

rumors that 100,000 workers will be needed to build extraction plants on the Athabasca tar sands.

At present, the Alberta manpower officials have called these rumors gross "exaggerations," pointing to the fact that despite acute shortages of skilled labor for the development projects in their present state, there is only minimal demand now for unskilled labor.

Blue is Beautiful

Alberta recently conducted a special propaganda blitz to encourage full employment of Albertans, before employing "outsiders." Under the special "Blue is Beautiful" campaign (blue meaning blue-collar), the provincial manpower department used special posters and media advertisements to show happy young people choosing "blue-collar" careers over university educations. Alberta is now "desperately" looking for coal miners, structural tradesmen, mechanical engineers, electricians and trained security guards necessary to get slave-labor projects like Athabasca off the ground.

While only a few of the migrants who accepted the British Columbia plan have found work, Alberta is actively recruiting skilled workers from Britain.

OIL MAN SAYS SHALE PRODUCTION WAITING ON HIGHER PRICES, GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES

Dec. 5 (IPS)--A spokesman for a consortium of oil companies involved in Colorado oil shale development told the International Press Service yesterday that no ground would be broken or significant funds expended until the price of domestic oil was raised sharply and until public financial support for the project is indicated.

Ted Neptune, Manager of Public Affairs of the Rio Blanco Oil Shale Project, outlined to IPS some of the economics behind the media's touting of petroleum extraction from shale in the Rocky Mountains.

*Out of four 5,000-acre tracts leased this year by the federal government, the tract taken by Rio Blanco--Gulf Oil and Standard of Indiana--is the richest in shale deposits with a four billion barrel potential. Rio Blanco paid a \$52 million down payment for its tract; and for the four leases there was a total of \$448.5 million committed in installment purchase.

*Actual construction of mining and refining facilities in Rio Blanco County would not begin until 1977, according to Neptune. Cameron Engineers, the project's consultants, give the

12/5/74

IPS D7

starting date as 1979. It would produce only 50,000 barrels of petroleum per day, starting in 1980 or 1981, possibly increasing to 300,000 barrels per day by 1985. The total expenditure to get into production would be between \$600 million and \$800 million at current costs of construction and materials. This project would then yield less than 2 per cent of the present U.S. consumption of 17 million barrels per day and would involve about 1,000 permanent employees.

*Neptune stated that the project as a whole would not be feasible if the current \$7 per barrel prices of "new" domestic crude oil were not raised to at least \$10 or \$12, and that some significant public expenditures would be expected.

With Rockefeller's stage-managed "energy crisis" to follow his Second Great Oil Hoax, these timetables can be stepped up, the oil price increases justified and the public funds committed. Development of oil shale to account for half of present U.S. petroleum consumption would then cost in the neighborhood of \$20 billion just to start production. It would require 40-50,000 employees to build and run the plant sites in the Rocky Mountains.

MEXICO DAILY CITES U.S. LABOR PARTY ELECTION VOTE
FOR LEFT COVER

Dec. 5 (IPS)--U.S. Labor Party accusations of the CIA's role in recent electoral fraud in the U.S. hit the Nov. 30 front page of Ultimas Noticias, the evening edition of the major Mexican daily Excelsior. In three-inch banner headlines, the article gave a "straight" account of the Labor Party's exposure of CIA manipulation of production and operation of voting machines in order to pull a gigantic fraud against U.S. citizens, robbing Labor Party and other candidates of over one-quarter of a million votes in the U.S. November elections. The Ultimas Noticias article quoted substantially from Labor Party press releases.

Through Ultimas Noticias, the CIA's Mexican President Luis Echeverria is using the Labor Party accusations to build his radical image in Mexico through an "anti-CIA" campaign. Therefore, it is not surprising that the news was published only in the evening edition, which has no circulation outside Mexico. No mention of the story appeared in the main morning edition of Excelsior itself, which is read outside Mexico.

To further obscure the meaning of the Labor Party campaigns, the article meticulously mistranslated the name of the U.S. Labor Party and edited any mention of Labor Committee organizing in Mexico itself.