

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

arrangements. My own estimate of the time element is that Alberta gas will be delivered in Montreal not later than the autumn of 1958. I believe that this is a conservative estimate of the construction period, having regard to all possible delays.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, we supported the motion that the Speaker leave the chair, not because we approve of the motion now before the committee but because we wanted an opportunity before this committee to indicate why we think this resolution should be opposed.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Drew: In view of the comments from hon. members to my left I would point out that nothing is gained by the silly gesture they made this afternoon. After all, we have had very important debates here before—

Mr. Coldwell: I rise on a point of order; I do not think that any action which is proper under the rules of this house should be described by another member of the house as a silly gesture.

Mr. Knowles: Furthermore, it is out of order to reflect on a vote which has already been taken.

Mr. Drew: We have had important debates before and we will have other important debates.

Mr. Coldwell: May I ask the chairman for his ruling?

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, I am quite ready to withdraw the word "silly" and say wholly ineffective.

Mr. Coldwell: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Drew: The procedure is one which permits us to place before this committee the reasons which we hope will commend themselves to hon. members to our left as well as to others, more than my comment just did. May I say that the reason I made the comment was the derisive laughter which came from that source which I think was out of keeping with the procedure of this house just as much as any suggestion as to the intervention that was made by way of motion.

I hope that we shall discuss this as one of the most important issues that has come before this house. I trust that as a result of the discussion which will take place here we may conceivably have some reconsideration of the government's position.

There has been no reason at any time for any uncertainty as to the position of the Conservative party in regard to a measure of this kind. In this house and outside of the house we have been repeating over and

over again that Canadians should recognize the unique opportunity that presents itself to us at this time to make use of the vast resources that have become available to us. We have emphasized the fact that it is the duty of Canadians to develop those resources for the benefit of Canadians themselves. We deferred comment in regard to this particular matter because we had expected that there would be some statement by the government in regard to the new agreement in view of the fact that it is perfectly obvious that the agreement which is now tabled in relation to the crown corporation that is projected cannot possibly be fulfilled and carried out. That has been made clear this afternoon by the minister. It is unfortunate that at this stage we are asked to discuss a subject when the nature of the agreement, in so far as the time factors are concerned and the way in which financing will be carried out, is left entirely uncertain.

The remarks of the right hon. minister have dealt generally with the question of the pipe line and its purpose. He has indicated that the purpose of this motion and the measure that would follow, if it is adopted, is to hasten the day when Alberta will have an outlet for its natural gas. This proposal would do the very opposite. This proposal is going to delay the delivery of gas by adopting a method that makes us dependent upon the whims of the federal power commission in Washington.

This government has placed itself in the humiliating and improper position where it is bound to wait until an agency of the government of the United States reaches a decision. We pride ourselves on our sovereignty and yet this sovereign parliament is asked to accept a proposal which does not leave us in the position where we can say when this will go ahead. We believe that the time has come to assert without any reservation that we want an all-Canadian pipe line under Canadian control which can be proceeded with right away to deliver Alberta gas to Ontario and Quebec and wherever else in the east it may be available.

What is now proposed will not achieve that result. What is now proposed makes this government dependent upon the decision of the federal power commission in Washington. That is not a position which this government now or at any other time should be prepared to accept.

The minister referred to hon. members possibly questioning why it is necessary to market gas in the United States. He said that there is in the United States an immediate customer load. There will not be a customer load unless and until the federal