

Jelinek to pressure NEB for stop work order

Herald special

For the second time in five days, Halton Progressive Conservative MP Otto Jelinek has promised to aid the Interested Citizen's Group (ICG) in its battle with Ontario Hydro.

Mr. Jelinek promised ICG vice-chairman John Minns Thursday that he would write letters of support to the National Energy Board (NEB) and to federal Energy Minister Ray Hnatyshyn in support of the ICG's request that Ontario Hydro be forced to stop construction of the 500 KV Bruce-Milton transmission line until such time as the need for the line has been properly assessed.

Speaking to Mr. Minns following a campaign broadcast taping session in Georgetown, Mr. Jelinek said that although he had not written the letters, he promised to write on Sunday, he had in fact been in telephone contact with both the NEB and one of Mr. Hnatyshyn's aides.

"I've been in touch with Ottawa several times and they're obviously very aware of what's happening here," Mr. Jelinek said. "I've talked to two or three people at the very highest levels. (He could not confirm if one of them was NEB secretary B.H. Whittle.)

"I've postponed writing the letter I promised supporting the ICG until I get the NEB's specific reaction. I don't want to write a letter with no bite and meaning to it. I want to know where the NEB stands so that my letter can be specific."

Mr. Jelinek said one of Mr. Hnatyshyn's aides promised the minister would get back to him to discuss what, if anything, can realistically be done, but that might take three or four days.

"I want to know what his department can do to put pressure on the NEB to put a stop work order on Hydro," he said. "I'm waiting for Hnatyshyn and the NEB to get back to me. That's where it stands at this time."

"I want to be able to say when I write 'Further to our discussions and verbal agreements,'" Mr. Jelinek said, "this is my formal request that..."

Mr. Minns warned Mr. Jelinek that "while everyone is posturing, Hydro is continuing to build as fast as it can". By the time a decision is made it may be too late because the line will already be complete.

Mr. Jelinek said he agreed with Mr. Minns' assessment of what's happening but he was taking a position on whether the line is right or wrong. He is simply fighting to see that the ICG's position is looked into properly and realistically so

as application for a study of the need to expand Hydro's system and the need for the Bruce-Milton line can be heard.

However, until he had heard from the NEB, Mr. Jelinek is reluctant to act. The NEB is awaiting word from Hydro before they would state a position, he said.

"I'm sorry Hydro's building the way they are and without giving your people a chance to have their say in court," he said. "I'm disappointed they're not giving you an opportunity to be heard."

When Mr. Minns pressed Mr. Jelinek on how hard it would be to write a letter of support now and a second one at a later time when he has the details he feels he needs, Mr. Jelinek said he would do it immediately.

"As a small businessman," he said, "I find it frustrating to deal with government bodies full of bureaucracy and red tape. If you want, I can write immediately to say 'please look into the matter' even before I hear back from the NEB. I just don't want to be perceived to be taking advantage of my position as Halton's MP because we're in an election campaign. That's not my style."

Mr. Jelinek first became aware of the ICG controversy with Hydro during the May 22 election campaign.



DOUGHTNUT DELIGHT

That's quite a mouthful this young man managed to grab hold of at the Jaycees Winterfest Saturday. The children's doughnut-eating contest was a delight to a lot of hungry children who had a chance to fill up on any doughnuts they could get their mouths around.

(Herald photo)

Chicken woes may prompt legal action

Maple Lodge Farms, an Huttonville, the largest independent chicken processor in Ontario, is suffering from a severe shortage of live chickens.

New legislation passed recently restricting the number of chickens Maple Lodge can import has seriously affected production, according to company spokesmen.

In a news release to The Herald, Maple Lodge complains that the industry of trade and commerce is "illegally restricting our ability to operate in the business community, and we intend to take strong action."

The processing company is planning to sue the ministry of agriculture because of restrictions placed on production.

According to spokesmen for Maple Lodge, Robert Sagness, the firm wants "the industry to allow it to import 20 million pounds of chicken."

Before restrictions were placed on the company, about one-third of the processed chicken was imported from the U.S.

Maple Lodge is also complaining that the larger, integrated companies are manipulating the market, which will ultimately bring higher prices for the consumer. Maple Lodge believes that independent processors may be "starved out" of the market, according to Mr. Sagness.

Maple Lodge prefers to use Canadian chicken, but the supply has not been available. Maple Lodge believes that the Canadian Marketing Agency and Ontario Chicken Producers' Marketing Board's method of distribution is inadequate, thus it does not receive sufficient product.

Maple Lodge charges that some integrated processors are "locking up" chickens which it could sell.

Obviously, Maple Lodge claims, "the big processors will squeeze out the competition and drive up the price."

Full-page advertisements in Toronto daily newspapers have failed to produce the sufficient amount of chicken for Maple Lodge to meet its quota. As of now, no one has been laid off because of the shortage, but work hours have been trimmed.

Gold stolen in Glen break-in

A house on Confederation Street in Glen Williams was also broken into, and a number of items were taken. A gold chain bracelet, a movie camera and projector and a chair, watch and earrings, all made of gold, were taken.

Tower security

Ontario Hydro is posting security guards at all tower construction sites for the Bruce-Milton hydro corridor, but Hydro spokesman Chris Taylor says the security is no better than usual. "We do have security on the active work sites, but no more than usual," Mr. Taylor said. "We have experienced thefts and acts of vandalism on other sites. People seem to like the nuts and bolts and the lumber that goes in to making hydro towers."

Mr. Taylor emphasized that there is no extra security because of disagreement between Hydro and farmers which have resulted in on-site confrontations. Hydro is continuing to meet with landowners to inform them of their rights, he said.

Mr. Taylor said construction on the corridor is proceeding well, with the cold weather helping construction workers to minimize the effects of the work on the land.

BLOOD CLINIC MONDAY

The Red Cross is appealing for donors to attend the blood donor clinic Monday at Holy Cross auditorium, Toronto is again facing a shortage of blood, and surgery on Monday will require 900 units of blood. The clinic is being held from 1:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. and all available donors are being asked to help out.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

The Council for the Town of Halton Hills has established a "Working Committee" to investigate the need for and feasibility of a Transportation Service for the Physically Disabled for the Town of Halton Hills.

For the purpose of this study the definition of a Physically Disabled person is as follows:

"A person who is physically disabled and requires mechanical or personal assistance to board a vehicle."

Letters and questionnaires have been forwarded to possible users, service organizations and community groups.

Any interested individual and groups who have not been contacted and wish to receive a questionnaire may contact the Town of Halton Hills, Clerk's Department at 877-5185, Extension 34.

All questionnaires to be completed and returned by February 15th, 1980.

Councillor M.E. Serjeantson
Chairperson, Working Committee.