



Economics 177: Economics of Energy

By Dr. Mason Gaffney

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Prospective readings, Economics 177, Economics of Energy, Professor Mason Gaffney, Winter, 1981.

At Bookstore:

Amory Lovins, *SOFT ENERGY PATHS*. This is not a "text" in the usual sense, but a controversial and provocative statement of a position. It is informative and stimulating, but not necessarily right or neutral about everything.

Walter Mead and Albert Utton, (eds.) *U.S. ENERGY POLICY*. This is a collection of standard economists views, to juxtapose with Lovins.

Other readings and sources:

1. James Griffin and Henry Steele, *ENERGY ECONOMICS AND POLICY*. This is rather textbooky in the usual condescending and banal sense, but has some useful chapters, especially 8-10.
2. Gerard M. Brannon, (ed.) *STUDIES IN ENERGY TAX POLICY*. This is establishmentarian in the reformist sense, i.e. there is a safe establishment of tax reformers, as well as of reform-resisters. Informative, but with glaring omissions.
3. Stephen McDonald, *PETROLEUM CONSERVATION IN THE U.S.* Informative, ingenious neo-classical theorizing with a practical bent; but straight-arrow orthodox.
4. Robert Kalter and Wm. Vogely, (eds.) *ENERGY SUPPLY AND GOVERNMENT POLICY*. Not reviewed.
5. John Holdren and P. Herrera, *ENERGY*, a Sierra Club "Battlebook." The subtitle indicates the slant. Economics is primitive, but well-inspired. Good survey of alternative technologies.
6. U.S. House, Committee on Money, Banking, and Urban Affairs, *COMPACT CITIES: ENERGY SAVING STRATEGIES*. Highlights our energy-intensive settlement patterns.
7. Linda Mulligan, "Energy Regionalism: the Decline of the National Energy Commons." In S. Warkov, ed., *ENERGY POLICY IN THE U.S.* Explains price controls, production subsidies, etc., as manifestations of a subliminal ideology that energy should be "common."
8. Ray Reece, *THE SUN BETRAYED*. A conspiratorial view of efforts to suppress solar technology.
9. Ray Reece, "Solar Blackout," *MOTHER JONES*, 9/80. More of same.
10. M. Gaffney, "Federal v. State Taxation of Energy." *PROCEEDINGS*, National Tax Association, 1978. The states move in on a tax source which the feds have left unpreempted.
11. M. Gaffney, "Editor's Conclusion," in *EXTRACTIVE RESOURCES AND TAXATION*. Builds a framework for determining optimal timing of production, and tax policy.

12. M. Gaffney, OIL AND GAS LEASING POLICY FOR ALASKA, 1976. Selections on several topics.
13. M. Gaffney, "Objectives of Government Policy in Leasing Mineral Lands," in Michael Crommelin and Andrew Thompson (eds.) MINERAL LEASING AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY. Catalogues eight fallacies and errors normally made by governments in leasing land and regulating industry.
14. Irene Spry, "Comment on Decentralized Resource Control," in Anthony Scott (ed.) NATURAL RESOURCE REVENUES. Urges greater social sharing of resource revenues via increased federal taxation.
15. NO TIME TO CONFUSE. Right wing counterattack on the rather confused and hasty Ford Foundation sally into energy policy, entitled A TIME TO CHOOSE. Conducted on both sides at a fairly low level, by people of high reputation.
16. Southern California Research Council, THE NEW SCARCITIES. Factual but pedestrian review of some basic facts of local interest. Written by timid professors for cautious bankers.
17. David Brooks, ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LOW ENERGY GROWTH IN CANADA. pp. 29-61, "Economics of Lower Energy Growth," is a good review of major thrusts in the literature of the subject. Shortly after slipping this by the Economic Council of Canada, economist Brooks, an independent soul, resigned to join Energy Probe, a small gadfly organisation in Ottawa.

I have omitted from the above some of the more esoteric research report type of writings. Serious graduate students can be guided to these, as appropriate.