

subject in the House of Commons. I understand that, Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Company will make copies of this correspondence available to the Federal Power Commission.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the documents tabled by the minister include the two letters of September 15 and 19 which were requested by the F.P.C.?

Mr. Pepin: We would not be tabling all correspondence if we did not include those two letters.

OIL

REINTRODUCTION OF PRODUCTION EXPORT TARGETS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Georges Hees (Northumberland): My question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the government consider reintroducing production export targets in the national oil policy, in view of the success such targets had in increasing production and exports of oil when they were first introduced?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I think the press has reported recently the great amount of work being done with respect to our exports to the United States. The results will be announced in due course.

SHIPPING

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON SAFETY DISCUSSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport relating to the meeting held, I understand, at Dorval airport yesterday between officials of his department and representatives concerned with shipping, the manning of ships, and safety matters related to ships. In light of the declaration by the department that technological changes might reduce the number of men available to man ships to the point where safety considerations come into play, can the minister report the results of that meeting, and what is to be done about the question of manning?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): No, sir. I could not give any useful report, because since this meeting was held, I was engaged in the transport committee with legislation that the house referred there. I shall make inquiries and endeavour to put

Inquiries of the Ministry

myself in a position of being able to reply at an early date.

AGRICULTURE

CHANGE IN COMPUTER PROGRAMMING TO FACILITATE SUBSIDY PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the continuing complaints of delays in cream subsidy payments, and latterly in sugar beet subsidy payments, which delays allegedly are caused by imperfect data processing machinery, has the minister considered ways and means of processing these payments so that they will not always be late?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): With respect to the cream payments we are attempting to improve procedures, and I hope that cheques will go out more quickly than every three months, as is happening now. The 1965 sugar beet crop payment is now under immediate consideration. There was a change in the method of calculating world sugar prices on the London exchange, on which our payments were based. We hope that these payments can go out within two or three weeks. We are considering the possibility of updating the computer services, and we hope that there will be an improvement in the areas referred to.

Mr. Olson: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am not only talking about the time lags in paying the cream subsidies. Some cheques are already six months late. I would ask the minister if his department is considering changing the computer programming systems, so that the payments I have mentioned may be processed more quickly.

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, my instructions are that the only areas in which payments are more than three months after delivery are those in which, either by inadvertence or misunderstanding, the plants did not make returns in time to the stabilization board.

You will appreciate that this is a new program and it may be that the factories need some help and direction. To that end we have tried to send representatives of the board to the factories which were late, in order to help them out with their records. I believe that these are merely teething pains with the new program, and it is my further belief that by the first of the year most of these will be cleared up.