

## Conservative MP says

# Mississauga may see oil shortage

By FRANK FLORIO  
News Editor

Mississauga could face a critical oil shortage next winter if something isn't done fast by the Federal Government to deal with Canada's inability to supply its Quebec and Maritimes markets.

That's the contention of Mississauga Member of Parliament Don Blenkarn, (PC), who adds that as long as Canada is selling oil to the U.S.A., it should initiate policies that will earn it more money.

"We shouldn't be selling crude oil to the Americans, we should be building refineries and selling them a refined product." He notes that since the U.S. needs our petroleum, we should be using this need as a lever to gain entry into the U.S. petro-chemical market.

Anti-freeze and plastic bags are just two of many products which Canada might be able to market widely in the U.S. if it used its bargaining power correctly, Mr. Blenkarn feels.

The Mississauga MP expressed disgust at the fact that the pipeline

extension from Ontario to Quebec "has not been acted on at all since first announcement of it in September."

The Steel Company of Canada Ltd. has been approached about supplying steel for the pipeline. But nothing firm had been agreed upon and prospects weren't good at press time for a speedy start to the project, according to a Stelco spokesman.

"We are pretty well booked to next November," said the Stelco spokesman. He added that the company was awaiting word from the Federal cabinet on the Government's anticipated plan. That word could be received by today or the end of this week. The cabinet was expected to meet and make a decision by yesterday (Tues.).

The Government may ask Stelco to give the pipeline project top priority to make possible a 1974 start, according to speculation.

It is estimated that the 30-inch diameter pipe extension will require about \$40-million worth of steel. Total estimated cost, including rights of way and construction has been estimated at \$150-million

"The government hasn't acted on this at all, it hasn't done a thing," says Mr. Blenkarn. He noted that the delays mean that work could start no sooner than spring of the coming year.

"It will take 18 months or more, to build the line so that means that even if work started next spring we face the possibility of two more winters of the present situation.

"I don't think there's any panic for Mississauga and the rest of Ontario this year, but things could become critical next year."

Mr. Blenkarn noted that the Progressive Conservative party passed a resolution at a Niagara Falls' Policy Conference, which he attended, in 1969 advocating a pipeline extension.

If the Liberal Government realized the merit in the resolution and gone to work then, the pipeline could have been finished a year ago. Domestic ability to move fuel from west to east would have eliminated any fears created by strife

between Israel and oil-rich Arab countries.

Mr. Blenkarn takes exception to references to Prime Minister Trudeau's so-called "energy policy."

"It's no policy at all," claims Mr. Blenkarn.

Referring to the Liberal campaign theme of the last election, Mr. Blenkarn agreed that "this land is strong." It must be, he reasons, to have so far survived the Liberal-NDP marriage." Next winter, however, may be another story, he says. In a speech last week Prime Minister Trudeau promised rapid action on the pipeline extension.