

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

of parliament this government, these hon. members, especially the backbenchers, seem to disregard parliamentary principles. Principles in anything are eternal, but pipe lines are only pipe lines. I say in all sincerity, Mr. Chairman, do not think that this great champion of free enterprise who has built more crown companies than anyone else is the only man who can build the pipe line. He says, "I have never made a mistake in my life. I will put on closure. None of these boys knows what he is talking about." He seems to think we may have a dictator some day and, if so, who could be better than himself?

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have learned long since that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts completely, and I never saw a government so completely corrupt as this government that is trying to corrupt parliament. I say in all sincerity that never since confederation has there been in any British parliament greater destruction of the rights of the individual and the privileges of members in one week's time; never in the whole history of government in the British commonwealth. Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is the attitude of these backbenchers, and I include the little Minister of Citizenship and Immigration who flaps his flippers and pounds the desk. I would be ashamed to be a pupil of Mackenzie King and learn as little as he has learned.

The hon. gentlemen talk about the supremacy of parliament, and not one of them has risen and made an intelligent observation about the rights of parliament in the last week. They know so little that the Speaker is the only man who can argue their case. He makes a decision one day, and then is so afraid of what you may think that he comes in and corrects it the next day and you all vote for that 100 per cent.

Have you ever seen a more subservient group hiding behind the iron curtain of secrecy, behind a smug, complacent, tired old government, eight members of which, as someone has said, were never in parliament before they came into the cabinet? They had greatness thrust upon them. None of them had ever been in the opposition. I do not think any of the eight were ever in a county council. If they ever had been and had behaved like they have here, they certainly would not have been very popular. What has gone on here would never be seen in any provincial legislature, any municipal council, any county council in Canada. I urge the government not to follow their own precedents.

An hon. Member: Time.

Mr. Rowe: Someone calls time. The Minister of Trade and Commerce says that this has to
[Mr. Rowe.]

be done because a deadline was set. I do not know whether it was set by the federal power commission of Washington, by Murchison, by Trans-Canada, by Tennessee or by Gulf Oil. I do not know who helped to set the deadline. I do know that the bill was mentioned in the speech from the throne and was mentioned in the house. I do know that the company was incorporated five years ago and that the government spent four months considering the matter before they hastily brought in the measure and imposed closure so we could not debate it.

Mr. Martin: Mr. Chairman, the last hon. gentleman has not only been a distinguished member of this house for many years but at one time was the leader of the Conservative party in the province of Ontario. He belongs to the same political party of which the premier of that province is a member.

Mr. Hees: What about the pipe line?

Mr. Martin: He belongs to the great political party of which the Leader of the Opposition was both the leader and premier in the province of Ontario. In a debate of this importance one would have thought that the views of the premier of Ontario would be of great significance and relevance. It would be interesting to know why the hon. gentleman who has just spoken has ignored our questions as to whether or not he agrees with the views expressed by the premier of Ontario. It would be interesting to know whether the grand conspiracy which he has been talking about tonight includes a conspiracy among the premiers of Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario and the federal government.

An hon. Member: And the Speaker.

Mr. Martin: It would be interesting to know why the Leader of the Opposition, throughout this debate, has persistently refused to make any reference whatsoever to one of his friends, one of his political colleagues, with whom he served as head of the government in which the present premier of Ontario served as his provincial treasurer. Mr. Frost, the premier of this province, had this to say about this question:

We have taken a generous view with the federal government and recognize their position in this matter has not been simple or easy. I have no intention here of making it more difficult for the federal government to carry its arrangements through. If I did that, I would be doing a disservice to this country.

Does the hon. gentleman who has just spoken agree with the premier of the province of Ontario who says that this matter is one of urgency, that he could not take a position in opposition to this measure because