

not allow gas to be exported until Canadian needs are met. I personally believe that it should be the part of every member of parliament and every person residing in Canada to feel that we can put confidence in our elected representatives and to believe that they would protect the interests of the Canadian people rather than those of the directors of a company responsible only to their shareholders.

Now, a declaration by any company that they will follow any particular route or any other declaration certainly, unless it is embodied in a contract, a signed contract, would not carry the same responsibility if made by our senior officials of the government. The Governor-in-Council will determine eventually if the requirements of Canada are met and certainly under this Act it will not be Mr. Applewhaite. He will act on the instructions from the Minister of Trade and Commerce so that I think it is absolutely superfluous to add anything in the way of an amendment to this Act.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of the amendment?

Mr. ADAMSON: Mr. Chairman, I have had some experience with a very similar type of thing, the export of off-peak electric power which was exported in the first place as an emergency measure. There was an agreement that when the power was needed in Canada, that power should be returned. Actually what happened was that the industries in the northern part of New York State became dependent upon this power, and when it became necessary for the province of Ontario to have that power back it was impossible to get it back without causing a serious disruption of supply of primary power to those industries; and it was only got over, after some considerable power shortage, by the construction of further Hydro Electric Works elsewhere than at Niagara.

Now it seems to me that we have a very similar situation here. The estimated consumption in Vancouver of 5 million cubic feet is less than one-half as much as Seattle; and less than one-third as much as Portland. Well, perhaps that is in the opinion of the company a correct estimate. But in population Vancouver is slightly over one half a million and I do not think either of those cities is very much larger than Vancouver.

Mr. MURRAY: Let us get down to the facts. How many people would there be around Puget Sound, three million?

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: I wish you would stick to the subject of the amendment.

Mr. ADAMSON: I am speaking on the amendment, Mr. Chairman.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: It does not sound very much like it, Mr. Adamson.

Mr. ADAMSON: I feel that the prime function of this committee of the House of Commons is to see to it that the requirements of Canada are met first. Therefore I see no objection in this amendment.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order!

Mr. ADAMSON: In fact, I am wholeheartedly in favour of the amendment particularly as we have again seen what has happened at Windsor and at Sarnia where the supply of natural gas has been certainly restricted and definitely cut off because of the Federal Power Commission. I believe we are putting our necks in a noose in regard to this thing unless we at least take other safeguards with regard to the supply of Canadian industries first.

Mr. PEARKES: May I ask how practical it is to apply this amendment supposing route B is the route which is adopted for the construction of this pipe line?

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: But that is not mentioned in the amendment.

Mr. PEARKES: I am asking as to whether it is practical to apply this amendment, and I am saying: supposing route B is constructed, and in the course of time the demand from Trail develops to such an extent that there is