

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

Secretary of State for External Affairs how different things would be. In the last few days considerable reference has been made to a book containing a compilation of certain addresses given by the hon. gentleman. While I cannot on this occasion, with my limitation of time, quote extensively from that book I do commend it to the Prime Minister. It is entitled "Democracy in World Politics". It is a work well worthy of study. The Prime Minister might permit the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce to have a look at it. The Prime Minister has learned in recent days that under our system of government the sovereign is the people, and I should like to quote from page 60 of this book where the following is stated:

In the eighteenth century, the sovereigns in question were usually individuals. Today they are hundreds of legislators, millions of newspaper readers, radio listeners, or television viewers. Particularly our sovereigns are voters—

The Prime Minister found that out in the last two days, when on behalf of this government he embarked upon the most supercilious and cynical disregard for parliament, when he established executive absolutism, when he decided to place the party which he represents above parliament. The people of Canada spoke, and yesterday the Prime Minister made a partial retreat. It was not a retreat to restore to parliament its rights. I should like to quote from this book several particularly appropriate quotations. Speaking about the value of parliament, the hon. gentleman has this to say on page 68:

A substantial part of their value, like that of national parliaments, lies precisely in the ability to mobilize and focus opinions, to encourage the formulation, expression, and dramatic confrontation, of major viewpoints.

I give that to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister tried to prevent that. Two weeks ago we asked a number of questions, and instead of answering any of those questions those associated with him hid behind their majority and tried to delude parliament and the Canadian people. Again my hon. friend had this to say:

By bringing issues out into the public, and ventilating them, throwing light into dark places—

Page the Minister of Trade and Commerce. —and thereby encouraging more care and responsibility by administrative authorities who understandably hesitate to do things of which they would be ashamed if they were publicly examined in a searching forum.

Then on another page he says in effect—I could give the exact quotation if necessary—that democracy is more than the counting of heads. I suggest that this book of wise information henceforth be the basis upon which the Prime Minister and those associated with him should endeavour once

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

more to restore parliament to its former position. When the Minister of Finance endeavoured to explain why such devious methods were being used to ration freedom of speech and to deny it, he stood in his place and said there were two reasons, one being that on one occasion I had made a speech over the radio. I read that portion of the speech which he used, along with the triumvirate who have endeavoured to deny parliament its rights. The excuse given by the minister was not even subtle. This is what I said on that occasion:

In July, 1955, the Conservative party fought, under the inspiring leadership and generalship of George Drew, for the restoration of parliamentary supremacy. That was when Mr. Howe tried to force through parliament the grant to himself of a blank cheque of absolute and dictatorial powers under the Defence Production Act. That battle we won. But let me tell you that the fight we put on then will appear but a skirmish beside the battle we shall wage when the bill respecting Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited comes before parliament.

The minister says, with that specious sanctimoniousness he displays—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —that the reason they brought in closure, the reason we are denied free speech, the reason we have departed from the principles of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and others is that suggestion I made. What an explanation.

An hon. Member: What a speech.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yesterday the Prime Minister, finding that he was on a bed of public torture because of his own actions, was brought out of his position and, having found himself in that position, revealed in his speech that after all even a majority as great as he enjoys must have a conscience for parliament. Oh, you have the power; you count your heads, while the Secretary of State for External Affairs says that democracy is more than that. You thought you could override, that you could conceal by the overwhelming power of your majority, but the Prime Minister and those associated with him have learned that the men and women across Canada, the citizens, the press of this country, without regard to party considerations, will have none of it.

Yesterday the Prime Minister, endeavoured once more, by a technique so crude as to be transparent, to return out of the kindness of his heart a portion of the rights of parliament. The Prime Minister has always been a great student of history. One has to go back to the days of James or Charles in order to see similar conduct, conduct which was generally believed to have ended for all time; but that spirit of tyranny came back during