

a general way and at a very late date in any event? When can we expect the guidelines so that students and local associations will know how to apply and what they may apply for?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Department of the Secretary of State is working intensively on this and I would hope the guidelines would be available very soon.

* * *

ATOMIC ENERGY

PROPOSAL BY BRITISH NEWFOUNDLAND CORPORATION TO BUILD URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT—GOVERNMENT POLICY DECISION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the minister received an application from the British Newfoundland Corporation to build an uranium enriching plant in Canada and is the government, in view of the job potential of such a project, prepared to expedite the necessary policy decision?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I have received an application but I note from press reports that the Prime Minister's office has been notified of the interest of that company in uranium enrichment. As early as last December I indicated the government's interest in this question. There is, of course, no technology available outside the United States at the present time. We will certainly consider the Brinco representations along with any others, and whether if Canada should go into the field of uranium enrichment it should be done in partnership with some agency. Eldorado Nuclear a government-owned company, and other proposals would be considered and we would go into the matter in such a manner as would be in the best interests of Canada.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, in light of the minister's answer which indicated that a policy has been formulated on this subject, is the minister prepared to direct Eldorado to enter into discussions with Brinco with a view to facilitating their application?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, we are willing to enter into discussions with anyone. As I said before, I point out that no one actually has the technology. It is available only in the United States. In so far as the government having a policy is concerned, we of course have indicated our interest but there can be no clear policy when there is no technology available to Canada at the present time.

[Later:]

PROPOSAL BY BRITISH NEWFOUNDLAND CORPORATION TO BUILD URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT—GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which is supplementary to previous questions concerning the Brinco proposal. Since \$950 million would be involved, which is a lot of money, and

Inquiries of the Ministry

since it appears foreign companies might enter into the project because it is likely foreign capital would be needed, I should like to ask the minister what the guidelines are at the present time in reference to such a project or is another decision to be made on an ad hoc basis as in the case of Home Oil?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether the minister should be allowed to cite the guidelines to which the hon. member has referred unless he can do so very quickly. I have some apprehension about this. I would think that normally this kind of a question should be answered by way of a statement, but if the minister can give a brief reply we might hear it and then go on to another subject.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, there are no guidelines as such because, as I said, there is no technology available. Each application would have to be considered on its merits, with the maximum of good to Canada and the maximum of Canadian content as clear criteria.

PROPOSAL BY BRITISH NEWFOUNDLAND CORPORATION TO BUILD URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT—PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT OF FUNDY TIDAL POWER

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will he give consideration to the possible parallel development of Fundy tidal power in view of the fact that this plant could be constructed in approximately the same period of time and on completion it would require two million kilowatts of electric power?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I do not think any comparison has been made to date of these various projects but certainly, as I believe I have indicated to my hon. friend, my instructions are that despite the increasing cost of energy globally and domestically, the fact is that the Fundy power project is still not economically feasible and it would not be in the interest of the Maritimes to foist expensive energy on them. But we are prepared to continue reviewing the study with the provinces, as I have indicated to my hon. friend.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ARGENTINA—TERMS OF JOINT CANADA-UNITED STATES FOREIGN AID SCHEME

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister which he may wish to take as notice. Is Canada involved in a foreign aid scheme with Argentina in concert with the United States, is Canada paying a substantial portion of the cost of this project and is one of the terms of the project that all the machinery and equipment concerning the project must be purchased in the United States?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will accept the invitation of the hon. member.