

provincial government of Saskatchewan at the New Democratic Party convention last weekend respecting its uranium policy. I wonder if the minister could run through the situation with respect to the establishment of a refinery in Saskatchewan, the studies that are under consideration and when a decision will be taken with respect to the establishment of a refinery in Saskatchewan, if ever?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, if I understood the hon. member, he said the New Democratic Party convention had given a strong rebuke to the government of Saskatchewan. If the hon. member is asking me to answer for the government of Saskatchewan, he is asking the wrong man.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I realize the minister wants a simple question so I shall put a very basic one to him. What is happening in the province of Saskatchewan with respect to the establishment of a uranium refinery? I hope he can answer that simple question.

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to take any liberty with the hon. member, other than to suggest that he read the public release which sets out in some detail the arrangements that have been made by Eldorado, and the kind of discussions that have taken place between Eldorado and the government of Saskatchewan.

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COMMUNICATIONS

CABLEVISION—POSSIBILITY SAME TYPE OF AGREEMENT AS THAT MADE WITH MANITOBA WILL BE MADE WITH OTHER PROVINCES

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Communications. In view of the unique arrangement and agreement the minister announced last week between the government of Canada, the government of Manitoba and the telephone system which will give a cable plant to Manitoba, is the minister going to use this as a precedent for other provinces, particularly Saskatchewan and Quebec which also have telephone companies interested in the ownership of cable plants?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member knows that the company which gives the greater part of the telephone service in the province of Quebec is Bell Canada and it is regulated by the CRTC. As for the first part of his question, if any other province has an interest in the kind of agreement which I have negotiated with the province of Manitoba, I am willing to enter into discussion. I feel that agreement sets forth the way the two governments decided to administer a particular area where the provincial government has an interest as well as the federal government.

Oral Questions

RESUMPTION OF ADJOURNED CONFERENCE WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure the House that in future negotiations there will be some consistency in the type of agreement made between provinces where there is an interest by a provincial government, through its telephone system or a private system, in the ownership of cable plants. Since the communications conference which was to be held in November was adjourned because of the election in Quebec will the minister take the initiative with her provincial counterparts to get that conference back on the road so that the question of jurisdiction and other matters, particularly cable, can be resolved?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I have every intention of resuming discussions and planning for a future conference with the ministers of communications. I feel it is important for the provinces to have an input into the federal government's policies of telecommunication. As for the hon. member's worry about my being consistent, I can assure him that I will be. The agreement that was negotiated between myself for the government of Canada and the provincial government of Manitoba dealt with problems between us. The situation in other provinces might be slightly different. I can assure the hon. member that I shall be as consistent as I possibly can.

PROVISION IN AGREEMENT WITH MANITOBA FOR EXTENSION OF CABLE TO RURAL AREAS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Communications. In the agreement she signed on behalf of the government of Canada, with the government of Manitoba on behalf of the Manitoba telephone system, were guarantees given by the government of Manitoba that the investment of the two cable operators would be guaranteed? Also, were formal commitments made by the Manitoba telephone system that they would expand cable into rural areas if this agreement could be signed? Was a commitment made by the Manitoba telephone system or the province of Manitoba that this cable extension would take place as an integral part of the agreement signed with the communications minister?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, that agreement was signed between the provincial government of Manitoba and the government of Canada. The government of Manitoba will deal with the Manitoba Telephone Company as it feels it should. I have secured in the agreement guarantees for the federal jurisdiction over broadcasting matters. That was my specific function and my specific mandate. As for the modifications or future planning of Manitoba telephone and the relationships it should be developing with cable operators, that is a matter between them.

Mr. Epp: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the Manitoba government being the sole negotiator and also