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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1974

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FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES PROPOSAL ASSURED OF PROVINCIAL SUPPORT, WRAPPING IN CDN. FLAG MAY ALSO WIN OTTAWA . . .

FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES LTD with its all CANADIAN pipeline package has already been assured of outright support from all three western Canadian provinces, and has almost certain backing from Ontario and Quebec. It could be that its wrapping in the Canadian Flag will gain favor at the Ottawa level. This approach to supply and transportation of Beaufort/Mackenzie Delta natural gas to Canadian markets has been nicknamed "MAPLE LEAF PROJECT" and the red maple leaf appears on the majority of the pages in the firm's informal submission to the NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD.

The Maple Leaf project being officially backed by ALBERTA GAS TRUNK LINE COMPANY LIMITED and WESTCOAST TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED was announced earlier this week. It is not surprising that it has the confirmed backing of the Alberta Government as it dovetails into this province's natural gas transmission system and thus links with its announced industrial development policies. It has British Columbia support on much the same basis, and Saskatchewan's position as a net importer of natural gas melds the Wheat Province into the scheme. Its appeal to other Canadian provinces will be directly related to each geographic area's energy requirements and the potential for meeting some through this pipeline system.

Although Premier Lougheed of Alberta has publicly stated that there have been no discussions on his government's participation in financing of the project it is not hard to envisage provincial monies behind the line. In particular with the rapidly building reserve of ready cash in the Alberta Treasury. Premier Lougheed in a recent address to the Calgary Chamber of Commerce asked for the business communities advice on investing these funds.

Costs estimates show capital requirements of some \$3.7 billion dollars for the new pipelines and additions to existing facilities in southern Canada to move gas to eastern markets. Two billion dollars is price tag for the northern section of the line (north of the Alberta - N.W.T. border). Another \$910 million of the costs are linked to Alberta Gas Trunk Line expansion, and the remaining \$805 million would go into Trans Canada Pipelines' facilities.