

delay—as set out in the Glassco report—if indeed agreement among the five governments could be reached.

That is Mr. Frost. Then he said:

But if it gets down to a point where the Trans-Canada line falls down, would we then participate in a publicly-owned carrier line from Alberta to Ontario? I would say the answer is “yes”, although I cannot overemphasize the great commitments we have already made, and I certainly express the hope that such participation will not be necessary.

That is exactly the feeling of this government. Then further, as reported at page 389 of the official report of February 21, 1956; he said this:

Mr. Speaker, if private enterprise can do the job, I would say it is altogether in our interest in Ontario, and, indeed, in the interest of Canada, that it should do it.

That is the position already publicly stated by the premier of Ontario at the time the remarks I have just read you—about it being well known that Ontario this and Ontario that—were made here. Further, to clinch the attitude of the premier of Ontario, in the periodical “Ontario Government Services” put out by the Ontario government, here is a quotation from Mr. Frost:

The government of Ontario has entered wholeheartedly—

Mark that word.

—into this agreement with the federal government in the fervent hope that the deal will be carried out as scheduled. The provincial government is aware, however, that Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited might not be able to carry through its part of the project. In this event, new ways of attaining the same end will have to be investigated.

As has already been mentioned by the hon. member for Bow River, a public statement by Premier Frost was just read with regard to the resolution now before this house.

**The Chairman:** Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I must advise her that her time has expired.

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Chairman, first I should like to comment briefly on two statements of the hon. member for Bow River. The hon. member for Bow River need be in no uncertainty whatever as to what the policy of the Conservative party is with regard to this pipe line. All he needs to do is read the speeches which have been made already in this house on three occasions by the Leader of the Opposition in which that policy was made crystal clear. There should therefore not be any uncertainty in anyone’s mind as to what that policy is.

**An hon. Member:** What is it? Tell us what it is.

**Mr. Harkness:** When the hon. member for Bow River attempts to interpret Conservative policy himself from newspaper clippings,

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*  
all he does is becloud the issue and try to confuse people’s minds as to what is the clear position we have taken.

**An hon. Member:** What is it?

**Mr. Harkness:** It has been clearly placed on the record and I have not time to take it up again. I have some other remarks to make. The other point is this. The hon. member for Bow River made a completely ridiculous and untrue statement to the effect that the Conservative party does not want a trans-Canada gas line built at all—

**An hon. Member:** It looks like it.

**Mr. Harkness:**—and this in spite of the fact that this was the very first party to propose a trans-Canada pipe line.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Harkness:** It was the first party to try to get a trans-Canada pipe line proposition going in this House of Commons and in the railway committee, and that at a time when the Social Credit party would not permit the export of gas from Alberta, so no gas line was possible at that time.

**Mr. Dickey:** Why do you give up now?

**Mr. Harkness:** That is the situation with regard to that. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I should like to point out to the Minister of Trade and Commerce that the insults and attempted insults in his speech yesterday do absolutely nothing to make a bad proposition more palatable. I might say that the unpleasant effect of his attempts along this line is heightened by the fact that his attempted witticisms and sarcasms always partake much more of the character of the meat axe than of the rapier. The minister’s supreme insult to parliament, however, was his notice of his intention to move closure; and this, Mr. Chairman, before one single opposition speech had been made. Then he implemented that notice by actually moving closure at the beginning of today’s sitting.

We have had in this house many examples of the arbitrary and dictatorial attitude of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, but this is the supreme example. It is another of the fantastic developments in this whole pipe-line picture, and there have been many fantastic developments in it. It is almost unbelievable that the government should be backing a proposition such as we find in the Trans-Canada Pipe Line and be prepared to force that proposition through this house by closure. My home town paper, the *Calgary Herald*, wrote a long editorial outlining the pipe-line proposition and headed it “An Unholy Mess”; and it is an unholy mess. I am