

Alberta Natural Gas Company

connection with the use of this gas. I agree. He also made another statement with which I agree, that the consumer after all will pay for these pipe lines. Of course the consumer will pay for the pipe lines in the charges that will be levied.

Mr. Goode: A million dollars a year extra.

Mr. Coldwell: That is not the point I am trying to make. The consumers will pay for it, but the promoters will own it after the consumers have paid for it. I would rather see the people of Canada own it even if we have to pay a few million more for the privilege of utilizing it in our own country.

I was not able to attend the meetings of the committee where this matter was gone into. I spent part of the evening there when it was decided that no further representations would be heard on the question of the route. A motion was carried to go ahead the next morning with the discussion of the bill clause by clause, after one hour of general discussion. Having looked at some of the evidence since I have come to the conclusion that no hon. member should vote for the passage of this bill until it has been returned to the committee.

The committee should sit again and go into the matter more thoroughly. It could hear all the evidence that is available. When that is done the proposal that I have suggested should be considered. In view of the squabble that has occurred between the promoters of these companies, consideration should be given to the utilization of this resource by means of a publicly-owned pipe line. The matter could be discussed by Alberta, British Columbia and the federal authorities and, if we are thinking of a national policy, with other provinces that are likely to be involved in such an undertaking.

As far as the Sunray Company is concerned, I know nothing about it. The suggestion has been made that there has been some lobbying in this regard, but I have been paid the compliment of not having been lobbied by any company. I suppose they know where we stand on this kind of proposal and no one has seen me at any time in regard to this matter, either an agent of Sunray or any other company interested in the building of a pipe line.

Whether this is to be built under public or private ownership, we should have knowledge of the route that will be followed. Before this committee agrees to the passage of this bill we should instruct the executive of this parliament, which is the government. As the leader of the opposition so well said the other evening, in the final analysis it is the government that will decide whether this line will pass through the United States or

whether it will pass through Canada. This parliament has an obligation, not only to the people of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, but to the people of all Canada to see that the executive of this parliament carries out the considered—I use the word “considered” advisedly—opinion of this house. But I submit that that considered opinion cannot be given until more inquiry is made than was made by the committee before it rose and made its report to this house.

I do not propose to continue the debate. I wanted merely to express my point of view. This discussion has gone on now for two sessions and every facility has been granted by the government to get through these pipe line bills. I submit that after this full discussion and consideration the whole matter should be voted down and considered anew. When we consider the matter anew it should be on the basis of a national policy, thinking first of the interests of Canada as a whole. If we do that, I believe we shall come to the conclusion that in co-operation with the provinces concerned we should build this line or any other line—in the very nature of things they must be monopolistic in character—through a publicly owned and controlled organization, just as Ontario has built its great system of hydroelectric lines.

Mr. McCusker: Mr. Chairman, coming from Saskatchewan as I do I feel I should express the views of the people there before this matter comes to a vote. For many months now we have been debating these pipe line bills. I must say that not very much information has been given us upon which to form an intelligent opinion as to whether the line should be built through British Columbia or through the United States. Very little engineering data has been presented to us to support any claim. We have not had conclusive engineering data supplied to us this year to assist us in determining that any route is the correct one. I am not so much interested in the route used to export gas. I favour it going through Canada first if it is at all possible, and if such a route is feasible. What I am particularly interested in is the reserves of gas. I believe Dr. Hume made his last report on Canadian gas reserves in 1948, and at that time he said there were four trillion cubic feet. I have inquired from various people who are supporting the different pipe lines as to what volume of gas would be exported if a line were to be built. None of them seemed to have a very clear idea.

One thing they all seem to forget is that our reserves of gas are exhaustible. As soon