

Inquiries of the Ministry

for the promotion of exchanges among the various French speaking countries could be applied to Canadian provinces interested in such exchanges or in spreading the knowledge of both languages in Canada?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, not through that organization, but the same principle could be applied to promote the exchange of students between the various provinces.

[English]

NATURAL GAS**POSSIBLE CHANGE IN TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF NEW LINE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of recent developments in the United States before the federal power commission in connection with the application of Trans-Canada for the approval of the Great Lakes project, has there been any revision of the timetable or target date both with respect to hearings and the delivery of additional gas to eastern Canada?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the federal power commission has decided to skip what is called the presiding examiner's report and deal with the matter directly. On April 24, I think it is, the commission will be seized of the situation, and it is expected that a decision will follow shortly after that.

Mr. Olson: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister been assured by Trans-Canada Pipe Lines that there is still sufficient time to build the additional facilities required to deliver gas to eastern Canada to meet the anticipated additional requirements for next winter?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the objective is to make sure that additional quantities of gas will be delivered next winter in eastern Canada. However, it very much depends upon whether you are an optimist when you try to assess if the decision of the federal power commission will be in time to realize this objective. As the situation stands now it is hoped that a decision will be given in late April or early or late May, depending on your degree of optimism or pessimism.

If this is the case, Mr. Speaker, then the company might have enough time to build the

Great Lakes project next summer. If it should not be so, Trans-Canada Pipe Lines has been advised by the government that it should have an alternative project ready in time to be put before the National Energy Board.

Mr. Olson: A further supplementary question. Is the alternative project to which the minister refers the twinning of the northern Ontario route?

Mr. Pepin: When I refer to the alternative project, Mr. Speaker, I am referring to that.

Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister any recent evidence to show that there is a possibility of delay occurring through appeals following the decision of the F.P.C.?

Mr. Pepin: I cannot understand the question. Would the hon. member repeat it?

Mr. Martin (Timmins): At one stage, Mr. Speaker, it was intimated that even when the decision of the federal power commission is handed down there could still be considerable delay because of appeals being taken to the Supreme Court, and so forth. Has the minister any information in this regard?

Mr. Pepin: No, Mr. Speaker. When the federal power commission makes a decision I would think Trans-Canada Pipe Lines and the Great Lakes project could proceed without further delays, if the decision is favourable.

EXPO '67**COMPLAINTS RESPECTING REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the minister investigating complaints that Logexpo is not answering mail inquiries for accommodation at Expo '67.

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, there might have been minor grounds for some complaints. I think Logexpo was waiting until it had found accommodation before replying to letters received, but this procedure has now been changed and it is acknowledging letters when they are received.

Mr. Aiken: A supplementary question. Can the minister assure us, then, that all inquiries that are being received by mail, particularly