

# Coalition predicts heat cut-offs to rise

WASHINGTON — A consumer coalition on energy issues predicts more than 300,000 American households will have their natural gas and heat shut off this winter for non-payment of bills.

The study, released by the Citizen-Labor Energy Coalition, predicts shutoffs will occur at more than twice last year's rate. The coalition's findings are based on a national survey of gas utility disconnections as of September 1982.

"It won't be just the poorest people who will lose their heat this winter," said William Hut-

ton, secretary-treasurer of the group and executive director of the National Council of Senior Citizens.

The coalition estimated more than 1 million residential gas disconnections occurred in the United States between October 1981 and September 1982. Based on those figures, it predicted:

- At least 300,000 households will have their gas heat turned off this winter. That compares with about 150,000 households the coalition estimated were faced with disconnections last winter, the first year a survey was performed.

- Many gas users, who barely made it through last winter without being disconnected, may lose their heat this winter if they do not have the \$100 to \$200 needed. Natural gas prices will be up an estimated 20 percent to 25 percent this winter compared with last winter, and some cold-weather cities could have increases of 40 percent.

- Tens of thousands of Americans whose gas heat was disconnected last spring in states where winter disconnections are not allowed still owe utility bills of \$300 to \$500, offering little chance for reconnection before winter.



Hockey without ice

staff photo by Ott

Cathy Poole, a political science sophomore from Whitney, tries to score in one of the field hockey team's practices next to Cain Dining Hall. Poole is vice president of the field hockey club.

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it was built, says it has figured out what the \$22 million wedge-shaped structure is good for after the World's Fair ends Sunday.

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"The thing is sitting on a piece of real estate. Maltby, acting director of General Services Administration's property disposal in Atlanta, said Monday.

"If we do the kind of thing I think we do somewhere out there, body willing to pay as equal to the appraisal," said. "Whatever they do with it is their little bit."

But Maltby said if use can be found for the story pavilion, which some solar collectors not worked properly, ing may have to be after a multimillion dollar government investment.

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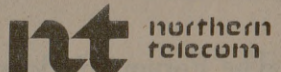
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For further information contact  
MSC Political Forum or  
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