

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacDougall:** I wish that some of the gentlemen to my left were as honest as I in that admission.

**Mr. Dickey:** They prefer to prove it to everybody else.

**Mr. MacDougall:** You know, it is a very nice thing to have friends in all parties, and when one does not indulge in smears I do not think it is a very difficult thing to do. I speak as a Liberal who has no axe to grind, political or otherwise, with respect to the pipe line. The Leader of the Opposition suggested yesterday that he would like to hear a Canadian speak on this matter. I think that without exception we are all Canadians but I happen to fall into a different category. I am what might be termed a neutral Canadian as far as the trans-Canada gas line is concerned.

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

**Mr. MacDougall:** I am neutral in this respect, that as far as my own province and city are concerned if and when we get natural gas in Vancouver and the province we will get it through the medium of the Westcoast Transmission line. Further than that, I believe it is well that a so-called neutral viewpoint on this question should be expressed. Originally I was raised on the prairies in the province of Saskatchewan, and I want to tell you without fear or favour that the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba are crying today for the admission of natural gas from the province of Alberta. There used to be an old saying in our schoolboy days—

**An hon. Member:** Time.

**Mr. MacDougall:**—that trade follows the flag. I did not call time on you, Doug.

**Mr. Harkness:** I did not say a word, not a word.

**The Chairman:** It is my duty to call time and advise the hon. member that his time has expired.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, there comes from our province of Manitoba a Liberal who is in the cabinet. He is a gentleman who sometimes, whether he likes or not, blurts out the truth. He did that yesterday noon, according to this evening's edition of the *Ottawa Citizen*—

**Mr. McIvor:** He always tells the truth.

**Mr. Knowles:**—when he was speaking to 180 high school students taking part in an adventure in citizenship. The press report tells us that he told them that democratic government is still on thin ice.

**Mr. Knowles:** That same minister came back to the house yesterday afternoon and saw his colleague, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, endeavour to push democracy through that thin ice. The Minister of Justice also stated at that meeting yesterday:

One of the possibilities which make our times so interesting and fateful is whether this great innovation will survive and expand or fall back into thousands of years of bondage.

**Some hon. Members:** Boo, boo!

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, the use by the Minister of Justice of that word "bondage" made me wonder whether he is aware of the famous words attributed to John Pym who said this centuries ago:

Parliaments without parliamentary liberty are but a fair and plausible way into bondage. Freedom of debate being once foreclosed, the essence of the liberty of parliament is withal dissolved.

That is what this government is seeking to do, Mr. Chairman, under the alleged excuse of necessity. What is that necessity? That necessity arises from the fact, so far as the government is concerned, that it has already signed a contract with a private company. The make-up of that private company has already been described in full. In that agreement this government has virtually pledged that parliament will get this measure through in time for the required amount of money to be turned over to this private company by June 7. In other words, Mr. Chairman, this free and independent parliament of a sovereign nation is bound by a commitment that the government of this country has made to a private company.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Knowles:** It is because of that commitment that the government has made that we are now under not the threat but the fact of closure. I remind hon. members of what my leader drew to their attention last night when he indicated that Mr. King in 1932 had certain fairly strong words to say about closure when it was put in effect after a debate had been going on for a month. In this instance closure is announced the very first day on which the debate is in progress. As recorded at page 1626 of *Hansard* of 1932 Mr. King said this:

They have used the weapon of closure twice in the course of a short debate—

I do not know how many times we shall get it in this still shorter debate.

—in order to end all discussion and debate on the most important question which has engaged the attention of parliament since this ministry was formed.