

speaking of some project other than the actual bill which is before us. He spoke of the intention of the government by means of this legislation to bring gas from the oil and gas fields of Alberta to the markets of eastern Canada. Curiously enough we have nothing before us, either in the bill now presented by the government and forced through by illegal closure maintained by illegal means, or in the agreement which was tabled although not made an integral part of the bill to provide in any way for bringing gas any further than the city of Winnipeg. There is nothing whatever there. Of course there may be some other secret and confidential agreements about which we have not been informed. It would not be surprising. But certainly on the basis of the information we have, all we know is that there are plans to bring that gas to the city of Winnipeg.

I have been puzzled, and I suspect other hon. members as well as many of those sitting on the government side of the house have also, about the tremendous pressure and haste by which this bill is being pushed through the house. I believe we find the answer on May 28 when the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce made what to me was a very moving statement, and I say that in all sincerity. He asked this rhetorical question of the house: "Why are we pressing this? Well, I don't know, I don't know." If the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce does not know then, who in heaven's name does know and can tell us? The right hon. minister went on further to say, and this is the part I want to deal with:

I have been working on sizeable projects all my life, and somehow I reach a point in the development when I think a project is important; and if it is a serious enough project I begin to think it is the most important thing in the world and it does seem to me it is important that we do not lose a year in undertaking this pipe line.

I have every sympathy with the right hon. minister's point of view in this regard. I want to say that I would be the first, not only to admit but to proclaim that the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce has made splendid gifts of service to the Canadian people. I shall go further and suggest that he is a man with most unusual and extraordinary capacities and abilities. The tragedy is of course that he is surrounded by pygmies and because he is surrounded by pygmies one can readily understand the God-like proportions he assumes in the eyes of those pygmies to which the hon. member for Dauphin referred the other day.

Mr. Pickersgill: The twentieth century "Gulliver's Travels"?

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Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo): Is that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration? We on this side of the house have been puzzled as to just where the asinine advice with regard to procedure given to the government could have come from. Some of us think we know where because there is an hon. minister who has displayed a talent amounting almost to genius for ineptitude in the handling of his own department. One would assume that he would be admirably qualified to offer the insane advice that quite obviously he offered the government with regard to this bill.

As I say, I think it is a tragedy that the minister has been so poorly served. None of those who have served him has had the wit or the courage to suggest to him that there was something tragic in his, shall I say, resorting to some of the measures which have been resorted to in the last few days to push this measure through the House of Commons, when as anyone knows who has even the most modest knowledge of the rules of procedure there were methods by which this could have been put through without so seriously damaging the reputation of the government and of this house.

As I say, he was poorly served. I wonder sometimes just what the right hon. minister would do in relation to that field in which he is so eminent, the field of engineering, if some of his advisers were to present him with inaccurate estimates as to quantities, with inaccurate calculations as to stresses and strains, with hopelessly faulty estimates of the length of time required for a production project. I think I know what he would do; he would fire them very quickly. Unfortunately he has been served by people who have advised him in a field in which, shall I say, by his own admission, he is not very well versed in the methods by which measures can be brought safely through the House of Commons. He has been served by people of the sort that in his own field of engineering he would fire out of hand.

I sympathize with the minister. I can realize that he envisages this pipe line across Canada as a tremendous national project which will be the cap-stone of an extremely eminent career.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo): One can sympathize with that. I think I might say, having myself reached rather mature years, that I can readily understand how the minister feels with "Time's winged chariot drawing near." I can realize only too well how, when one moves into the sixth or seventh decade, those years pass quickly by, and periods which people who are fortunate enough not