

*Alberta Natural Gas Company*

Canadian National Railways in the neighbourhood of \$410,000. That is what it will amount to by the time they pay their share of the cost of purchasing this railway and new diesel engines and so on; and of course that \$410,000 is money we in this house will have to vote in order to enable the Canadian National to complete its part in the purchase of this line. I should like to ask the Minister of Transport if he is quite satisfied that the Canadian National should undertake that expenditure of almost half a million dollars for these purposes.

**Mr. Chevrier:** It is not for me to say whether or not this is a proper expenditure to be made by the Canadian National Railways. That is generally done by the officers of the company, who bring their budget before the house committee on railways and shipping for approval. If the case is as the hon. member says, I presume that when the amount is put in the budget of the Canadian National it will come before the committee in the usual course some time next year. As far as the Department of Transport is concerned, it has some interest indirectly in such bills, but all I can say is that the legal officers of the department have looked at this bill and they have no objection to it.

Section agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Progress reported.

ALBERTA NATURAL GAS COMPANY

The house in committee on Bill No. 7, to incorporate Alberta Natural Gas Company—Mr. Maybank—Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.

On section 1—*Incorporation.*

**Mr. Green:** Mr. Speaker, this is the first occasion on which this bill has been before this committee since it was considered by the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines, and I believe a word or two should be said about what took place in that committee. I have reference more particularly, or in the first place, to the attitude taken by the sponsor of this bill, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

**Mr. Knowles:** I rise to a point of order.

**Some hon. Members:** No, no.

**Mr. Green:** I must beg somebody's pardon.

**Mr. Maybank:** Don't apologize to me; apologize to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

**Mr. Green:** The sponsor of the bill is the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, who is also a parliamentary assistant. When this bill was before the house for consideration

those of us who opposed it were told on numerous occasions by various supporters of the bill that we should let it go to committee so we could get the facts. Time and again that plea was made: Why don't you let this bill go to the committee so we can get the facts? Well, the bill finally went to the committee.

Then we found that the sponsor of the bill was a member of the committee, which in the first place I submit is quite an improper procedure. When an hon. member is sponsoring a private bill he should not be a member of the committee considering that bill. However the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre was a member, and took a very active part in the work of the committee; in fact from the beginning he tried to dominate it and to assert authority over its workings. His position was doubly bad because of the fact that he is also a parliamentary assistant. It is about time the government decided just how far these parliamentary assistants can go.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. Discussion in committee must be strictly relevant to the item under consideration.

**Mr. Green:** This is very relevant, Mr. Chairman.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I do not think the hon. member is in order when he suggests that the government should look into the matter of the parliamentary assistants.

**Mr. Green:** Then let me go at it in this way. Let me point out to the committee what this parliamentary assistant undertook to do when the bill he was sponsoring was under consideration. Not only did he act in a most high-handed and arbitrary manner from the start, but on Thursday evening—

**Mr. Riley:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

**Mr. Green:** On Thursday evening—

**The Deputy Chairman:** The hon. member for Saint John-Albert is raising a point of order.

**Mr. Riley:** The hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra has just accused one of the parliamentary assistants of acting in a high-handed and arbitrary manner before a committee. I was a member of that committee—

**Mr. Green:** That is not a point of order.

**Mr. Riley:** The parliamentary assistant of whom the hon. member speaks was not the chairman of that committee.

**Mr. Green:** There is no point of order in that.

**Mr. Riley:** Therefore he was not in a position to act in a high-handed or arbitrary manner.