

VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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Mo Udall

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UDALL TO ADDRESS VERMONT CONSERVATION BANQUET

Congressman Morris Udall will address invited guests at the Vermont Conservation Banquet on Saturday evening, November 1st at the Woodstock Inn.

The Conservation Banquet, held for the first time two years ago, is a fund-raising event for the Vermont Natural Resources Council. Its purpose is to focus public attention on major environmental issues facing Vermont and the nation.

Congressman Udall, who was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1961, serves on the Interior Committee and is Chairman of its Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment. Udall has worked hard for campaign spending reform and for reform in the way that Congress conducts its business. He is, however, best known to most people as a leading advocate of environmental sanity. His efforts to achieve a national land-use planning policy are known to many Vermonters. He has been a strong advocate of strip mining controls and he led the effort in the House that resulted in a \$20 billion non-nuclear energy research and development act.

The Banquet will benefit the VNRC EDUCATION FUND, a fund which is being established to further the Council's education and publishing projects. A goal of \$20,000 has been established and a challenge grant has been received that will match all contributions to this fund.

Invitations to the Banquet have been mailed to conservationists and friends of VNRC throughout the state. Anyone wishing to attend may receive an invitation by writing the Council at 26 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont, 05602, by calling 223-2328, or by using the coupon on page seven of this issue.

annual mtg.

VNRC ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR DECEMBER 6TH

VNRC members are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Council on Saturday, December 6th, from 9.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. Details of that meeting and its location will be described in the November issue of the VER.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE THIRD CENTURY COMMISSION: RETREAT FROM THE FUTURE?

The shock waves of Governor Salmon's sudden decision to abandon an idea for a Third Century Commission are still going out. For those who saw in such a Commission a commitment to the concept of long-range planning, and who urged the need for such planning, the Governor's decision was nothing less than a betrayal of the future.

Two of those who worked hard for the creation of a Third Century Commission were Tony Scoville, who was with the Agency of Environmental Conservation, and Dr. Carl Reidel, Director of the Environmental Program at the University of Vermont.

Scoville is a person of strong convictions. One of his most deeply-held convictions is the need for long-range planning, and long-range planning for Scoville, is not a decorative embellishment; it is not something that gets dropped when times are hard. Scoville looks at government: he sees it floundering from one crisis to another. He looks at political figures: and he thinks that politicians will be in trouble if they don't offer leadership.

Scoville is concerned about the increasingly large share of the nation's capital resources that are being devoted to the production and distribution of all kinds of energy. "Between the present and 1985," Scoville declares, "we will go from 22 to 35 percent of our capital dependence on the production and distribution of energy resources." Scoville is aware of the long lead times employed by large corporate groups. "They make their plans twenty years in advance." What about government? It tends to get left behind to pick up the pieces. Scoville expresses his views frankly. He does not feel that Governor Salmon has a "gut feeling" about the "limits to growth" that are upon us, and he is distressed at the failure to create a Third Century Commission.

Dr. Carl Reidel of UVM is also disappointed by the Governor's decision to abandon plans for a Third Century Commission. Dr. Reidel talks about a conversation he had with Governor Salmon several months ago. Dr. Reidel had discussed with Salmon the role of former President Harry Truman in launching the Marshall Plan. "It took a popular political leader to do this," Reidel told Salmon. Then he went on to make his appeal for long-range planning. "I told him that we needed in government a moral leader to make the issue of long-range planning a popular issue." Reidel feels that Salmon's decision to abort the Commission is another example of the Governor's capitulation to present political urgencies -- like the current budget crisis -- at the expense of the future.

"Can we afford NOT to have long-range planning?" Reidel asks. He sees us at present drifting into the future unaware of what kind of choices we can make. Some of these choices may be painful. People may have to decide such questions as: "Do you want to travel on a plowed highway to a second-class educational institution, or do you want to put on chains and drive to a first-class institution?"