

Wood stove industry gives city heat

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

Claiming the wood stove industry in the Eugene-Springfield area has been subjected to "unreasonable and capricious action," five members of that industry have called for an investigation of the city's mechanical inspection division of the Public Works Department.

The members, Mike Duval of J & J Enterprises, Ken Hussey of Mannan Building Supplies, Thomas Lichty of the Oregon Woodstove Company, John Orlando of Oregon Steel Fabricating and G.M. McCormack of McCormack Consulting Engineers, will present their own findings of a conflict of interest by one of the division's

inspectors at a news conference today. According to a letter sent to the Eugene City Council last Wednesday, the group claimed that elements in city government "have actively discouraged the (wood-stove) industry by irresponsible, unreasonable and inconsistent actions and have caused substantial monetary losses (in the industry)."

Citing several documented incidents of irregularities in the mechanical inspection division's handling of wood stove inspections, the group said one division employee was attempting to "force local businessmen out of business by threats and malicious statements."

That employee, Lyle Lamont, a mechanical inspector for the public works depart-

ment, is under investigation by the city manager's office, Keith Martin, assistant city manager, said Monday.

Although it is uncertain how long the investigation will take, Martin said, the wood stove manufacturer's charges are being studied in depth.

"The charges they presented to us in our meeting were pretty broad," Martin said. "But the investigation is checking into each of the items individually."

According to the Public Works Department, Lamont is on vacation and cannot be reached for comment.

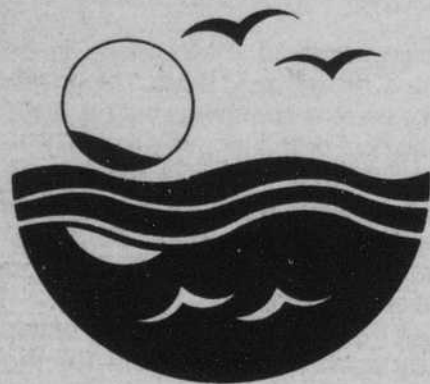
Among the charges, the group claims that misleading statements made by Lam-

ont might have discouraged potential customers from buying wood stoves.

"Misleading statements have been made by the mechanical inspector that installations of certain stoves will result in cancellation of homeowner's insurance," the group's letter said. "Such statements are false and have been pointed out to the inspector in the past."

The statements continued, the group said, and sales were lost because of reluctance to buy wood stoves under those circumstances.

While the Eugene-Springfield wood stove industry is important to the local economy, the alleged activity of government officials may damage both industry image and sales, the group said.



By KATHLEEN MONJE
Of the Emerald

A court decision on herbicide spraying in the Siuslaw National Forest, which will affect chemical use on public lands statewide, was again delayed Friday.

Federal Judge Otto Skopil of the U.S. District Court in Portland



Tom McCall will speak tonight on the "Future of the Environmental Movement in Oregon," part of Wilderness Day during Earth Week at the University.

McCall, a candidate for governor, will lecture in Room 167 of the Erb Memorial Union.

Also on the agenda are Alaskan wilderness films and slide shows, to be repeated throughout the day. From 10 to 11 a.m. "Alaska:

postponed his decision on the use of the herbicides 2,4,5-T and Silvex, both of which contain the highly controversial chemical Dioxin.

Citizens Against Toxic Sprays had filed a request with Skopil for a temporary restraining order against use of the herbicides in national forests.

Skopil, who last year banned use of the two chemicals in the Siuslaw National Forest until completion of the Forest Service's environmental impact statement, says he will study further the environmental statement.

Oregon meteorites will be the

Today's events

"Land in the Balance" and "Admiralty: Fortress of the Bears" will be shown. The films will be repeated at 2 p.m.

Slide shows of the Misty Fjords and Stikine-LeConte wilderness areas in Alaska will be shown from 11 a.m. until noon; they will be shown again at 2 p.m.

The films and slide shows will be presented in the EMU downstairs lobby, in front of the Survival Center, Suite One.

subject of a lecture and presentation sponsored at 8:00 p.m. Friday by the Eugene Natural History Society and the Eugene Astronomical Society.

Speaker Richard Pugh has had 15 years' experience collecting meteorites in Oregon and Washington. He will explain how to identify them, and will bring about 24 specimens. The lecture will be held in Rm. 123 in the University Science Bldg.

The Pacific Northwest energy debate continued in Portland Saturday, with Senators Mark Hatfield, R-Ore. and Henry Jackson, D-Wash., urging regional partisans not to let hydropower allocation become a "battle between our states."

Jackson, who chairs the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was in Portland for one of four meetings to hear testimony on the region's energy

problems.

Opponents of the bill proposed by the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC) dominated the hearing.

Gov. Bob Straub and Portland Mayor Neil Goldschmidt told the Senate committee they could not support any proposal that would not guarantee a larger share of low-cost hydropower for Oregon residents.

The PNUCC bill would continue to give priority for the federal hydropower produced by the Bonneville Power Administration to customers served by public utilities.

Most Washington residents obtain their power from public utilities, while the Oregon customers are served by private utilities.

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By Osvaldo Dragun

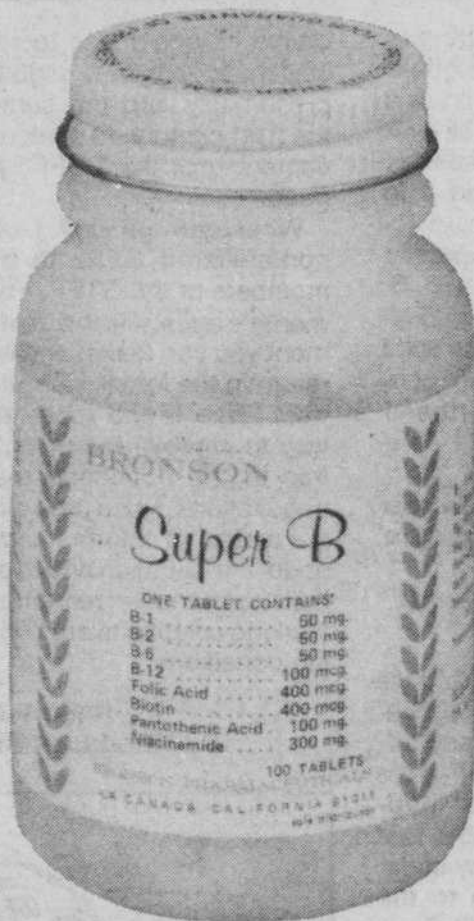
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