

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

participating in the current investigation with regard to the pollution of the North Saskatchewan river.

Samples are being taken regularly from 14 river points extending from above Edmonton through to The Pas in Manitoba. The industrial effluents as they flow into the river are also being analysed to detect the substances or combination of substances which are causing the objectionable taste and odour. This work is being headed up in Edmonton by a chemist from the Department of National Health and Welfare assisted by another chemist from the same department and two of our engineers, also from the department. In addition to this technical staff the chiefs of the public health engineering division and the occupational health engineering division are still in Edmonton and will remain there until their services are no longer required by the proper authorities in Alberta.

The results of the investigation by our officers, however, to date still leave a doubt as to the real underlying source of the nuisance. This is due to the extremely complex nature of the discharges and to the very real possibility of new compounds being formed after the mixture of the effluents in the river.

While this is going on, the industries themselves are doing everything they can to co-operate with the provincial and other authorities in this particular matter.

I might add that Dr. C. J. Mackenzie, latterly head of the research council in Canada, who has had some experience in these matters, happens to be in the west at the present time, and his services in a consultative capacity are also being enlisted in order to see if he can in some way give assistance.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Has the department as yet made an analysis of the water in the city of Prince Albert, and if so, what does that analysis reveal?

**Mr. Martin:** We had an analysis of the water from the city of Prince Albert at least two weeks ago, but my hon. friend would not expect me to give a technical answer. I can say, however, that the odour from the water is not what one normally would expect or hope for.

**Mr. A. M. Campbell (The Battlefords):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question? Has it been determined which plant in Edmonton is responsible for the pollution, because I have word today that one plant in particular is responsible?

**Mr. Martin:** I can only say what I said a moment ago, that that has not been determined.

[Mr. Martin.]

FEDERAL PURCHASES OF CHEMICALS FROM  
EDMONTON COMPANIES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. M. Campbell (The Battlefords):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister a question? Is the federal government purchasing chemicals for jet fuel, or chemicals for any purpose, from any company in Edmonton, Alberta? If so, will the minister find out whether such government purchases are being made from any company which may be polluting the North Saskatchewan river?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Defence Production):** Mr. Speaker, I can report only for the department for which I am responsible, namely the Department of Defence Production. The answer to the hon. member's question is that we buy jet fuel but we do not buy any chemicals from the plants in question. In other words, fuels are bought as a complete store or product. Regarding chemicals for any other purpose, the general purchasing division of my department has not bought any in the Edmonton area.

NATURAL GAS

PROPOSED PIPE LINE TO SERVE TORONTO AREA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Carl O. Nickle (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister relative to an advertisement which appeared in today's issue of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and which was inserted by the Consumers' Gas Company. In view of the fact that Toronto cannot be served with natural gas from Alberta in less than three years, contrasted with service from—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member will kindly put his question.

**Mr. Nickle:** This advertisement states—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Will the hon. member put his question?

**Mr. Nickle:** Will the minister advise us of his government's views on the Niagara gas transmission project, and how soon the Niagara bill may be considered by parliament?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the government has no views on the subject. As far as the bill by the applicant is concerned, it is now before parliament going through the normal parliamentary procedure. I have heard nothing about it since it was introduced in the other place. However, I presume it will come here in due course, and I suggest that my hon. friend can do his own digging as to when that will be.