

# Public buildings may be refuge from heatless homes

MITCHELL, S.D.—The rising cost of home heating oil could force hundreds of South Dakota families, unable to meet heating bills that doubled since last year, to leave their homes this winter for the shelter of public buildings.

## a.p. datelines

In rural Davison County, social workers say more than 500 families could have trouble paying skyrocketing fuel bills. So county officials have worked out a contingency plan to house the homeless in church basements and city hall, should worse come to worse.

"We're looking at \$1 a gallon for heating oil by the first of the year, and who knows after that," said Don Herrick, Davison County disaster services director.

State officials say the cost of fuel oil has nearly doubled since last fall, when a gallon was priced in the 40-45 cents range. Today, that gallon costs anywhere from 71-85 cents—and officials expect the price to dwell in the \$1 range later this winter.

Herrick said that price will be out of the reach of some citizens.

The 1970 census shows that 36 percent, or 76,000, of South Dakota's homes are heated by fuel oil. South Dakota's winters are usually long and severely cold, with furnaces running from October through March.

Herrick said the fuel oil crunch is hitting "a group, that

in prior years, has never had a problem—lower middle income people."

Herrick said a "gentleman's code" among the oil companies has stopped them from shutting off heat on those unable to meet heating bills in past years. But delivering more fuel to customers with back bills to pay might be another matter.

"Of course, they're not going to deliver to those people who can't pay for it," said Cathy Carver, energy program manager for the South Dakota Economic Opportunity Office.

## Hastings prepares for funeral

OMAHA, Neb.—Three-year-old Chad Green, a leukemia victim whose parents defied a court order and fled the United States to obtain Laetrile treatments for their son, is on his way home.

Chad died Friday in Tijuana, Mexico, where his parents, Jerry and Diana Green of Hastings, Neb., had taken him for Laetrile treatments and a special diet to combat his cancer.

His body is being flown back to Hastings for burial. Services will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, according to his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Carl Barton.

The Greens drove back into the United States early Wednesday, ending an 8½-month exile in which they defied a court order to seek Laetrile treatments for their cancer-stricken son.

The grief-stricken parents delivered the death certificate

to a Tijuana mortuary Tuesday. Then, after talking by telephone with relatives and friends in Nebraska, they began the long drive to Nebraska for a reunion and the funeral Saturday.

## Spending bill proposed

WASHINGTON—Rep. Doug Bereuter, R.-Neb., has cosponsored a Constitutional amendment to limit federal spending and the growth of the national economy.

The amendment would place a limit on the increase in federal spending to no more than the rate of growth of the national economy, he said.

The increase in total outlays in any fiscal year would be limited to the percentage increase in the gross national product for the previous calendar year. If inflation during that calendar year exceeds 3 percent, budget growth would be reduced by one-fourth of the rate of inflation above 3 percent.

"Of primary importance is the fact that the amendment would prohibit a sudden shifting of program costs to state and local governments," Bereuter said.

During the first six years after ratification, total grants to state and local governments would be no less than the current fraction of federal spending. Thereafter, grant reductions would be permitted, but only in conjunction with a dollar-for-dollar reduction in federal spending, Bereuter said.

In addition, the federal government could not impose more costs on state and local governments without compensation equal to those costs, he said.

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