

**Edison Co.
Cites Prices
In Line Bid**

Price protection for Southland gas consumers—as well as electric consumers—and a big boost toward solving the West Coast's energy problems will be benefits resulting from the proposed 1600-mile natural gas pipeline from Texas and Mexico, two witnesses testified Friday at a California Public Utilities Commission hearing in Los Angeles.

Robert P. O'Brien, vice president of Southern California Edison Co. which plans to use gas from the pipeline in its steam-electric generating plants, said that the project will provide price protection for local gas consumers through the potential competition of these additional supplies of gas with existing supplies.

THIS competition is particularly important, O'Brien said, in view of the restrictive effect of air pollution controls on the fuel market in Southern California. He was referring to a Los Angeles County rule restricting the use of fuel oil during six months of the year and voluntary suspension of fuel burning when smoggy conditions are forecast.

He said that the new gas supplies will increase the total use of gas in the area by making the gas Edison is using available to other interruptible customers for their plants.

WILLIAM R. Connole, a former Federal Power Commissioner, testified that the new pipeline "will contribute toward solving the West Coast's energy problems and will help in the efforts to obtain stability of price and supply for both gas and electric utilities for some time to come."

Connole said the project will make gas supplies available to Southern California under a long-term commitment, at predictable prices, that heretofore have not been available to the area "and probably, but for this project, never would become available except under much less favorable conditions."

HE NOTED that at present California is unique—the only state in the union—in which there is no interstate natural gas pipeline that brings gas beyond the border.

"The impact on the Edison Company is especially severe," he pointed out, "because Edison is confronted with a variety of pressures to purchase great quantities of gas during certain periods of the year, irrespective to whether the price and other contract provisions are agreeable to it."

CONCERNING the Mexican portion of the pipeline, he said, "I consider the net effect to be a distinct advantage to the customers of Edison and to the entire Southern California energy market."

He said that since this portion will be owned by a national institution of that Republic and since construction proceeds will be obtained by the sale of Mexican securities, "there is a powerful economic compulsion upon the Republic of Mexico to keep this project fully utilized. The only feasible purpose for which it could be used is the project here under consideration."

"Accordingly, I do not believe there is any significant risk of interruption by the Republic of Mexico. And, of course, expropriation is no risk at all because the line already would be owned by an institution of the Mexican government," Connole declared.

**Lomita Street
Project Voted**

Supervisor Burton W. Chace said today he has been informed by the County Road Department that work will begin this week on widening short portions at the intersection of Walnut St. and 253rd St. in the Lomita area.

The improvement, he said, will join other improvements built by property owners and will also include construction of a cross-gutter to improve the deteriorated asphalt flow line dip.

Chace urged drivers to use caution when driving through the construction area.



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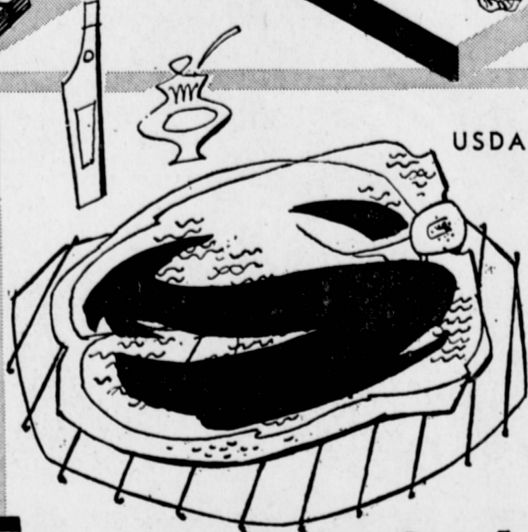
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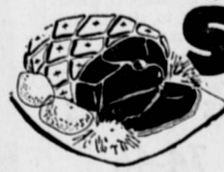
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