

several Canadian provinces have expressed the wish to return to daylight saving time, could the minister tell the House whether he intends to meet the provinces to restore daylight saving time throughout the year thus saving energy and making maximum use of daylight?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, a number of studies have been made in respect of daylight saving time and the question of whether Canada would benefit by extending the season from I think six months to eight months. Those studies have been done for Canada and compared with the results in the United States. The information I have received is that it would not be in the over-all interests of Canadians to extend the period of daylight saving time even though there would be some savings in energy because there would be other costs associated with the change, including questions of personal safety.

[Translation]

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary.

I thank the minister for his explanations, but I wonder how he has reached the conclusion that energy would not be saved, considering that during the war we were on daylight saving time for four years. It was done for war needs to expedite work and save energy.

[English]

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I indicated in my answer to the hon. member that in fact there would be a saving with a longer period of daylight saving time. I expect we will be going on daylight saving time very shortly and we would in this coming year spend the same length of time, which is roughly six months, in a daylight saving system as we did in prior years. The question I raised was whether there would be a net benefit in a longer period of daylight saving time. I indicated there would be, based on the studies I have seen, some saving by lengthening the period of daylight saving time but there would be other costs associated with doing that. One of those is the question of personal safety.

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TRANSPORT

FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN TRANSIT SYSTEMS— PROPOSAL MINISTER MEET WITH PARTIES CONCERNED

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Noting the government's decision to withdraw federal funding from urban transportation as promised during the 1974 election campaign and being aware of the serious effect this decision will have on the GO system to Milton, Oakville and Burlington, will the minister reconsider this decision and see if funds can be diverted from other projects so that this program can go ahead, inasmuch as there has been a tremendous amount of planning done in this area.

Oral Questions

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I should again clarify to the hon. member that the difficulty is that fiscal and financial restraints mean that we cannot do fully what was contemplated at the time the announcement was made in 1974. We have, however, done certain things as I indicated earlier, in relation to the commuter field; we are also looking at ways of re-adjusting other programs and the question of the total amount of money available for the broad field of urban transportation. Final decisions in that field have not yet been made.

Mr. Kempling: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer. Would the minister consider these two propositions: Would he meet with the municipal authorities in Montreal, the Toronto-Hamilton corridor and Winnipeg? Will he also give a reference to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications and allow it to examine the whole matter and report back to the House?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have indeed met with some representatives of the groups to which the hon. member referred. I can give consideration to the other representations of the hon. member.

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ENERGY

CANDU REACTOR—PROPOSED LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH RUMANIA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the minister confirm that the government is in the process of negotiating a licensing arrangement with Rumania to supply that country with the design of the CANDU reactor and the engineering help to build it? And, if so, can the minister say how this conforms with the sentiments expressed yesterday by the Prime Minister that nuclear proliferation and nuclear safeguards are the kinds of issues that will determine the stability of tomorrow's world? Will the minister please explain how a nuclear licensing arrangement with Rumania is contributing to that stability?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has been in negotiation with Rumanian authorities with regard to the purchase of equipment and the licensing associated with a CANDU reactor. I think the hon. lady should know that no deal will be made, no licence arrangement will be signed, even though there will be substantial benefits to Canada, probably in the order of \$300 million.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner: You mean we will lose that much on the deal.

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, the strange thing about the opposition is that one moment they are complaining we are not interested in unemployment. The next moment, when there is