

government that new, enlarged boundaries and guidelines should be created with respect to regional development incentive grants. In all that time, and despite all the promises, nothing has changed.

The minister must know that expansion of the grant program would provide incentives to industry either to locate in new areas or enlarge their existing facilities. This would help to solve the problems of job creation and regional disparity in many areas, particularly in Ontario, which are not now included in this program. Is the minister prepared to act on these many promises and announce changes involving the grant program which would result in the establishment of new and enlarged boundaries, which are especially necessary in Ontario?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, the questions raised by my hon. friend are among those that are being looked at in the context of the re-organization of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the re-organization of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce with a view to putting them together in one major, new department. We will have more to say about this in coming weeks and months.

REQUEST THAT NEW BOUNDARIES BE ESTABLISHED

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The minister's predecessor was acutely aware of problems connected with the existing boundaries in Ontario and had promised on many occasions that solutions were forthcoming. I see him nodding his head. Will the minister give his assurance that the endless departmental examination of the issue will now cease and that plans to create new boundaries or enlarge existing ones in Ontario will be implemented at once?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, this is something we are working on and I hope to have some things to say about it in coming weeks.

* * *

NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

ONTARIO APPLICATION TO INCREASE EXPORT OF ELECTRICITY TO NEW JERSEY

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Ontario Hydro has applied to the National Energy Board to export massive amounts of electricity to New Jersey over the next ten years. The federal department of the environment has argued strenuously that Ontario Hydro's plans will greatly increase acid rain-causing emissions. Will the minister confirm that the National Energy Board has now approved

Oral Questions

Ontario Hydro's application despite the dire warnings of the department of the environment in that connection?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I understand that the National Energy Board is due to release its report some time today. I suggest we wait for that report.

POSITION OF MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. He will know the details of the National Energy Board decision because he has prepared a press release on the subject for issuance at four o'clock this afternoon. Does he intend to appeal the decision of the National Energy Board to cabinet? If cabinet confirms the National Energy Board decision in light of any appeal the Minister of the Environment might launch, will he tender his resignation, since such an outcome from cabinet would totally undermine his moral authority on the important and urgent subject of acid rain?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Madam Speaker, there are several questions contained within that single question. As my colleague said, I believe that the National Energy Board will release its report today and I expect that I shall have some comment to make when it does so. In any case, the question will automatically come to cabinet because of its importance.

* * *

• (1450)

PIPELINES

FINANCING OF ALASKA GAS PIPELINE

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who in July, 1980, approved the pre-build of the Alaska highway gas pipeline when he was warned financial guarantees were not in place which would enable the building of the entire line. In view of the fact there is an announcement imminent of a significant delay, two to four years, which really means this project is on its deathbed, is the minister still prepared to give this House his assurances, ironclad or otherwise, that the entire line can be financed?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I understand that financing arrangements have been made, to the tune of some \$24 billion, in the United States. I understand that at present there are some problems between the partners which are being discussed and negotiated. I suggest we should wait for the reports about those discussions.