



**SIGNS OF A HARD WINTER:** Ray Miller and Ken Walend assist John Golden as he signs over 60 "Certificates of Compliance" with Department of Energy heating and cooling regulations.

A bluenose, says our dictionary, is "a puritanical person". But that was before DOE. This winter, a law-abiding citizen on the job may also be called a bluenose. The U.S. Department of Energy, under the direction of President Carter, has issued regulations for comfort heating and cooling. As a result, some of our noses, fingers and toes will feel a distinct chill in months to come.

Two key words are "comfort" and "regulation". Comfort of people is no longer an allowable reason for heating a plant space to more than 65° F. And the 65 degree limit is a regulation, with severe penalties for violation.

After years of suggestions, recommendations, good ideas and voluntary guidelines, the word "regulation" sounds surprisingly harsh.

The federal restrictions apply to all non-residential structures. As with all such things, there are exemptions, exclusions and considerations to the law, but its terms are basically easy to understand.

In order to ease the financial drain caused by continuing increases in the price of foreign oil, the government is limiting the use of fuel related energy for heating and cooling buildings. No energy may be used to raise temperatures above 65°F or lower them below 78. Water heaters must be set downward to 105°F or as low as the thermostat can be adjusted.

Plant thermostat settings will be very important under the new rules. At present, the only persons allowed to authorize adjustments to space conditioning thermostats are Bruce Blythe and Henry Adams. If a workplace temperature is unsatisfactory, they can offer only sympathy if the air is between 65 and 78 degrees. The law won't permit them to make adjustments for the sake of any-

one's personal comfort. There's a \$5,000 civil penalty for a violation and a \$10,000 criminal penalty for willful violation. Each day beyond the limits is counted as a separate offense.

Many employees will enjoy working in areas where temperatures must be controlled to more customary levels. The Federal edict does not apply to conditions which are required to protect materials or product, so in areas where electrical static problems and drying rates are tied to room temperatures, life will be comfortable. For those who work in other places, sweaters will be coming back in style.

Weather prophets have long had favorite ways to predict the severity of a coming winter. Some favor the measurement of husks on corn, others insist that the size of the acorn crop or the width of wooly worm stripes is the only reliable indicator. For Brevard Plant employees and anyone else who works in a nonresidential building, the arrival of the "Emergency Building Temperature Restrictions" is an absolute guarantee of a hard winter - particularly for those who "froze" last year at 68°.

What can we do? Dress warmer and be thankful for the heat we have, one supposes. But looking for some sign of a silver lining in the coming cloud of cold air discloses some positive facts: those who must work outdoors will experience less discomfort in going out of 65° than from 72° or more. People who breathe cooler air in winter seem to have fewer colds and other respiratory problems. And we can take advantage of our own tendencies to live by habit.

For most people, the only reason 72° seems more comfortable than 65 is because "we're used to it".

If we enter the heating season with

## GUIDELINES SET FOR FIREWOOD CUTTING

Employee Relations has issued guidelines for woodcutting on the plant property this year.

As more employees turn to wood-burning stoves for supplemental heating, the availability of firewood becomes a matter of greater interest. Having a source of wood in company cutting areas will be of considerable benefit to many employees. The benefit, however, is tied to some responsibilities, which include following the guidelines and using safe work practices.

Cutting days this year will be Monday, Wednesday and Saturday as weather permits. The following guidelines apply:

Cut only in designated zones

Don't cut marked trees

Cut low, as close as possible to ground level

Take all wood 1" and bigger

Check in and out with the Gate on each load

Harvesting is limited to six pickup loads per household per year.

Wood is not to be taken for resale.

Remember that roads to the firewood cutting zones are not always passable. These roads become very muddy as cold, wet weather increases. It's probably a good idea to call in and check on road conditions before planning your day's work in the woodlot.

home thermostats set at 65°, we should soon become accustomed to that temperature. That should make us more comfortable on the job, save significant money on the home heating bill, and perhaps even give us a little bit of pride in having done our part to stop the national dollar drain.

Sure enough, winter's coming. Learn-

ing to live at 65° is going to be a tough experience for some of us. But if fingers seem to get a bit stiff when you're working in a remote corner, when people around us say our nose is turning blue - we can always look ahead to the coming of Spring. But we'd best not think too far. A 78 degree summer will be another story.



**PLEASE, DON'T BREAK!** was the unvoiced plea of many to the flying egg at the annual picnic. This one didn't break - this time.

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