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**Chicago Consumers
Complain Regarding
Natural Gas Costs**

Complaints from consumers that natural gas, which travels to their stoves from Texas, is boosting their bills, despite apparently reduced rates have given the Illinois Commerce commission an enigma to solve, says an Associated Press story from Chicago.

Between 400 and 600 protests are filed daily with the Peoples Gas, Light and Coke company in that city against temporary experimental rates ordered by the commission. They are the subject of the first test case affecting gas-users in several states fed by the 1,000-mile pipe line which was opened last October.

The new rates purport to reduce cooking costs 6½ per cent for the mixture of natural and manufactured gas. Housewives claim, however, that their bills have mounted month by month over the former rates for artificial gas.

Hearings before the state commission have gone on for months, but counsel for Chicago are still cross-examining the company's witnesses. Not until afterward will they decide whether to attack the new rates. Meanwhile they are merely investigating and experts for the commission are making private estimates.

Thirty-one other Illinois cities have filed protests before the commission, asserting their charges should be lower. These downstate towns charge the Panhandle Illinois Pipe Line company, which built the line, duplicated expense accounts of its employees to the sum of \$4,000,000; that the entire cost of laying pipe across Illinois to feed Indiana cities has been laid to Illinois consumers; and that the company seeks the return of its entire investment in 25 years although its estimated life is 50 years.

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**Future Farmers Plan
Tree Planting Project**

In their observance of the George Washington bicentennial, every member of the Antioch Chapter, Future Farmers club, will plant a cherry tree at his home this spring, according to an announcement of association directors.

C. L. Kutil, chapter adviser, stated that more than 40 trees will be planted in this way as a proper observation of the Washington event.

Surplus funds now in the club treasury will be used to purchase young trees and each member will be left with the responsibility to care for his own tree after planting.

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