

Inquiries of the Ministry

press of yesterday morning indicating that there would be a government survey on smoking and lung cancer. This seems to be an answer to my request of six years ago and I would ask the minister if this survey will include all uses of tobacco in Canada?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I well remember my hon. friend's interest in the question of smoking. I would not want what I have to say by way of reply to be regarded as either an affirmation or a denial of the position which he took. I simply want to say that Canadian cancer research workers and scientists, along with those of other countries, are engaged in a most important study of cancer generally, and, in this particular instance, of lung cancer. One of the important incidents of the research is an assessment of statistics concerning individuals in a particular group. The particular group referred to are co-operating and will share with the scientists themselves whatever fruitful results ensue.

PIPE LINES**TRANS-CANADA PIPE LINES—POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF STRIKE ON CONSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Mr. Speaker, in view of the possibility of a strike by steelworkers in the United States, can the Minister of Trade and Commerce inform the house how long Trans-Canada Pipe Lines will be able to continue to construct their pipe line across this country without obtaining further supplies of pipe?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I presume that in the event of a steel strike the production of plate for pipe for Trans-Canada will be suspended for the duration of the strike. How long the strike will last of course neither my hon. friend nor I can say. Whether the manufacture of pipe will also be suspended depends upon the stockpile of plate at the pipe mills, and that will be a matter to be determined.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): A supplementary question; is the minister undertaking any investigations or action to facilitate the continued construction of this pipe line?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The pipe line is being constructed by the present owners of the pipe line and there is no occasion for the minister to make any investigations. The minister has reports on the progress of the line and the last report indicated that pipe had moved into the country to provide about

[Mr. McIvor.]

100 miles of pipe line. That is the only progress report I can give my hon. friend.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): What was the date?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): What was the date of what?

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Of this last report. I was questioning the minister as to the date of the progress report to which he referred when he said that there was pipe on hand for approximately 100 miles of construction.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): As a matter of fact I think I got that word yesterday. If my hon. friend will explain his personal interest in the situation perhaps I—

An hon. Member: He does not have to.

Mr. Fulton: Are we to take it from the minister's last remarks that he regards the pipe line as his personal property and not as something of interest to the public generally?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The pipe line is the personal property of a corporation. It is corporate property.

An hon. Member: Government money.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The government has loaned certain money to the corporation for the purpose of building the pipe line and has taken a mortgage on the pipe line to cover the indebtedness. The government is not responsible directly for the building of the pipe line.

Mr. Fulton: Public money is going into it.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Applewhaite in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION

85. Departmental administration and payments to Canadian Commercial Corporation and other corporate agencies for services provided in connection with defence purchasing and production, \$6,145,727.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Mr. Chairman, when the estimates of my department were before the committee previously I was outlining the position of the aircraft industry. To complete this picture of the work of the current year I should like to review, in less detail, the other principal elements of the defence production program. In the electronics field—one of growing importance to defence—there has been a slight increase in the volume of spending and the present level is likely to continue for some time to come. This is attributable in part to expenditures on the mid-Canada line, but many other