

Columbia Missourian

69th Year — No. 175 Good Morning! It's Wednesday, April 13, 1977 2 Sections — 30 Pages — 15 Cents

Gasification becomes issue of dollars, sense

By Larry Katzenstein
Missourian staff writer

The question of dollars and sense about coal gasification — balancing Columbia's future electricity needs against the cost of building a gasification plant — dominated discussion Tuesday night as the city coal gasification task force began its work.

"Electricity for the community at the lowest possible cost is the crucial matter we should focus hard on," said task force chairman Holme Hickman, summing up the opinions of the six task force members. If the coal gasification project proposed for mid-Missouri does not appear to be economical, he said, "that should stop the whole thing right there."

The task force, created at last week's City Council meeting, has been directed to submit questions to a Kansas City, Kan., consulting firm studying the

gasification proposal.

Under the proposal, two coal gasification plants would be constructed in Missouri to convert high-sulfur Missouri coal into electricity. One plant would probably be built in Boone County and the second would be

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built in the Green Hills region of northern Missouri.

The task force will hold a second meeting tonight to review questions submitted by the public about the gasification proposal. That meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the City Council chambers in the County-City Building. At a final meeting Friday the task force is to draw up questions reflecting Columbia's concerns about coal gasification to be submitted to the consulting firm.

The Rocheport board of aldermen has

scheduled a public hearing on the proposal for April 27.

Task force member Marc de Chazal, University professor of chemical engineering, expressed concern that the new technology proposed for the plant might become obsolete a few years after construction. "Imagine building a plant that costs \$260 million and then two years later it's shut down. What happens to Columbia then?"

The Federal Energy Administration has estimated \$260 million would be the cost of each coal gasification plant. Walter Meyer, chairman of the University's nuclear engineering department, has estimated the cost of each plant could be as high as \$714 million.

De Chazal emphasized the gasification process planned for the plants is largely untested. The Columbia plant would be based on a small pilot plant operating in California. The pilot plant, de Chazal

said, "bears as much resemblance to the proposed Columbia plant as a pussy cat does to a tiger."

Another task force member, B.D. Simon Jr., president of Simon Construction Co., said the coal gasification plant should be compared with standard coal-fired electricity generating plants such as the one now operating in Columbia. A cost comparison between the two methods "should answer many of the questions we have as to the feasibility of coal gasification."

City Manager Terry Novak, Water and Light Director James Lundsted and FEA project manager Dwain Skelton appeared before the task force to present background information on coal gasification.

Novak said municipal financial pooling will be a crucial factor in developing the coal gasification plant. A bill to allow municipal pooling was recently passed by the Missouri House and is being considered in the Senate.



Task force chairman Holme Hickman Calls low-cost electricity 'a crucial matter'

Insight Carter has humanistic drug policy

By Patrick Oster
Chicago Sun-Times

WASHINGTON — If you talk to the President's chief drug-policy maker, Peter B. Bourne, he will tell you that "you cannot look for a real dramatic shift in (drug) policies of the last few years."

But as Bourne talks on in his basement office in the White House, one discovers that the nation is about to enter an era of "humanism" in the field of drug enforcement and treatment that will contrast distinctly with the approach the Nixon and Ford administrations took in this area.

Drug enforcement will openly focus on major operators and traffickers, while virtually ignoring users. The logical conclusion of such a policy is de facto decriminalization of drug use.

Drug users will be encouraged to come into the open and seek treatment. But legalization of heroin or marijuana will not be sought.

New looks will be taken at get-tough laws that have not seemed to work in their attempts to punish drug offenders with mandatory minimum sentences. Drugs considered less dangerous than they once were, such as cocaine, may

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In town today

4 p.m. Men's high school track, Hickman vs. Pattonville, Hickman Track.

4 p.m. Women's high school track, Hickman vs. Boonville, Hickman Track.

4 p.m. Men's high school baseball, Rock Bridge vs. Ashland, Legion Field.

4 p.m. Men's high school golf, Rock Bridge vs. Jefferson City, Municipal Golf Course.

4 p.m. Men's high school tennis, Rock Bridge vs. Mexico, Rock Bridge Courts.

7 p.m. Coal gasification task force meeting for citizen input, City Council chambers, County-City Building.

7:30 p.m. "The Remorseless Daydreams of Mrs. Blanchard," Warehouse Theatre, Stephens College.

8:15 p.m. Cello and Percussion Recital, Fine Arts Recital Hall, University.

Exhibits

New: Fine Arts Gallery, University, University student art display, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Columbia College Art Center Gallery, Columbia College student art display, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Brady Commons Art Gallery, University, Missouri Craft Council Annual Traveling Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See Sunday's Vibrations for continuing exhibit schedules.

Movie listings on page 13A

Henderson case postponed

By Steve Snyder
Missourian staff writer

For Ken Henderson, a day in court is a day in court is a day in court.

What City Prosecutor Philip Morgan hoped to be a one-morning stand Tuesday in Municipal Court was postponed when a key witness failed to appear.

Henderson and his attorney, Jim Butcher, appeared to answer charges that he violated a zoning ordinance by allowing more than one family to live at 2409 Glenn Road.

The city is holding Henderson responsible for the alleged violation as lessor of the property.

Rodney Coleman, 21, filed a complaint with the city in December about the alleged zoning violation and precipitated the Tuesday court action against Henderson. But Coleman was

missing because of unsuccessful attempts by bailiff June Akin to serve him a subpoena.

Morgan requested a continuance when Coleman failed to appear. Henderson's day in court was postponed until June 21.

Housing code and zoning violations are not new to Henderson. He was fined \$200 in Municipal Court in July 1973 for failing to comply with the housing code.

In September 1975, he was fined another \$100 for allowing the occupation of a basement apartment at 306 Waugh St. after the city had ruled the apartment unfit for human occupancy.

Henderson was cited by the Columbia Public Works Department Sept. 14, 1971, May 2, 1974, and in January of this year for failing to comply with a zoning ordinance. Because 2409 Glenn Road is in an R-1 zoning district, no more than

one family may live in a living unit.

Two families had been living in the Glenn Road dwelling when public works inspectors conducted the three inspections, Building Regulations Supervisor C. E. Scheurich told the Missourian Tuesday.

"We notified him of the violation and it was abated" in 1971 and 1974, Scheurich said.

But when Coleman complained to public works in January that Henderson had resumed the two-family practice, Scheurich notified the city prosecutor.

Coleman failed to show up Tuesday because he moved to West Plains, Mo., at the end of February, he told the Missourian in a telephone interview.

Coleman said he "just informed the city that there was two families living in the one-family area" at 2409 Glenn Road in late December. A building

inspector arrived and found two families living in the dwelling.

"The city made it clear that one of the families had to move out," Coleman said. In early January, he moved to 301 Waugh St.

Coleman said Rainbow Investment Corp., and not Henderson, owned the house on Glenn Road. But he added that Henderson acted as lessor for the corporation.

"He was lessor, but the house was not his," Coleman said.

Coleman said he told Henderson "that I acknowledged that he was running-it (a duplex) in the R-1 zoning area."

Henderson "seemed very disturbed," Coleman said. "He said because of it, it had messed up his credit rating."

Butcher and Henderson were not available for comment Tuesday night.

Carter may seek gas tax increase

N.Y. Times Service

WASHINGTON — President Carter's energy program, to be presented to Congress next week, calls for American consumers to pay for domestic oil and natural gas at least the same price set by an international cartel for imported oil, sources said Tuesday.

The sources also said Carter would tie a proposal for an increase in the

federal gasoline tax to future consumption. Recognizing the political sensitivity of the gasoline issue, Carter is likely to say that Congress should authorize an increase in the federal tax — which would raise the price of gasoline — only if Americans fail to start conserving the fuel. The federal tax is now four cents a gallon (3.8 liters).

Informed sources insisted Tuesday night that specifics of the program

were still under study, in part because of concern that the suggested tax might be a drag on the economy. The most likely first year for the tax, the sources suggested, was 1980, with 10 cents a likely but not definite initial amount.

Rep. Thomas L. Ashley, D-Ohio, told the Toledo Chamber of Commerce Tuesday that the Carter energy plan would contemplate letting domestic crude oil prices at the wellhead rise gradually to the cost of imported oil.

The price of foreign oil is set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, a 13-country cartel.

The proposal reflects the strongly held view of James R. Schlesinger, the President's energy adviser, that hard-headed realism requires the country to stop charging itself less for domestic energy than it pays for imported oil, which now makes up about 44 per cent of U.S. oil consumption. The Ford administration held a similar view.

Proctor may alter conservative stance

By Judith Gibbs
Missourian staff writer

By most estimates, former Mayor Bob Pugh and his friend and successor, Les Proctor, are as close politically as their homes on West Rockcreek Drive.

But when Pugh became mayor two years ago, he backed away from the staunch conservatism he and Proctor share and cast some maverick votes to bring the council to compromise.

Now, Proctor promises to follow suit. "I was uncompromising as Fourth Ward councilman because of the strong vote I had when initially elected.

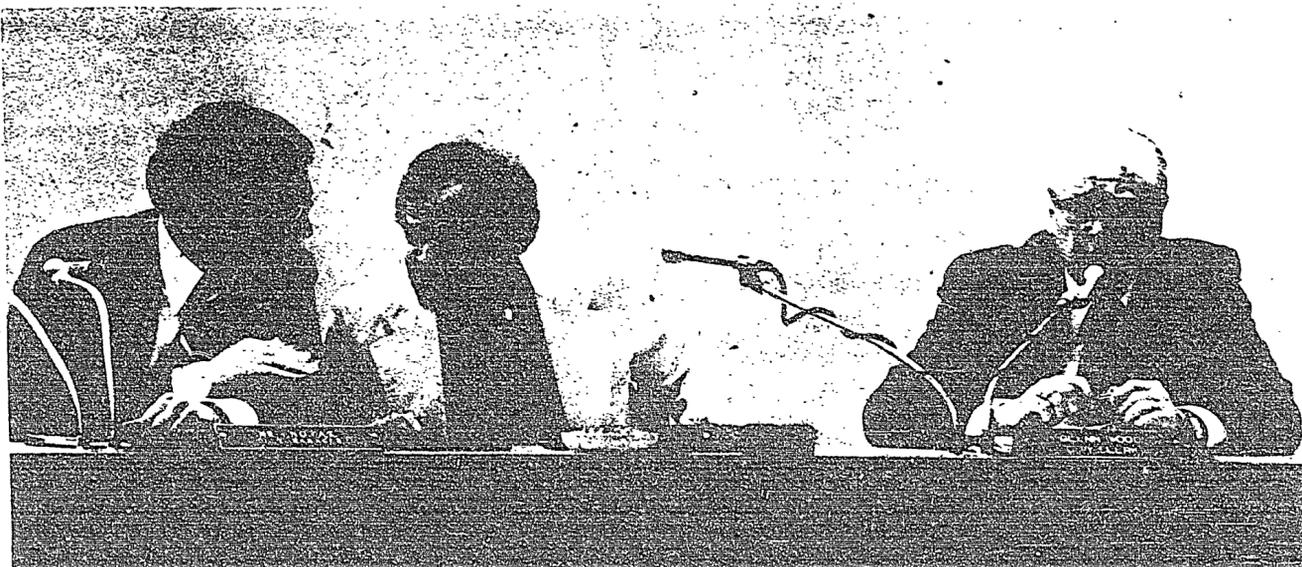
"I still have my same principles in mind, but as a representative of six wards instead of one, you have to be willing to compromise."

The shift to the middle is necessary, Proctor explains, because his election victory, by a margin of 58 per cent to opponent Dan Viets' 42 per cent, did not give him a strong mandate.

"I consider my victory strong, but certainly not overwhelming. Those 42 per cent are as entitled to representation as the other 58 per cent."

Fifth Ward Councilwoman Fran Beach, who served with Proctor for the last two years, says he already is wavering from his staunch conservatism as Fourth Ward councilman.

"I think he's already recognized he has a much more diverse constituency now. Even during the campaign, what he was saying more nearly approximated what Dan Viets was



Mayor Les Proctor confers with City Manager Terry Novak, left, at a council meeting

saying than what he had ever said before."

Proctor also is advocating changes in the council he never advocated before.

He said a goal of his administration is to "erase this good-old-boy image that just a handful of councilmen

make all the decisions. I'd like to see a council where all seven are relating all the time.

"When we have 4-3 votes, I want them to be mixed and not show a definite voting pattern. I want to erase that as a pattern."

To achieve that goal, Proctor said,

council members need to talk frequently to each other. "I think it's almost essential that councilmen relate to each other more than once every two weeks. I'll encourage it by doing it myself."

Proctor worries about the issues the council will have to face under his

leadership. "I'm a bit apprehensive that we might be at the mercy of some of the issues. There's more potential for explosive issues to occur now than during the last two years."

The new council will decide on the proposed coal gasification project for Columbia and consider an increase in

electric rates, a move Proctor calls "a very unpopular necessity."

But he says he is determined to follow Pugh's example in guiding the council away from "these social issues where it's a philosophical debate. I prefer to focus on the nuts and bolts of providing tangible services."

The last council did not ignore the social issues, he says, but "we took a look at them and we were decisive."

There will be differences in the two councils, Proctor says.

For one thing, his leadership is sure to be more subtle.

Proctor himself acknowledges he is a quieter man than the outspoken Pugh.

Sixth Ward Councilman Clyde Wilson, who has served on the council under the last three mayors, says Proctor won't grab the spotlight as did Pugh and Tom Anderson before him.

"I think the role of mayor will be less obvious than it has been on the last two councils," Wilson says. "He (Proctor) will handle the council meetings with greater dispatch because he doesn't talk as much as Pugh did."

Still, Ms. Beach says she does not expect an obvious change in Proctor's handling of the council. "There might be a quieter tone, more low key, but that's a matter of personality."

Proctor sees his leadership role somewhat differently. "There'll be some subtle changes — stronger leadership, for instance. But there won't be a new Les Proctor. Just the same Les Proctor in another role."