Energy use means conflict for society—Stever

By Anita Stork

Society faces a conflict in energy use, said H. Guyford Stever, the highest science administrator in the U.S. government.

There's a heavy use of what energy source is available," Stever said. "At the same time there's a worry that it is being used up too fast."

Stever delivered the inaugural Gustafson Memorial

Lecture in Hamilton Hall Friday.

Every American ought to know what

it says. For a copy, write: "Economics,"

Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

The Gustafson Lecture is named in honor of Reuben G. Gustafson, chancellor of the university from 1945-53.

The lecture series is one of four established by Resources for the Future, Inc., an organization foundedby the Ford Foundation in 1953 to work in resource development and conservation. Gustafson was the organization's first president.

Stever, director of the U.S. Office of Science and Technological Policy, said he is "rather doubtful" he will stay on under the Jimmy Carter administration, but is "keeping his options open."

Energy crunch not new At a press conference before his lecture, Stever said the energy crunch has been with society for a long time.

The human race takes the easy way out," Stever said. "Oil is so convenient to use that we'll use it until it's gone.'

Direct conversion of solar energy to power is "a long

way off," Stever said, but "I'm sure our grandchildren will use solar energy."

He said the expectations for future use of solar energy

There's no waste or transportation problem," Stever said. "It's a clean source of energy that lands on us from

Stever called it the "Mr. Clean" of energy sources. Nebraska seeks research institute

Nebraska and several other states are seeking construction of a Solar Energy Research Institute. Stever said the location of the institute was "too political" to be decided by the federal government in an election year.

Stever said he did not know where the institute would be, but "in the long-run future, Nebraska will have solar research."

Nuclear energy will become more important, he said. "It's vital to be concerned about nuclear power's safety record," Stever said. "But it's safer than a number of other energy sources."

He cited the safety record of coal mines, where many workers have become ill.

In his lecture, Stever said America must develop a more mature perspective on sciences and technology.

He said science has been highly successful in single objective, high technology programs that lent themselves to careful planning. This inspired a great confidence in science and technology, he said.

"When that confidence was extended to solving other, more complex problems, there were disappointments."

People then conclude that because science cannot do

everything including solving social problems, science cannot do anything, Stever said.

Scientific problems must be attacked from many directions, using scientific, technical, economic and social ideas, he added.

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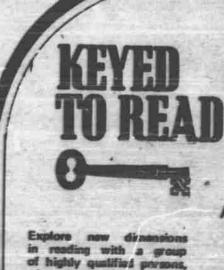
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