

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Chairman, the notice that the Prime Minister has given reduces to a complete farce—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Obstruction.

**Mr. Drew:**—the earlier suggestion that he was in fact making any proposal that had behind it any earnest desire to have a discussion of this measure. In effect what he says is this: "Look at this nice sharp axe. I shall withhold that axe if you submit to the terms I place before you". The velvet which he places over the edge of the axe renders the edge no less sharp. I would hope that there is no hon. member on this side of the house who would be prepared to follow the course of action suggested,—

**Mr. Fulton:** Or on the other side.

**Mr. Drew:**—and I would hope that there were some on the other side of the house who would not be prepared to follow it;—

**An hon. Member:** You will not find very many.

**Mr. Drew:** I would hope there would be some on the other side of the house who would not be prepared to follow a course of action suggested by the Prime Minister when it is backed by a threat of closure of this kind.

We have had different kinds of closure already. We first of all had closure moved by the Minister of Trade and Commerce when we had before us the motion that it was expedient to introduce this bill. The notice of that closure was given before a single member of the opposition had been given an opportunity to indicate in any way what his position was here in this house. Then we had closure on second reading. Then when we came into the committee stage we had a type of closure never even attempted before in this or any similar parliament, when the Minister of Trade and Commerce rose on the calling of section 1 and moved postponement of the consideration of that section.

**An hon. Member:** Further consideration.

**Mr. Drew:** I should say further consideration of that section. That was indeed an affront to this house. There had been no consideration and therefore there could be no further consideration. We were allowed no consideration of any kind on section 1 where the opportunity presents itself to elicit information by direct questions. We were offered no opportunity to consider section 2. We were offered no opportunity to consider section 3. We were then given the opportunity to consider section 4 which, in a large

[Mr. Coldwell.]

measure, had become a futility because we had already passed over the definition and operative sections of the act.

Now, the Prime Minister suggests that we agree to sit tonight and Saturday, provided we will agree to their terms.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Just sit and talk.

**Mr. Drew:** The Minister of Fisheries has interjected, "Just sit and talk".

**Mr. Sinclair:** That is all you have done for the last 19 days.

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Chairman, the difference is that I have stood in order to make my speeches whereas the Minister of Fisheries has sat and made his interjections.

**Mr. Fleming:** And rather senseless interjections too.

**Mr. Drew:** May I add that there have not been 19 days of discussion or anything like that. I would suggest to the hon. member he go back and examine *Hansard* to ascertain the limited opportunity there has been.

**Mr. Sinclair:** There have been 19 days of filibustering by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and the hon. member for Kamloops, and the country knows it.

**Mr. Fleming:** That is the man who fell off the ladder.

**Mr. Drew:** There have not been 19 days of discussion, as the minister knows quite well. I simply place on the record the fact that his statement is without any foundation whatever.

We have before us here perhaps the most offensive proposal that has been made yet. Under the guise of a gesture of generosity to this house the Prime Minister says you can discuss this until the end of this week as long as you abide by our terms as to how we will force this bill through. Well, Mr. Chairman, we are not going to accept any terms of that kind. This government has taken the responsibility of making these proceedings completely ineffective from the point of view of a proper discussion of this bill in committee. I repeat, never before in this House of Commons have the members of this house been denied in this way the opportunity to proceed. Do not let any member opposite refer back to precedents where sections were bulked in one motion made as is now suggested. On the one occasion where something of the same nature was done, section 1 had been discussed and the opportunity had been presented to ask questions and to get answers. We were denied that opportunity which is the very beginning and the real foundation of the discussion in committee. This was denied