

this resolution shall be the first business of the committee and shall not further be postponed.

Mr. Knowles: The guillotine!

Some hon. Members: Dictatorship!

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, this house has heard the threat of dictatorship this afternoon. This house has heard an expression of the concept of parliamentary procedure that is held by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The Minister of Trade and Commerce a few minutes ago said, "Let the Conservatives admit that this proposal is most unusual". We do; without hesitation. We admit it is not only unusual, but we submit that it is the worst proposal ever put before this house and one which will damage Canada in the years ahead if it goes through.

An hon. Member: Is that why Premier Frost supports it?

Mr. Drew: There have been occasions recently when we have seen that the minister does not always prepare the statements which he reads in this house. Today it is quite certain that he did prepare this speech. No one else would have written it. No one else would have brought together such a complete confusion of conflicting statements about the subject that is now before us.

Last Tuesday the members of this house, including the Prime Minister, heard these words from the Minister of Trade and Commerce:

The action proposed today is another declaration of independence by Canada.

What tawdry and nauseating inversion of the truth. Those words and the self-conscious-evidence of highly organized applause which followed them were simply a clear and effective declaration of political and moral bankruptcy of the Liberal party. Whom do they really think they are fooling? This is a complete and clear sell-out which has no relation whatever to the original proposal, bad though that proposal was.

Since this chosen instrument of the government was embraced in the loving arms of the Minister of Trade and Commerce every step has been shrouded in chicanery, mystery and evasion. Not even the Prime Minister knew about the communications from Mr. McMahon until they were discussed in this house and until after Mr. McMahon had received instruction from the Minister of Trade and Commerce. We still are waiting to hear what took place between Mr. McMahon and the Minister of Trade and Commerce. We only have the communications from Mr. McMahon to the Minister of Trade

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation
and Commerce. We do not know what the replies were. We do know there were replies. Today the Minister of Trade and Commerce told us that Mr. McMahon was trying to reassure him in regard to the supply of pipe and other details. Reassure him? Why? Because the Minister of Trade and Commerce had been discussing these details with him here in Ottawa and elsewhere.

We saw no acknowledgments of those letters. Was there no statement to Mr. McMahon that would have interested this house, and above all was there no statement that would have interested the Prime Minister, the nominal head of the government? He had not heard of them. Everybody else had been reading about them in the press but he had not even heard about them from the minister who sits next to him. The minister of mines and resources—and after all these are resources—had not heard about them either except through the press.

An hon. Member: Get the title fixed.

An hon. Member: There is no minister of mines and resources.

Mr. Drew: The Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys had not heard about them; yet that would certainly come under his department. As a matter of fact it would be much better under his department than under the present department. That would be a much more logical place.

The statements which have been made today are further examples of the way in which this house has been dealt with in regard to this whole subject. As far as this chosen instrument of the government is concerned, the Minister of Trade and Commerce is quite correct when he says that only one agency has been placed in position to proceed this year. He has taken good care of that. He has taken very good care of that. No one else has been permitted to take any part in these discussions. He talks about the difficulties that are being encountered, and he tells us that there are still great difficulties about obtaining permission from the federal power commission in connection with the export of gas to the United States. His words were, "There is no end clearly in sight."

Let us see just what that means. That means that in the words of the Minister of Trade and Commerce himself there is nothing to indicate the possibility that financing can be arranged on the basis of permission to sell gas in the United States. Let us just examine what has actually happened in this case. We had before us for some time a resolution on the order paper to provide that a crown corporation be set up to be known