

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

across the way in the Liberal party and my hon. friends in the Social Credit party to my left. Do you think I would stoop so low as to say, or do you think I would be justified in saying, because these people are temporarily agreed on a certain issue, that the Liberal party has gone crazy enough to become Social Crediters overnight? Would I be justified in making that accusation? Or would I be justified in saying that the Conservatives were showing communist tendencies because they laid on the desk of the hon. member of their group who was dismissed from this house the same flag carried in that procession outside?

**Mr. McIlraith:** The flag they brought into the house two hours before the session that day? We know all about that.

**Mr. Knight:** My hon. friend can keep quiet. I will deal with him and his party later. Do you think I would be justified in saying, with regard to the Grey North by-election in 1945, that because the Liberal association published large placards and advertisements in which they showed the pictures of prominent communists and said they were supporting the Liberal party in that particular election, my Liberal friend who just interrupted me was a member of the communist party? It is a low-down trick and I wish it would pass out of our national life.

**Mr. Bennett:** I do not see why you bring Grey North into it.

**Mr. Rowe:** Don't you remember?

**Mr. Knight:** It is a smear by association.

**Mr. McIlraith:** That was my point in the question I asked you.

**Mr. Knight:** It is a vicious and discredited practice and I hope it will not be used any more by decent and honourable men.

**Mr. McIlraith:** That was my point.

**Mr. Knight:** May I repeat that it is only among ignorant people that there can be any hope of smear campaigns being successful. Let me tell my hon. friend it was on that slippery path that the gentleman who was the leader of the Liberal party, to its sorrow, in Saskatchewan for seven or eight years embarked and upon which he foundered into failure and political oblivion. That is what happens to people who smear other people. In his particular constituency that technique was used and may I say that there it had a degree of success.

What kind of people are these who my hon. friend is suggesting might be communists? Is the press of this country communist? I have noticed articles in the last day or two in the

[Mr. Knight.]

*Toronto Daily Star*, the *Windsor Star* and the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*—which is published in my home town and is a very good paper I might say—in which the government was damned and indicted for following an undemocratic procedure in this house. Are those members of the press communists? Have they shown communist tendencies in their editorials?

I read a dispatch in one of those papers concerning ministers of the gospel in Toronto. I understand the hon. member for Macleod belongs to a religious denomination. I shall say nothing about that, but he is the same gentleman who smeared us with a communist tar brush. I understand that his profession is that of a minister of the gospel.

**Mr. Coldwell:** Of what?

**Mr. Knight:** Well, of something.

**An hon. Member:** What about the one in front of you?

**Mr. Knight:** I have ample reasons to be proud of my hon. friend to my right, and I know that in its heart this house is also proud of him.

**Mr. Byrne:** Don't kid yourself.

**Mr. Knight:** Well, I will tell you about what happened last Sunday in Toronto. These gentlemen of the cloth—they were Anglican and United Church ministers—met for special prayers asking that parliamentary freedom might be preserved in this country. Are they communists? Is everybody out of step but the hon. member for Macleod?

Now, sir, there are certain comments I would like to make on this bill. In the midst of this turmoil which we have had in the house there has been one noticeable thing—I was going to say one permanent thing but I hope it will not be permanent. We have had a government which has been determined to force upon parliament and upon the country a legislative measure without giving, I will say now, full opportunity to the opposition to discuss that measure. Thus it is that a large percentage of the people are practically unrepresented in this House of Commons today. Many of my constituents have written and asked me to speak on this matter but I have not had an opportunity to do so until this moment.

The government of the day claims that these severe methods are due to the shortage of time, that the agreement which they have signed with the company we are discussing, a company practically wholly United States owned and controlled, calls for the passing of this legislation at a date close in the future. The suggestion has been made outside this