

Research to Put State Peat to Work as Taconite 'Glue'

Fiery Cross Put at Home of Prelate

NEW ORLEANS, La.—(NS) —A big cross was burned in front of Catholic Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel's residence in New Orleans Friday night after he was verbally attacked at a 'White Citizens' council rally.

The 8-foot cross was discovered propped up against a fence which borders Notre Dame seminary where the archbishop resides.

Firemen extinguished the burning cross.

The archbishop has come under fire from some Catholic laymen's groups in recent months for his opposition to racial segregation.

The cross was discovered shortly after the pro-segregation rally in Pelican stadium.

Dr. Emmett Lee Irwin, chairman of the council, had mentioned the archbishop's name in connection with an attack on the Urban league.

Irwin said the Urban league was "working toward integration in all walks of life, a social system adverse to our beliefs."

Archbishop Rummel's name was booted when it was mentioned at the meeting, which was attended by about 4,000 persons.

Archbishop Rummel has announced plans to end segregation in the Catholic school in his archdiocese. He hasn't set a date for this action.

He has threatened excommunication on several occasions to individuals who took public stands favoring segregation.



MINNESOTA'S VAST PEAT bogs can provide a valuable glue-like binder for making taconite concentrate into pellets for shipping to blast furnaces. Taconite rock (lower left) is ground to fine powder so magnets can pull out iron particles. Peat (lower right) is ground to a powder and its chemical constituents are concentrated and mixed with a strong alkali to make a pasty material. That is used to hold taconite powder in marble-like shape such as Dr. Edgar L. Piret, professor of chemical engineering, is showing to Gov. Freeman.

Ike Orders Study of Soviet Army Outlook

WASHINGTON—AP—President Eisenhower has appointed an eight-member task force to study the implications of Russia's announced military manpower cutback.

Harold Stassen, the President's special assistant on dis-

By WENDELL WEED
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

A close partnership of two of Minnesota's most abundant resources, taconite and peat, will be possible on a commercial basis as a result of research at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Edgar L. Piret, professor of chemical engineering, today reported that ground-up peat can be used to hold powdery taconite together for shipping and smelting.

The research, sponsored by the Minnesota Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation commission, has been conducted in the chemical engineering laboratory of the institute of technology.

Piret's report was made today to Gov. Freeman and Dr. Athelstan Spiihlhus, dean of the institute.

In processing taconite, which contains about 25 per cent iron, the hard rock is ground into tiny particles that permit the iron to be separated from the waste by magnets.

In order to ship and smelt the resultant iron, the powder has to be formed into marble-like pellets.

At present bentonite, a clay shipped in from South Dakota, and gelatinized starch are used to mold the taconite into balls. A further step in processing is heating the pellets to give them hardness to withstand handling.

Piret's research team has been analyzing peat for its chemical constituents. The binding property in conjunction with an alkali, such as sodium hydroxide, is the first use of chemicals from peat to have commercial possibilities in Minnesota.

Only 7½ pounds of peat and alkali are needed for each ton of taconite concentrate, Piret explained. Since taconite itself is a new industry, only time

and experience will indicate how much use will be made of peat's glue-like property.

Piret said the research is supported by a \$45,000 per year grant from the Iron Range commission and no direct approach will be made to commercial processors by university people. Making the process available to industry will be up to the commission, he said.

For 10 years or so Piret had been studying peat, analyzing its basic chemical constituents. He did as much as the annual \$200 to \$500 provided by the graduate college would permit.

All-out research started in

PEAT
Turn to Page 2B

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Will Peat Take Over From Bentonite?

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