

Oral Questions

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the government could not make that commitment in this agreement. The tolls and tariffs on the line, as the hon. member knows, are determined by the National Energy Board under the National Energy Board Act. However, the agreement does make provision that if in the board's judgment in setting the tariffs for the two parts of the line, a lower tariff is set between Sarnia and Montreal and a higher one between Edmonton and Sarnia, to that extent the government's deficiency payment would be reduced. Obviously, the exact setting of the tariffs on the line is something the National Energy Board will have to determine. The agreement provides for that eventuality, but of course the administration cannot make that kind of agreement in the absence of the board.

SARNIA-MONTREAL PIPELINE—AMOUNT FOR WHICH
GOVERNMENT LIABLE UNDER AGREEMENT WITH
INTERPROVINCIAL PIPE LINE

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of the fact that Imperial Oil, which is a major shareholder in Interprovincial, seems to have again stonewalled the government in compelling them to make concessions in order to build this pipeline, can the minister give the House any estimate as to what it will cost the government in paying the cost during the period the pipeline is completed but not in operation. If there is any deadline, has it been established so that the protracted period that has gone on in the past will not obtain in the future while the government is picking up the tab?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The protracted period of what?

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): The protracted period of negotiations. The Prime Minister announced this project a year ago last September, and it has not even been started. What provision is there for the period between the time this agreement is entered into and the time the pipeline is supposed to be in operation, the period during which the government will be responsible for certain financial commitments? Does the minister have any estimate as to what the financial implications will be?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I should make it clear to the hon. member the government will not be responsible for any financial commitments in advance of the completion of the line and throughput of oil through it. The government's commitment will only be in respect of a future year in which the revenue from the line, because of a drop in throughput, would not be sufficient to meet fixed and variable operating costs. There is no immediate financial commitment involved, that is for a payment this year. As to how much it will cost in the future, that is something it may be difficult to estimate. However, probably one of the better arenas in which to discuss that would be the standing committee where we can exchange views with the officials.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS

SUGGESTED INCLUSION OF BLUE FIBRE ASBESTOS IN
PROVISIONS OF ACT

Hon. Martin O'Connell (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Will the minister consider the inclusion in the Hazardous Products Act of blue fibre asbestos as a material dangerous to health with a view to banning its import into Canada where it is used in the manufacture of asbestos products, such as in the Johns-Manville plant in Scarborough. I ask this in view of the fact that blue fibre asbestos, if inhaled by workers or emitted into the air of the community, may cause a form of cancer which is always fatal.

● (1150)

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the authority of the Hazardous Products Act has already been used to ban the use of asbestos in the manufacturing of clothes. The officials of my department, in cooperation with Department of National Health and Welfare officials, are currently investigating the matter and if necessary, we shall not hesitate to invoke the Hazardous Products Act again.

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MANPOWER

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT
POSITION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Under the social policy reform program that the Minister of National Health and Welfare proposed to the provincial ministers of social affairs, a community employment policy was proposed and it was reported that the Department of Manpower and Immigration is about to implement twenty pilot projects across Canada. Can the parliamentary secretary tell the House what this community employment program really is? Does it consist in public works or in another kind or project which would result in any production needed by the Canadian people?

[English]

Mr. William Rompkey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I believe the hon. member is referring to the community employment strategy concerning which we are holding discussions, now, with all the provincial governments. These talks are at various stages at the present time. The intention is to get at the "hard core" unemployed and provide jobs for them within the community. Discussions are going on within local communities and I would be glad to advise the hon. member of the nature of those discussions in his own riding.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary.