

Appropriation Act No. 8

what the reeve of the township of Teck said in a telegram sent to the Prime Minister:

Your decision to permit Trans-Canada Pipe Lines to construct transmission line through United States is detrimental to present and future industrial development of northern Ontario. Present gas supply insufficient to adequately serve existing industries. Your policy should be Canada first. Your decision means loss of millions of dollars in employment supplies and taxes to Canada and Canadian municipalities. This municipality violently opposed to your decision and request immediate reconsideration and reversal.

The telegram is signed by Frank B. Rainford, reeve of the township of Teck. We had a meeting in Timmins recently, and the Reeves and mayors of most of the communities of northeastern Ontario were on the platform. I can honestly say that to my knowledge none of them support my party. Five members of parliament from the New Democratic Party were at this meeting. Each and every one of them, regardless of his political affiliation, agreed that we were taking away the greatest potential for the development of this area.

I have never really been conscious of the latitude in which we live, although I knew it was cold. When we were in Timmins there were two feet of snow in some of the communities, and my colleagues were laughing about the fact that we were on the 47th parallel and were very near the United States border. I think that we in northern Ontario sometimes forget our nearness to the important markets. We know that our climate is not in keeping with our geographical location, but climate is not a factor when shipping goods and developing your economic potential. We are only 400 miles from the largest market in Ontario, the city of Toronto and the Golden Horseshoe. The potential is there; we have the resources and many of the basic materials.

If this government has been stupid enough to be browbeaten and bribed—and I think they were bribed in a number of ways—into making this kind of agreement, they will rue the day. We cannot defeat the government. Everyone here knows that if the opposition were to unite, the government could be defeated. But the government can count on enough votes to obtain a majority on any issue. We cannot defeat them; we can only appeal to them. How can we appeal to them? The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has for some time been regular in his attendance in the house. He is not in the chamber today, but you cannot really blame him for that. I always deplore the fact that our Prime Minister is in the house only for the question

period. I can remember that when the Liberals were in opposition they deserted this field; but for God's sake, if they want to be the government let them at least accept the responsibility of government and not make superficial examinations of this kind.

I am sure that in the Prime Minister's riding the people in Espanola know that if they had a surplus of gas which could be supplied to a pulp and paper mill they would be in no different position from any other area with regard to the development that could take place. I have travelled over this area and know that it has the potential for plywood mills, gypboard mills and secondary industries in the mining field. These industries could be developed in the area if cheap energy were available. In my opinion cheap energy could be available to the area through the development of this pipe line.

I never thought we would have to depend on the United States for our autonomy; but that is what will happen, Mr. Chairman. The Federal Power Commission of the United States is not stupid. We appointed a bunch of political hacks to our National Energy Board. You should have seen the shocked look on the face of the chairman of the board when we decided to ask him questions. He had never been asked questions before. I do not know how he dealt with the problems that were put before him.

With the construction of the butane plant in western Canada the quality of the gas in northern Ontario was reduced by 8 per cent or 10 per cent. This has meant that everybody in Kirkland Lake who uses gas for heating finds their bills increased by \$4, \$5 or \$6 each month. Why did the board do this? Let us be fair to Northern Gas; they had signed a contract setting out the number of b.t.u.'s that would be in the gas. All Trans-Canada did by putting in the butane plant in western Canada was to drop this figure down to 100 b.t.u.'s and make sure it did not go above that. But the gas company sold stoves all over northern Ontario on the strength of gas that would be as high as 116 b.t.u.'s.

The Chairman: Order, please. The time allotted to the hon. member has expired.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Chairman, the arguments advanced by the—

The Chairman: Order, please. Did the hon. member for Timiskaming rise to ask for extended time?