

*Oral Questions*

prices; these are the North Sea producers, North Africa, Venezuela and through the Persian Gulf?

Would the minister consider putting that as an additional term of reference to the National Energy Board, to see if there is a market and then get the Commodities Credit Corporation or PetroCan to deal with these producers to see whether we can get access to a 20-year contract for this cheap fuel?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the report of the National Energy Board has given extensive consideration, as a matter of fact, to the markets that would be accessible to natural gas via a pipeline to Quebec City and the maritimes.

As to the suggestion made by the hon. member, I will take note of it and I will certainly give it very careful consideration. I think it is a very worth-while suggestion. I will consult with my officials and examine whether, indeed, there would be some advantage in asking the National Energy Board to give consideration to the point raised by the hon. member.

As the hon. member knows, however, although there may be some surplus, there are countries like Algeria, for instance, that are asking a lot more for their LPG these days, and the question of whether it could be competitive would certainly be a matter that would need to be looked into. I will certainly give consideration to the hon. member's suggestion.

\* \* \*

**INDUSTRY****CASH REBATE ON TRUCKS AND CARS—AVAILABILITY IN CANADA**

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

In light of the fact that Chrysler Canada announced this week that Canadian buyers of trucks and cars would not be receiving the same cash rebate of \$200 to \$1,000 that is being offered to buyers in the United States, and in light of the fact that the latest consumer price index increase is due in part to higher car prices, will the minister take steps to ensure that the same rebate program is offered to Canadian consumers?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, I will look into this and get back to the hon. member. I think it is interesting to note that the total consumer price index in Canada increased by .7 per cent, seasonally adjusted, from the March level. This is appreciably lower than the 1.1 per cent advance registered in the immediately preceding month. Also, the 12-month rise is down marginally from the 12-month rise in the preceding month. I am surprised that the hon. member did not recognize that.

**Mr. Murphy:** Madam Speaker, I am glad the minister had the chance to make his statement to the House. In view of the fact that the amount of money coming from this government is much higher, proportionally, than the money coming from the United States government to Chrysler Canada, and in view of

the fact that the minister has known that Chrysler Canada was not offering these rebates to us for some length of time, will the minister get in touch immediately with Chrysler Canada to make sure that we, as Canadian consumers, get just as good a deal from Chrysler, especially since it is getting such a good deal from us?

**Mr. Gray:** Madam Speaker, I am very glad my hon. friend in the NDP has officially recognized that we have obtained a good deal from Chrysler for Canadian workers and the Canadian people generally. I would like to make sure that is on the record.

Contrary to what my hon. friend says, we are not giving Chrysler money; we are not loaning them money directly; we are not giving them a grant; but we will be putting in place loan guarantees only in 1982, and only if it meets certain important terms and conditions.

As I have said to my hon. friend, I will be very happy to go into the matter he has raised. I must say that I was not aware of the details he has provided on this rebate program; but it is important that it be confirmed by the NDP that we have obtained a good deal from Chrysler for Canadian workers and the Canadian people.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**ENERGY****REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE TO QUEBEC NOT POSTPONED**

**Mr. Maurice Dupras (Labelle):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and has to do with the extension of the pipeline to Quebec. Given the great many jobs—some 30,000 person-years, they say—created to carry out this project and also the economic effects that a market of about \$1.1 billion represent, for Quebec, has the minister obtained guarantees from Quebec that there will not be any undue and unwarranted delay, as was the case in Boisbriand, in this project?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, indeed I found deplorable the delays incurred in the implementation of this project, at least as regards the section between St-Lazare, Quebec, and Boisbriand, since it would otherwise have been possible to provide access to natural gas to tens of thousands of Montreal area residents and homes as early as this fall. The agencies concerned within the government of Quebec did not give this issue enough priority to allow for the completion of the project this year, at least as far as Boisbriand.

On the other hand, it should be noted that in its white paper the PQ government heralds access to natural gas in Quebec as being a very high priority. I therefore hope that Quebec