

Inquiries of the Ministry

Lines as to the conclusion of the entire project? I think that is an extremely important matter.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): At the present time the only extension they have obtained is to November 1. Under the resolution that has now been placed before the Clerk to be printed in *Votes and Proceedings* the amounts advanced for the construction of the western section would have to be repaid by March 31, 1957.

Mr. Coldwell: What I am interested in is this. When will the entire project be completed if this is the initial step?

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): The other agreement which was tabled in the house on January 11, I think it was—

Mr. Coldwell: Yes.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): —is not changed otherwise than as expressly provided in the new agreement which will be tabled as soon as it has been signed. There is no arrangement for any further extension. But as the hon. gentleman knows, the pipe situation is an extremely tight one. It was felt that if we did not make arrangements that would allow advantage to be taken of the provisions that have been made for obtaining pipe this season, it might not be until the fourth quarter of next year or early in 1958 that this kind of pipe could be obtained.

Mr. Diefenbaker: From uncertainty to uncertainty.

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): May I ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, if he will accept a question from the young man from Kamloops.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The comedian from Kamloops.

Mr. Fulton: In view of the terms of the statement the minister has made, and in view of the stand taken by Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited—

Some hon. Members: Question, question.

Mr. Fulton: —is not the fulfilment of the government's scheme for a trans-Canada pipe line owned by Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited made entirely dependent on approval of Washington of the application now before the federal power commission?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Not at all. The possibility of an all-Canadian pipe line owned by Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited depends wholly upon the ability of the Trans-Canada company to refund the government's advance

[Mr. Coldwell.]

prior to March 31 next year; otherwise Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited will have no further association with the project.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the loan about which we have been informed this afternoon is repayable by March 31 next, can the minister suggest any other way in which it can be repaid except by the completion of the whole financing by Trans-Canada Pipe Lines?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Yes, it could be repaid by the financing of the western portion if that were possible.

EDUCATION**REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN FEDERAL GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Claude Ellis (Regina City): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister arising out of a question asked by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam yesterday. In view of the fact that within less than 24 hours five additional Canadian universities have announced an increase in student fees, will the Prime Minister assure the house that the government will give immediate consideration to an increase in university grants?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): The government is always prepared to give consideration to anything that is of public interest, but I cannot give any more specific assurance than what I have just said.

**SHORTAGE OF ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS
—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Michael Starr (Ontario): I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the shortage of scientists, engineers and technicians in Canada which was revealed when the estimates of the Department of Labour and the Department of External Affairs were under consideration, can the Prime Minister advise the house what steps are being taken by the government to ascertain how great this shortage is? What is being planned by the government in order to increase the output of these qualified people in Canada?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): There is nothing being planned at this moment in order to have a greater output from our Canadian institutions of learning, which institutions, of course, are under provincial jurisdiction.