978-79 Legislative Budget Request at this time before the staff of the Coordinating Board of Higher Education.

We had discussed the message that he wanted to convey to you and I will attempt to bring you his thought in my words.

In January 1976 the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to make interest-free loans to less developed countries from a fund of \$800 million in 1976.

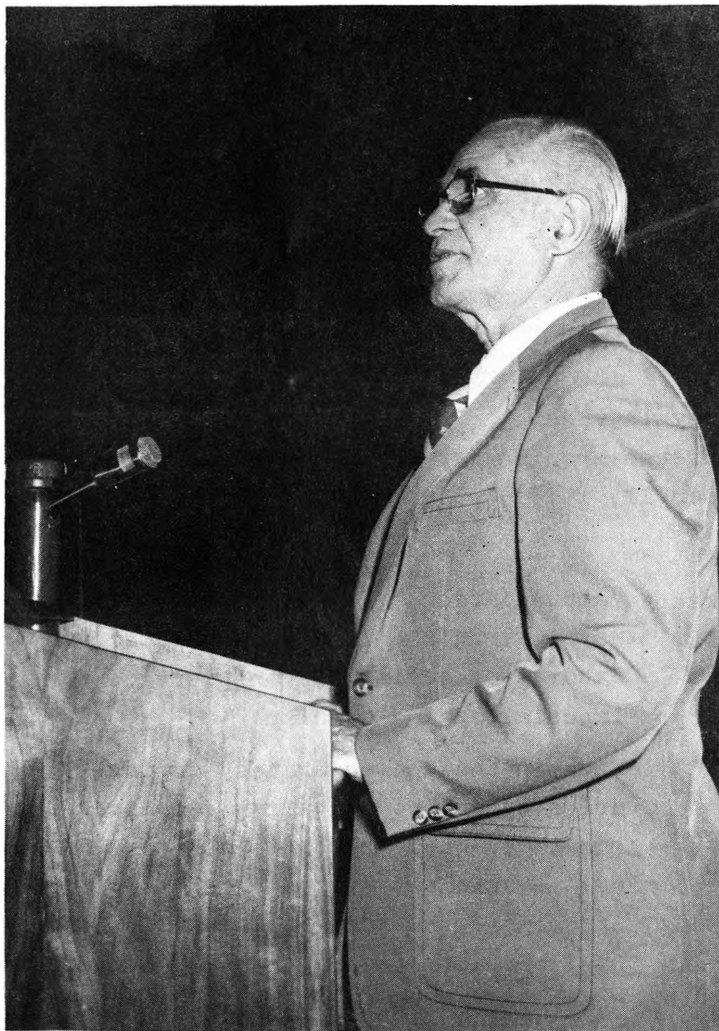
On December 17, 1976, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, meeting in Qatar, divided over the question of prices to be charged in the next six months. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates decided to raise their price by 5%, while the other 11 member countries said they would raise their prices by 10% (and by another 5% after July 1, 1977). Initially the Saudi representative had called for a six-month freeze on prices. He said he expected the West to show

"appreciation," presumably in political ways. Iraq's oil minister accused the Saudi's of acting "in the service of imperialism and zionism."

Back in the United States, during 1976, a drive by environmentalists to limit the growth of nuclear plants was resoundingly defeated in seven states as voters apparently decided that the need for development of alternative energy sources outweighed possible health and safety risks. By a 2-1 margin, California voters on June 8 defeated an initiative that would have placed stringent limits on development and operation of nuclear power plants. Similar initiatives, some authorizing a ban on nuclear construction until safety measures were foolproof, were decisively turned down by voters in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington in November 2 balloting.

These bills that became law only a week before the California referendum accomplished most of that initiative's goals: they prohibited nuclear construction until safe procedures for fuel-rod reprocessing and waste disposal were developed, and they required studies of underground or shielded construction techniques.

California, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Minnesota granted tax breaks to persons installing solar energy



Vice Chancellor Dudley Thompson  
University of Missouri-Rolla

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units. Pennsylvania and Wisconsin authorities, following deaths by freezing of elderly citizens, forbade disconnecting procedures by utility companies for unpaid bills whenever human life was endangered by the process.

The filibuster in the U.S. Senate last week stemmed from President Carter's proposal to: 1) retain Federal price controls on natural gas sold across interstate lines, but 2) raise the ceiling from \$1.47 to \$1.75 per thousand cubic feet.

The foregoing observations are offered to suggest that for the people of these United States - and the world - the opinions on

the crisis in supply and use of energy is confusing and conflicting. The "soft issues" becloud the hard issues. For many there is a real question: "Is there a crisis in energy?"

This Conference has as its theme "Energy Crisis - Where Do We Go From Here?" It could hardly be better expressed.

While the 96 papers to be presented in 25 sessions during the three days of this Conference will examine a broad spectrum of information, deal with hard data and quantitative determinations, and lead to consensus of scientifically trained minds (experienced in their respective disci-

plines), the hope needs to be expressed at the outset of this Conference that we do not forget or neglect the vast majority of people in this country, and the world. They need to have assurance by those who know, that there is an energy crisis. They need to be convinced and to have some guidance. Eventually, the success or failure of any energy program will come when the public at large believes.

The challenge that Chancellor Pogue wants presented to this conference is: "How do we convince the people of this country - and abroad - that there is an energy crisis?" Hopefully, this question will be raised in many of the 25 sessions which follow and ways will be found.

The Fourth Annual Conference opens with a General Session. This session will set the stage for the sessions which follow. To inform and challenge the participants in the Conference, we have been fortunate to obtain for our speaker, Mr. Richard T. Kennedy, Sr. Commissioner, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.

Richard T. Kennedy was Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of National Security Council Planning when he was appointed to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in January 1975. He had been a senior staff member of the National Security Council staff since October 1969.

Born on December 24, 1919, in Rochester, New York, Mr. Kennedy was graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Rochester in 1941. He holds a Master's Degree with Distinction from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration and is a graduate of the National War College in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Kennedy retired from the Army after serving 30 years, most of which had been

focused heavily on international affairs and strategic defense planning. During his service, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

Mr. Kennedy is married to the former Jean Martin of Rochester, New York. They live in Washington, D.C.

Commissioner Kennedy - we welcome you to our campus and to this conference.