

Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited

dollars. It would cut to a minimum, and perhaps even eliminate, the cost of subsidies to Canadian taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, the actual working out of details of such a long-range plan would naturally require a meeting of minds between the owners of existing pipe lines that would be involved and the backers of proposed pipe lines, as well as between the gas producing and distributing companies. It would require a meeting of minds between the various provincial governments concerned as producers of gas or consumers, and the Canadian government. Finally, it would require a meeting of minds at top level between the Canadian and the United States governments.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion may I read a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Progressive Conservative party a week or so ago in Ottawa. This resolution passed by the Conservative association reads as follows:

We support, generally, development of pipe lines and markets for western Canadian oil, natural gas and by-products on the soundest economic basis, with due regard to security of supply for Canadians; but to the extent that national interest may dictate market planning other than the most economic, we believe the nation as a whole should bear the burden, and that this should not be assessed only upon producers and consumers in western Canada.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, as various pipe lines bills have been brought before the house, we of this group have made it clear that in our view there are two principles that should be pursued. In the first place, it has been our contention that a Canadian pipe line should be built so as to serve Canadian needs and interests first. In the second place, we have made it clear that in our view gas and oil pipe lines should be publicly owned. We have presented that view to the house on several occasions in the form of amendments setting out both of those principles and we still feel that those principles should be followed.

When the bill incorporating Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited was presented to this house in 1951, second reading of that bill was moved on February 27 by the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Decore), who is the sponsor of the bill now before us. It was my privilege on that occasion to speak for our group. I expressed our pleasure that the first principle I enunciated a moment ago was being implemented by the terms of the bill, namely that it was to be an all-Canadian pipe line; but I expressed our regret that the second principle to which we adhere was not being carried out.

[Mr. Nickle.]

It is still our view that this pipe line should be brought under public ownership. That was our view when we were somewhat at the academic stage with respect to the building of pipe lines in this country. As we approach the time when these long distance pipe lines will be built and when gas and oil will be transmitted through them, we feel even more strongly that these should be the subject of public ownership.

In closing his remarks today the hon. member for Vegreville expressed the view that once this pipe line was built the Canadian people would have reason to be proud of it. I submit that the Canadian people would have much more reason to be proud of a pipe line of this nature if it were owned by the Canadian people themselves.

So far as this particular bill is concerned, we will not raise any objection to the matter involved in connection with it and the other one related to it being studied by the committee to which this bill will be referred. I understand that an agreement has been reached between Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited, the Niagara company and the others involved. We hope that agreement will be very carefully scrutinized by the committee and that every effort will be made to make sure that the interests of the consumers of Canada are protected as well as they can be protected under a policy of private ownership. However, it is our view that this business calls for public ownership, and even as there have been some conversions in this House of Commons in the matter of pipe line policy we hope there will yet be a complete conversion to our policy of public ownership.

Hon. George Prudham (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, we all listened with interest once again to the hon. member for Calgary South (Mr. Nickle) expound his one-man policy for the development of the natural gas reserves of Canada on a continental basis rather than a strictly or partially national basis. He quoted many authorities and different surveys that have been conducted by engineering firms. He also mentioned the report by the Stanford research institute, and if I understood him correctly he implied that that report also stated that it was uneconomical to supply Alberta gas to eastern Canada. This report was prepared by the Stanford research institute for Imperial Oil Limited and the date is March, 1953. I would refer the hon. member for Calgary South and other hon. members to page 48. The first heading on this page is: "What is the market for competi-