

*Interim Supply*

position in which he placed several newspapers in this country, we would return today to something I feel is of more importance than the subject under discussion during the last two days of last week. I refer to the building of the Trans-Canada pipe line through the United States.

● (5.20 p.m.)

I suggest this is an important subject for four particular reasons.

First, it is of vital importance to the future of northern Canada; second, it is of equal importance to southern Canada; third, it is of particular importance to the future of this country; and fourth, and I think this is perhaps the most important reason, this is the only opportunity we will have to discuss this particular subject. We have no bill and there is no other way we can discuss this matter at any time in this house. As a matter of fact, if the Federal Power Commission should decide today to approve the application, it will be a *fait accompli* as far as this House of Commons and the Canadian people are concerned.

As far as the defence problem and the plight of admirals and generals are concerned, we will have many opportunities to discuss these matters. We can discuss them at the various stages of the bill; we can discuss them in committee. There will be many, many opportunities to deal with that particular problem; but, as I say, this is the only opportunity we will have to discuss the question of this pipe line.

I should like to point out that today in this country pipe lines hold the same place as railways did 100 years ago. Pipe lines are the coming means of transportation in this great country of ours. Not only will oil and gas be transported by pipe line in the years ahead, and in the very few years ahead, but we will see many other things transported by pipe line throughout this country. Finished products, dry goods, canned goods and many other commodities will be transported from the west by pipe line rather than rail, highway or water. Today in Canada pipe lines stand at the crossroads, as did the railways 100 years ago.

This is why we have raised this matter and will continue to raise it as long as we have the opportunity to do so. It is obvious that the Liberal government does not care about this question. It is equally obvious that the official opposition does not care about it either. Perhaps more tragic than either of those things, because in the last 100 years we have seen many cases of the irresponsibility of

[Mr. Martin (Timmins).]

these two parties as far as this country is concerned, is the fact that even the newspapers of this country do not care about the problem. How else could they have been sucked in by the phoney fight that we saw last week? How else could they be drawn in and made fools of in the way the Prime Minister made fools of them last Thursday night at two minutes to ten o'clock? They built up this tremendous issue, and all of a sudden it collapsed like a house of cards. They have been drawn into this thing right up to their eyeballs, completely ignoring the fact that there will be many opportunities to debate the problem of defence.

It is bad enough that we have to take up the time of this house to debate this matter. We may be accused, and justifiably, of holding up old age pensions, medicare, and the Canada Assistance Act. We could be accused, as we were accused last week and justifiably so, of holding out the threat of an election in this country. Mind you, Mr. Chairman, as far as northern Canada is concerned, and particularly northern Ontario, we would welcome an election on this issue. There would not be many government members coming back from northern Ontario if this were the issue in the election. But we do not use these weapons.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Oh, this holy person.

**Mr. Martin (Timmins):** If these are the weapons we have to use in a fight, we will back down in that fight.

**Mr. Bigg:** It must be nice to be holy.

**Mr. Martin (Timmins):** I am very amused at accusations of my being holy. I think anybody who knows me knows a little better than that. While we have this opportunity, I would like some answers to a few of the questions that have been raised in the house. I have raised some of these matters already and have yet to receive any answer in respect of them. Not too long ago, a delegation came from northern Ontario to meet with members of the cabinet. I see that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is in the chamber. Many questions were raised at that meeting. The minister promised at the time to seek out the answers to those questions and relay them to the delegates.

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Chairman, to save time may I tell the hon. member that a full reply, I think it comprises 10 pages, has gone out today to everybody who was at that meeting.

**Mr. Martin (Timmins):** I am very pleased to hear that, because the people of the north