

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

yesterday and within the last two weeks during which the opposition has been gagged and stifled, when discussion has been prohibited, when questions have been unanswered and, generally speaking, parliamentary privileges have been prostituted—

An hon. Member: Whew!

Mrs. Fairclough: I have one last remark to make, and that is that it might well happen that before this whole thing is over what has been Howe's pipe dream may well become Canada's nightmare.

Mr. Hunter: Mr. Chairman, I am going to speak as a Toronto member. I think all hon. members will recognize it as a rare occasion when a Liberal from Toronto speaks as a Toronto member. Normally that position has been arrogated by the hon. member for Eglinton and the hon. member for Broadview. Therefore it is to that extent a special occasion. However, I do doubt very much whether the power of the hon. member for Eglinton and the hon. member for Broadview will continue after this terrific display of political legerdemain which they have put on during the last few weeks. I hope also that I shall not be as emotional as the previous speaker, because I think her remarks about the hon. member for Calgary South were tawdry to say the least.

Mrs. Fairclough: Emotion is born of fright, my friend.

Mr. Hunter: The matter of the pipe line has not been considered very much by the opposition, whose members have spent their time in making innumerable motions and raising points of order and questions of privilege. They have done everything they could to keep away from the pipe line. They have not a leg to stand on, and even stupid as they may appear to be they have found that out.

There is a great deal of gas in Alberta. They cannot use it, while we could use it down here. There is an incipient shortage of power in Ontario. I should like to quote from the submission by the government of Ontario to the royal commission on Canada's economic prospects. At page 56 they had this to say:

Added to this will be capital expenditures for the development of electric power in the order of \$125 million to \$150 million a year, or from nearly \$1.3 billion to \$1.5 billion over the ten-year period.

In addition to that I am assuming that the premier of Ontario and his provincial treasurer know something about the province where they head the government. It has been read before, but I should like to read again the letter written by Hon. Dana Porter. The

Tories talk about there being no urgency, but I wish they would listen to what the Conservative provincial treasurer of the province of Ontario had to say, and I quote:

Generally, in view of our rapid industrial expansion, coupled with the fact that our hydro-electric power resources are now approaching their maximum limits of development, the necessity of new sources of fuel for our industries and our domestic consumers is becoming increasingly urgent. We agree with you that further delays in the construction of this project would have very adverse consequences. Time has become of the essence. Every day's delay invites the most serious consequences to the development of Ontario, and to the national economy. In these circumstances, it would appear essential that the western section of the line be completed during the year 1956. To accomplish this, we understand that actual construction must be commenced not later than July 1.

I hear it reiterated time after time by these great experts over here that there is no hurry. I cannot think of a more negative or obstructive or reactionary or destructive outlook. These people apparently do not want the pipe line built. They say they do, but their actions indicate otherwise. They have been objecting to the application of a thing called closure, and have been trying every dodge in the books to prevent it. I think it is high time this small group of political misfits began to realize that there is a government here and that it is going to run the affairs of this country.

I should like to refer to an editorial which appeared in the *Financial Post* of May 19, reading as follows:

Here is an important piece of national business to get done. Weather in this country limits the construction season.

One of the main reasons for the government going to the help of the pipeliners at all is to make certain that at least the Alberta to Winnipeg part of the line is built this season.

It would be an outrage to let mere gas-bagging in the House of Commons result in the waste of another construction season.

And this is important: All the political parties say they want a pipe line fast. There is no longer any argument as to what route the line should take. The only argument turns on what company shall do the job.

One very disreputable effort at confusing the public relates to the financial help which the government is giving the pipeliners.

One C.C.F.'er gave his hearers the impression that the government loan to the pipeliners would be a charge on taxpayers' pockets the same as hospital bills or additional pensions.

If this man had wanted to give his hearers the truth of the situation he would have pointed to the difference in the investing of money in a sound loan repayable with interest in a year and the spending of money for goods to be consumed—like ice cream cones.

The fact of the matter is the government's help to the pipeliners is unlikely to cost the taxpayer anything. Either the loan is repaid with interest, or the government will own the line.

The recent noise on parliament hill over the gas line should be recognized for what it is: a violent effort by the opposition parties to mislead and