

# Unemployment rates to rise as propane reserves fall

By LEE SIEGEL  
Of the Emerald

A shortage of propane is creating a serious increase in

unemployment in southern Oregon, according to the State Energy Information Center.

About 100 workers have already been laid off at the

Grants Pass division of Agnew Plywood, and ten other mills may announce layoffs soon, reports Jan Monroe of the Center.

Propane is used in many ways in the manufacture of plywood, but is used primarily to dry lumber in kilns. Also in short supply is phenol, a petroleum derivative used in producing glue for laminating plywood.

"How bad the shortage gets," says Monroe, "depends on how

the construction rate due to high interest rates on loans.

Mills use natural gas to dry their lumber during the summer months and switch to propane in the winter months when the gas supply is cut off. The mills have interruptible contracts with the natural gas companies.

This year, the natural gas is being interrupted for a longer period than usual, because it is also in short supply.

The propane shortage is not only attributable to the overall shortage of petroleum, but also to the recent Canadian rail strike. Propane supplied to the Pacific Northwest is transported by rail from Canada.

The strike is now over, says Monroe, but the production of propane has not caught up with demand.

In addition, Monroe says that

the Canadian government has implemented export restrictions and "will only allow traditional amounts of propane to be exported to traditional suppliers in the U.S." This action was taken because the Canadians do not want to create a domestic shortage by letting their refineries export too much propane to the higher priced U.S. market.

The State of Oregon is unable to take any action to alleviate the shortage of propane because the federal government has already imposed a mandatory allocation program which does not allow state governments to have a part in the manipulation of propane supplies.

A list of ten priority uses for propane has been established by the federal government, but the lumber manufacturing process is not on it.

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## LCC senate ousts Red Fox

The student senate at Lane Community College voted 9-1 Tuesday "to demand the immediate resignation of Student

Body President David Red Fox."

Dave Simmons, LCC senator-at-large, initiated the motion. Simmons said Wednesday night, "the charges resulted from Red Fox's (Oct. 19) veto of a number of student club budgets. The senate had voted unanimously to approve the budgets, but Red Fox vetoed them, calling them illegal." Simmons said similar "illegal" budgets had not been challenged by Red Fox in the past.

The vetoed budgets included those for the Chicano Student Self-Help Oriented People.

Barry Hood, LCC first vice president, said Wednesday, "it is the opinion of the majority of the senate that these budget vetos by Red Fox were not in the best interest of the student body."

Hood said that Red Fox was not at the Tuesday meeting when the resignation vote was cast, but was informed of the decision by telegram. "I'm anticipating a formal statement from Red Fox," Hood said. "His wife came to clean out his desk, though, if that is any indication."

Red Fox was unavailable for comment on his intentions.

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