



# Zarb warns of continued gas waste

By Scott Whitcomb

Americans will continue to waste gasoline until the price of fuel is increased to its true market value, the former head of the Federal Energy Administration said Friday.

Former energy "czar" Frank Zarb told a press conference in the Nebraska Union that natural gas is priced 50 per cent below its true market value.

Zarb was in Lincoln as the featured speaker for the UNL Engineering Week (E-Week) 1977 convocation Friday afternoon.

He said the demand for natural gas, "the cleanest, most natural source of energy," has increased more than 10 per

cent a year since the 1960s, slightly higher than the inflation rate.

sumption and increase domestic production of natural gas "without damaging the country's economic growth."

He said price controls on gas have not only damaged the value of oil and gas, "but every other element of the nation's energy."

### Steps outlined

Steps which Zarb said America must take to curb the energy crisis include:

-Conservation, which he said "we must weave into part of thinking of our everyday lives."

-Increased production of oil and natural gas, both of which he said are declining at 8 to 12 per cent a year.

-Increased production of coal, which is capable of being doubled by 1986.

-Increased production of nuclear power, which must double over the next 10 years or energy conservation "will simply not get done because the world is running out of oil," he said.

Solar energy should represent five per cent of energy output by 1995, Zarb said, but added that expenditures for solar energy research are being "dragged down because of competition with the increasing price of natural gas."

### Economic merits

He said solar production of hot water has economic merits, but that solar energy is a long way from replacing oil as energy.

He said America has been moving in the right direction since the first half of 1975. He added, however, that the failure of Congress to pass three energy bills introduced during the first half of 1975 has given America 60 per cent more energy problems than it should have.

He said it will take 10 to 15 years to reduce energy consumption, but added that people should not be discouraged because it takes time to implement policies.

When asked about the future of Nebraska's pet energy project, gasohol, Zarb said gasohol will make a contribution if adequate supplies of grain (used to produce gasohol) can be found.

He added, however, that even if gasohol becomes a viable substitute, "it won't take over the main stream of the American system."

E-Week open house Friday and Saturday featured projects and displays by UNL and some high school students. Projects ranged from the simple to the complex and drew visitors from across the state to the Nebraska Engineering Center.

cent a year since the 1960s, slightly higher than the inflation rate.

"Americans will use and waste more gasoline when more is produced," Zarb said, calling such waste "the formula for an ultimate energy shortage."

### Hit peak

By 1982 the natural gas industry will hit its peak and then start to decline, Zarb said.

He said the proposed \$1,000 federal tax on new gas-guzzling automobiles would only be a revenue raiser, but would not have the desired impact in curbing the energy problem.

Zarb, who described himself as "mildly optimistic and impatient" about the energy problem, predicted "the next big blip on the radar screen" to be the inability to deliver regional electricity during peak periods of economic activity.

Zarb told a packed house in the Union Ballroom for the convocation that America will have to decrease con-



Photographs by Kevin Higley and Ted Kirk

