

Chilean exiled profs rally for freedom

By TOM WOLFE
Of the Emerald

Two banned Chilean professors will speak at the University Wednesday to gather support for academic freedom in their homeland.

Their visit is part of a tour sponsored by the U.S. National Coordinating Center in Solidarity with Chile. The tour has been organized to arouse public support for returning democratic educational principles to Chile.

Universities and educational associations from more than 30 countries have

supported the Center's fight against suppression of dissident professors and student leaders in Chilean universities.

When Chile Pres. Salvador Allende's government was overthrown in September, 1973, Chilean universities suffered concentrated military repression, according to Enrique Lamadrid, University professor of romance languages, who is helping to organize the tour.

"Intellectual plurality was totally destroyed," under military rule, says Lamadrid. Democratic advances made under Allende were wiped out and students

who can afford higher tuition prices are now required to take courses in national security and restricted to study only the official ideology, says the professor.

When the United Nations and other world leaders began investigating the extent of academic suppression in Chile, Eugenio Valesco, dean of faculty at the University of Chile, stepped forward to confirm human rights violations by the controlling military government. He was expelled from Chile in 1976 and now teaches law at UCLA.

The other speaker, Enrique Kirberg of the state technical university in Santiago was

imprisoned for several years in Chile and now teaches at Columbia University in New York City.

The professors will speak at 3 p.m. Wednesday in the EMU, room 103 be posted and at 8 p.m. in 129 Law. Kirberg will speak about the democratization of universities under Allende and Velasco will talk about military suppression after the 1973 coup.

The appearance is sponsored by the Student Bar Association, the Minority Law Students Association, the Chilean support group, a group of University professors and some community members.

Energy may electrify next election

By GARY NORRIS
Of the Emerald

For the first time since the mid-1930s electricity and energy will be the most important election issues in the Pacific Northwest, according to Dick Eymann of the Lane Demo Forum Monday.

Eymann, a part-time energy consultant for U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver (Dem.-Ore.), told the group of Democratic supporters a "full emphasis" on alternative energy sources is needed and

called energy conservation "central to our lifestyles and to the care of our low-income and senior citizens."

Eymann supported converting to publicly-owned power and to reduce costs and said this could be accomplished three ways.

Individual Public Utilities District (PUD) throughout the state would, Eymann said, greatly reduce costs to consumers.

"Pacific Power and Light (PP&L) people have told me that costs through a PUD would be

equal to or greater than costs from a private company," Eymann said. "And they told me laymen couldn't do the job as efficiently."

Eymann criticized PUD employee wages and benefits for being lower than private utilities wages.

"This is somewhat true," Eymann said, "and it has been a legitimate hangup of labor in the past."

But Eymann claimed public power is cheaper. "There's a dramatic change," he said. "It's a

differential of up to 100 percent per kilowatt-hour." The reason, he said, is that public utilities now have priority over private firms in use of cheaper hydroelectric power.

Eymann said one way to produce low-cost public power would be the creation of a state power authority which would be able, under the State constitution, to buy out many of the larger investor-owned utilities.

The state has had the power to control utilities since 1932, when the constitution was amended to allow it to "control, use, transmit, distribute, sell and/or dispose of electric energy," and to "do any and all things necessary or convenient to carry out the provisions of this act." But creation of the state power authority was left to the Legislature, which never did so, according to Eymann, because of lobbying pressure from the aluminum industry. "I served in the 1957 Legislature and we lost that issue on the last day of the session because we couldn't get the rules suspended," said Eymann. "We had 16 votes, but the aluminum industry lobby killed the two-thirds rule suspension."

Why do the aluminum companies have a hold on Northwest power? asked Eymann. "They currently use 25 to 30 percent of available BPA power at a rate lower than that available to public and private utilities," Eymann said in 1932 the aluminum companies were granted 20-year power contracts by executive order of former president Roosevelt. He added

that "20 years later those contracts were renewed without any presidential or legislative authority."

Eymann said current aluminum company power contracts will expire in the early 1980s and said he supports an initiative to create a state power authority through public referendum. The initiative is being circulated by a bi-partisan group of dissatisfied Clackamas County power consumers.

Eymann said he prefers the constitutional methods of public power regulation over the Domestic and Rural Power Authority (DRPA). DRPA will only become law if no Northwest regional power plan is adopted before March, 1979, but Eymann said people have challenged it, as a "paper" public agency.

"When DRPA makes its first allocation there will be people questioning this agency which contracts with investor-owned utilities," Eymann said.

But Eymann endorsed Jim Weaver's Columbia Basin Energy Cooperative bill above other methods, saying "it goes much further toward helping Pacific Northwest consumers and gives preference to public power companies."

Weaver's bill (HR 5862) would create a regional power authority in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and parts of Western Montana. The bill would give preferential rates to residential energy users, and would emphasize development of renewable energy sources such as solar, geothermal, wood waste and wind energy.

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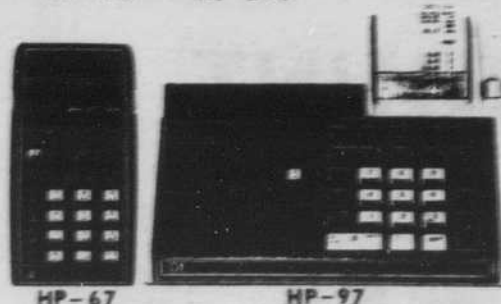
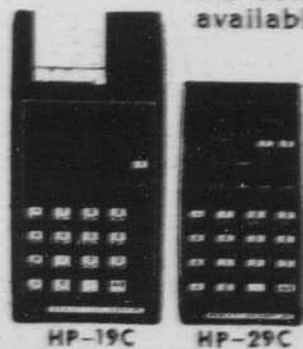
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