

## Round and Round We Go

*By Hap Hansen*

I was in the natural gas business for almost 30 years. Today, I still have people ask me, "Why don't we just stop drilling for oil, coal and gas, which would stop a substantial part of our pollution problem and depend on solar and wind energy?" The problem is, all of the solar and wind energy developed in the past year will not even handle the incremental demand for energy. With that increasing energy demand, if we stopped all drilling immediately, we would all soon freeze in the dark. Round and round we go. 360 degrees.

In the Aurora Highlands, builders want to develop almost 3,000 acres of land southeast of the airport, which would eventually be home to 23,000 families. But on most of that land, surface and mineral rights belong to individuals and energy companies. Who should the government accommodate, mineral rights owners or homeowners? It will be a continuing debate. Round and round we go. 360degrees.

National politics is nearly hopelessly divided. Democrats blame Republicans for the same problems for which Republicans blame Democrats. Mostly, they are 180 degrees apart and not much of significance is being accomplished. Politicians in most states work together to solve fiscal problems. In fact, most, if not all, states must balance their budgets. Not so with the Federal government. Our country goes further into debt each year because the Federal government does not require a balanced budget. As a result, deficit spending continues in Congress, with no end in sight. Round and round we go. 360 degrees.

The City of Denver's fiscal budget for next year is approximately two billion dollars. That's about the amount our Federal government goes into debt every day! We are now twenty trillion dollars in debt. Who will pay that debt? Not us. It will be up to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to solve the problem. Round and round we go, and where we stop, nobody knows! 360degrees.