

That letter, gentlemen, which we must accept as coming from a company which is obviously deeply concerned with getting maximum markets, because it is already in the distributing field of power and fuel in greater Winnipeg, presents figures five years after the gas line is completed of  $9\frac{1}{4}$  billion cubic feet per year of total market as compared with a figure estimated by boundary for the same market of over 16 billion cubic feet; in other words, the Winnipeg Electric figures reduce by over 25 per cent the market at the end of five years completion of the line, which completely alters the economics of that line.

Mr. MUTCH: What is the date of that letter?

Mr. NICKLE: April 23, 1952 and it reached me by airmail this afternoon.

Mr. CONACHER: Could we have the letter read which brought about this reply?

Mr. NICKLE: There was no letter, there was a telephone call.

Mr. STUART: Would it appear that under the present set-up in Winnipeg their profits would be greater than they would be if gas from Alberta should be brought to Winnipeg?

Mr. NICKLE: The Winnipeg Electric Company is anxious to have natural gas, just as any utility company is.

Mr. STUART: Even though their profits would be less?

Mr. NICKLE: I am not saying that. The only point in dispute is the volume of the market.

Mr. WHITMAN: There is about a 25 per cent difference.

Mr. NICKLE: Those figures differ by 7 billion cubic feet a year with the figures presented by the Boundary Transmission. The question is: The Winnipeg Electrical Company is a distributing company and it would hardly be guilty...

Mr. CONACHER: Anymore than an engineering company would be guilty?

Mr. NICKLE: It could be, but they are in a position to know; and the question whether such evidence as we had this morning which basically was simply a few telegrams from various people stipulating the peak summer day sales for several industrial markets in terms of other kinds of fuel than gas; that evidence is certainly not nearly as substantial as testimony from companies who are actually in the business of distributing fuel and which for very obvious reasons want to make a profit and are very much concerned with seeing that their estimates are correct.

Mr. STUART: Was there not a plebisite held in Winnipeg recently?

Mr. NICKLE: A plebisite on what?

Mr. STUART: On the question of Hydro Electric power; and do you think this company would be of the same opinion before that plebiscite was held?

Mr. NICKLE: I do not think that hydro electric power has anything at all to do with the distribution of gas or other utility fuels.

Mr. MUTCH: The facilities in the Winnipeg Electric were in a pot, including the gas facilities, and they were not very much under discussion during the plebiscite a week ago. I think Mr. Stuart's question was: would the Winnipeg Electric, a week ago, have held to that, if they had learned that they were not going to surrender to the province; in other words, would they be of the same opinion as before?

Mr. NICKLE: These basic figures were submitted by the Winnipeg Electric Company to the Alberta Conservation Board in December 1951; and they have merely brought the report up to date.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the preamble carry?

Carried.