

NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

(Continued from P. 4)

ferred to in the resolution before us is, of course, that we desire to establish with all proper speed administrative machinery for making appropriate disposition of such applications for gas export licences, in the light of government policy and in full consideration of all the interests involved.

"The great and increasing growth in gas production and transmission industries has necessarily been accomplished by a remarkable development of the gas by-product industries. Some of the by-products, in particular sulphur, natural gasoline, propane and butane, are themselves valuable. Complicated and costly plants are required to remove them. There are now in Canada 22 such plants for the processing of natural gas and recovery of by-products.

"Some export markets for propane and butane have already been developed. These markets were cut off in March when the United States oil import controls were made mandatory and extended to unfinished oil and products, but the exemption from new United States oil import controls announced on April 30 will restore access to such markets. There is good reason to hope that these natural gas liquids and sulphur will become increasingly important in our export trade.

"All this growth in production, processing and transportation to market for oil and gas and related products has required an enormous quantity of capital. In 1949 about \$90 million were invested in oil and gas exploration, production, processing, transportation and marketing facilities. For 1959 the comparable investment is estimated at \$627 million, nearly 7 times as much, and some 13½ per cent of total business capital expenditures planned for 1959 in Canada. In the decade ending in 1958 the cumulative totals were \$4.4 billion, excluding land acquisition costs.

"These figures cover only direct investment in petroleum expansion and do not take into account the secondary effects of investment in new industries based on petroleum, such as petrochemicals, or new industries supplying the oil industry, such as pipe mills. Similarly, petroleum development has created jobs for thousands of Canadians, not only those directly employed by the industry but also those working in the ancillary industries I have mentioned.

"If the development of the petroleum and related industries is to continue, still larger sums of capital must be attracted for future investment. It is our desire and intention that the climate for investment in these industries in Canada will, so far as it lies within control of this Government, be such

that this needed capital will be attracted by the prospect of fair and reasonable returns within a framework of stable and realistic government policy.

"The past decade of development in the petroleum industries, remarkable as it has been, is only a beginning. We can look forward with confidence to continuing growth in reserves, in production, in employment, in export and in the necessary investment. These prospects, of course, involve the sound utilization of energy resources, perhaps the most important material resources a nation can possess. It is to protect the national interest in the wise use of these resources, and to apply to these complicated, sensitive and vital matters the careful and consistent scrutiny they require, that we have prepared the measure contemplated in this resolution, which I now commend to the House."

* * * *

LINK WITH THE NETHERLANDS

Although a number of Canadian cities have fine displays of spring flowers, the annual tulip festival in Ottawa has become a special institution, with a strong Netherlands connection.

It began with the gift in 1946 of 100,000 tulip bulbs by the people of Holland. This handsome present was in appreciation of the hospitality shown to Princess Juliana, now Queen Juliana of The Netherlands, who with her children spent the war years in Ottawa, and of Canada's part in the liberation of Holland.

Queen Juliana herself has sent 15,000 bulbs each year, a number which is usually matched by the Associated Bulb Growers of Holland, until now Ottawa is transformed in the spring. This year over a million tulips are blooming in front of the Parliament Buildings, at the National War Memorial and along 20 miles of scenic parkway.

The festival is sponsored by the Ottawa Board of Trade and, as the displays have become larger and more widespread, tourists have been attracted not only from Canada but from the United States.

* * * *

GENERAL NORSTAD IN OTTAWA

General Laurie Norstad, Supreme Commander Allied Powers in Europe, was in Ottawa for several hours on Monday, May 18, when he briefed the Cabinet on the current situation in Europe and on NATO requirements, with particular references to Canada.

General Norstad had previously been in Montreal and Toronto.

* * * *