

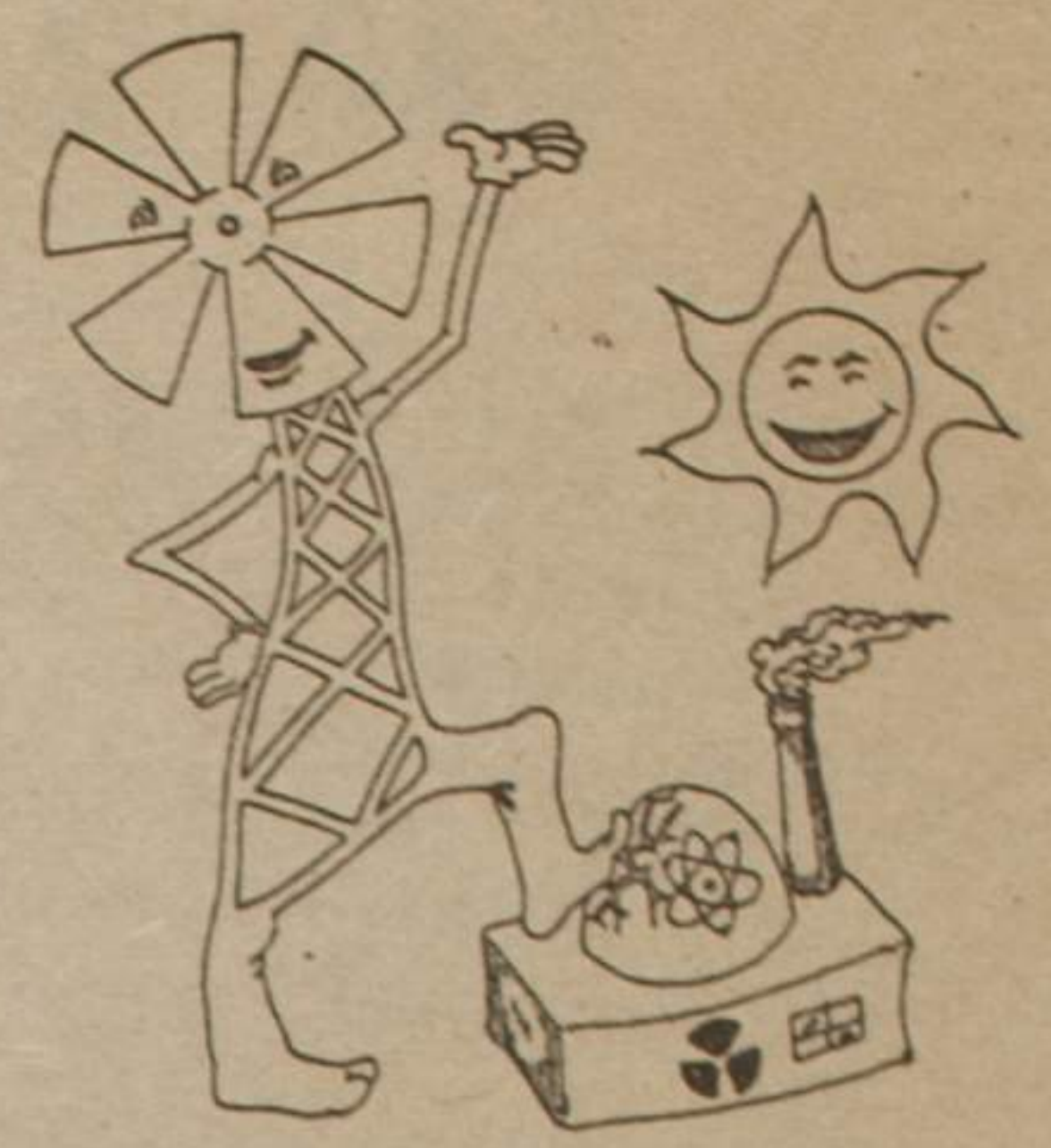


People's Energy Project

POWER FOR PEOPLE, NOT PROFIT!

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the ENERGY DEBATE

goes on and on and ...



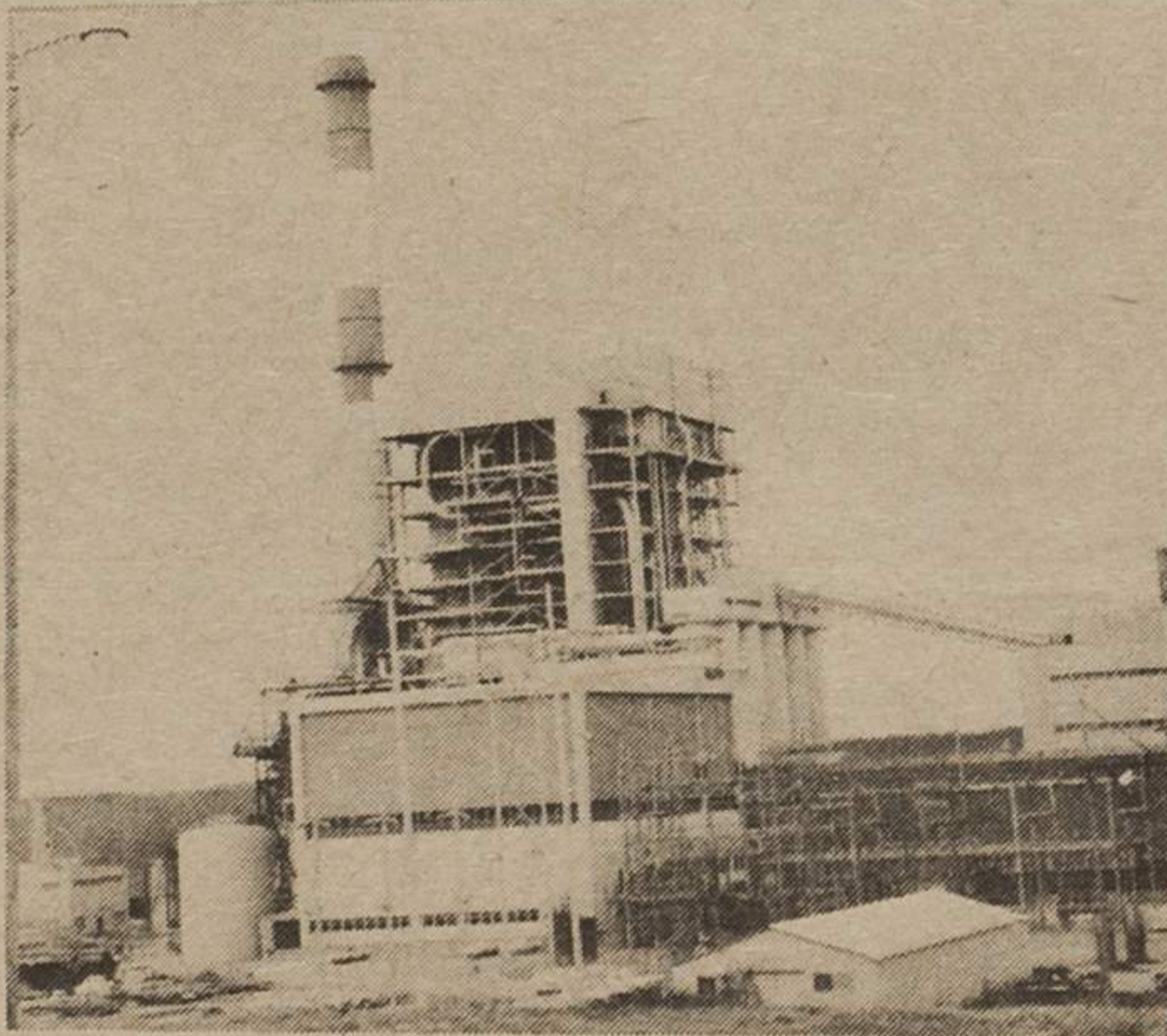
In the last two years, the state agencies of Kansas have been hit with a 68% increase in utility bills. The Statehouse and State Office Building are heated by steam from KP&L's oldest power-plant in downtown Topeka. With gas curtailments continuing in the winter, KP&L wants to phase out that old steam boiler. Going all electric would be KP&L's answer. If the State thinks their bills are high now, wait til then. Rather Kansas should be the first state to have a solar heated and cooled state office complex.

On November 21st and 22nd the League of Women Voters and the K.C.C. put on the first state-wide utilities and consumer conference in Topeka. This event marked a small but important beginning for greater energy discussion between all concerned sectors of Kansas. Getting the various complaints and gripes out on the table is a must before arriving at common solutions. The first day was highlighted by numerous speakers from the K.C.C. to consumer groups to utility representatives. Topics ranged from financing problems and rate structures to more general discussion of energy direction. Tuesday morning was reserved specifically for workshops on the issue of rate structures



and how best to apply them in Kansas. A very necessary beginning that must actively be followed up with smaller conferences all over the state.

The Lawrence KP&L power plant points up quite distinctly the real need for some mandatory regional energy planning. The plant has the capability to burn oil, gas, or coal but given the shortsighted planning of its management, they have burned our precious natural gas all summer long. KP&L claims it was 20% cheaper than coal. KP&L gets that cheap gas from Cities Service which has "take or pay" contracts with the producers. Since Cities Service has never bothered to purchase storage facilities, they dump the gas in the summer as they wait for the winter heating season. The gas would last twice as long burned in home furnaces as opposed to KP&L's boilers. KP&L pays only

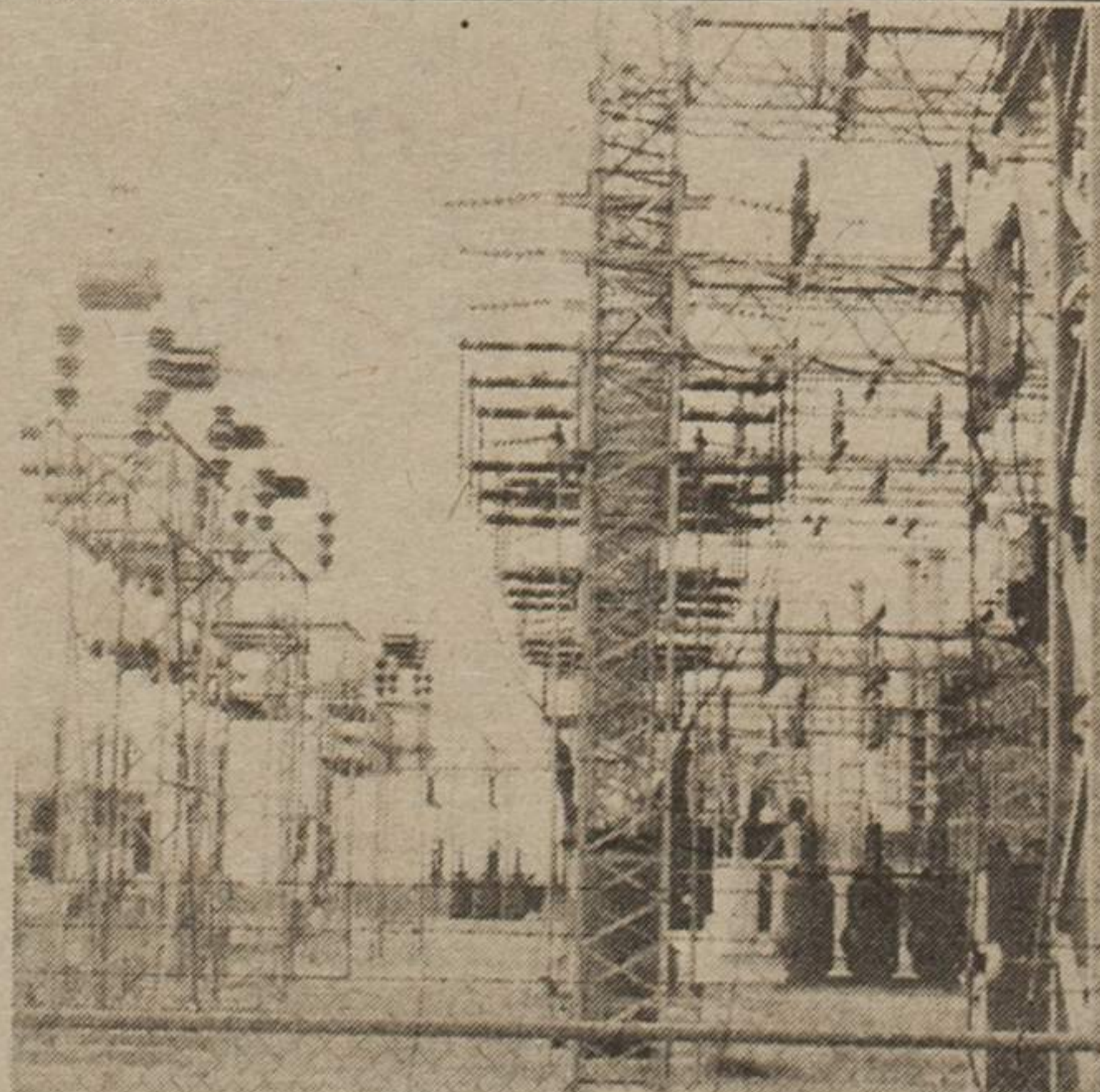


for the gas and very very little for upkeep of the gas lines. If they paid an equal share of the overhead that you and I do, they would have been burning coal.



As reported in the December 77 issue of Public Notice, the electric utilities are opening their offensive against critics who misuse the Reddy Kilowatt trademark. The lawsuit by the owners of Reddy Kilowatt, Reddy Communications, Inc., against the Environmental Action Foundation is at a sort of "draw" for the moment. A federal judge has ruled that EAF cannot defend its caricatures of Reddy on the basis of freedom of speech, knocking out the keystone of EAF's defense, in the eyes of Reddy's owners. However, the judge has not issued an injunction against its use on the basis of little proof of people being confused by unauthorized use.

One wonders who should pay for the critical energy mistaked of the past. Case in point is KP&L Hutchinson powerplant. The big unit there was completed in 1965 and is capable of only burning natural gas or fuel oil. For the past five years natural gas has been curtailed to some degree each winter. Pretty soon there will be a mandate to forbid the use of gas as boiler fuel. Essentially a \$200 million plant put in mothballs due to the fact that KP&L was unaware of the pending gas crisis. The gas officials were warned of such problems in the 1950's. Now KP&L is demanding payment for its coal fired plants and claims victory in getting off gas. A victory



for power plant manufacturers but another hard lesson for KP&L customers.



Amory Lovins speaks well for the new energy scenario slowly developing in this country. He is as soft spoken as the soft technology proposals he advocates. Cambridge educated and employed with the Friends of the Earth for the past five years, his three books and numerous articles have sprung him onto the national scene as one to be disproven. Mr. Lovins suggests in his book *Soft Energy Paths: Toward a Durable Peace* where the merits may lie in technical disputes and shows what energy options exist for the long term and what short term actions must be avoided if we are to preserve those options.



The Federal Courthouse located in Topeka has been widely acclaimed as an example of energy awareness. This building uses roughly one-fourth the energy

used by other buildings of comparable size. Built by the Government Services Administration, the building incorporated three key design advances. The first was to insulate the whole building very very well. The side walls have 2" of polyurethane foam while the ceiling has 8" of insulation. All windows are glazed and doubly thick. Secondly, the windows are recessed five feet so as to block out the higher unnecessary summer sun while collecting the lower winter sun. An awareness of passive solar energy that will become much more common. Thirdly, the building has a computer to monitor all energy usage and regulate unnecessary operations. It recycles and freshens all waste heat from the machines and people.

The Kansas Corporation Commission must be given the necessary funds to broaden and fulfill their obligations to regulate the utilities. Our sister state Missouri is an excellent example. For one thing, they have their own computer to test the various models of growth and price sensitivity. They have a department of utility research and planning which actively assesses the utilities' load growth projections and feeds its own projections into the regulatory process. They actively measure what the utilities are doing in load management so as to get move for each consumer dollar. The K.C.C. is forced to continually hire outside consultants to evaluate



the utilities. Besides being much more expensive, the K.C.C. is not developing the in-house expertise so as to work more closely with the utilities in getting the best deal for the consumer.