

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

**The Deputy Chairman:** I see the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. I will see the hon. member for Eglinton later.

**Mr. Knowles:** Before you make a firm ruling, or before an appeal is put, you, sir, might consider this additional point that I wish to lay before you. I listened with care to your contention that you cannot look beyond the fact that you were put in the chair; you cannot look to what happened when Mr. Speaker was in the chair. With respect, I do not think that position can stand up because this place is full of members who know that happened and are in a position to report it to you. But, in addition, Mr. Chairman, to the reasons already given why this committee is not properly or not legally constituted, I wish to draw your attention to a certain citation in Beauchesne, third edition, and also to a certain fact—you, sir, cannot deny it—recorded in the *Journals*. The *Journals* or *Votes and Proceedings* for a day such as Tuesday, May 29, read as follows, on page 656:

The house resumed consideration in committee of the whole of Bill No. 298, an act to establish the Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation, and further progress having been made and reported, the committee obtained leave to consider it again at the next sitting of the house.

**The Deputy Chairman:** What page is that?

**Mr. Knowles:** That was Tuesday, May 29, at page 656. In other words, Mr. Chairman, it is perfectly clear that on Tuesday, May 29, we followed the rules. The committee rose and reported progress and obtained permission to consider Bill No. 298 at the next sitting of the house.

On Wednesday, May 30, as recorded on page 657 of *Votes and Proceedings*, we had the same thing. I read it again:

The house resumed consideration in committee of the whole of Bill No. 298, an act to establish the Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation, and further progress having been made and reported, the committee obtained leave to consider it again at the next sitting of the house.

The committee did that on Wednesday. The committee followed the rules; the committee did what was right and proper. But if you look at the *Votes and Proceedings* for yesterday, Thursday, May 31, you will find on page 661 this notation:

The house resumed consideration in committee of the whole of Bill No. 298, an act to establish the Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation. And the house continuing in committee;—

You can search the pages of the *Votes and Proceedings* of yesterday from there to the end and you will not find at any point where the committee obtained the permission of the house to consider the bill again at the next sitting of the house. The proceedings of

[Mr. Fleming.]

the committee of yesterday on Bill No. 298 vanished into thin air at ten o'clock last night.

I draw your attention to citation 702 of Beauchesne's third edition which reads:

When a bill or other matter (except Supply or Ways and Means) has been partly considered in committee, and the chairman has been directed to report progress and ask leave to sit again, and the house shall have ordered that the committee shall sit again on a particular day, the Speaker shall, when the order for the committee has been read, forthwith leave the chair, without putting any question, and the house shall thereupon resolve itself into such committee.

It is exceedingly clear to anyone who might still have an interest in following rules of procedure that the only way a committee can resume consideration of a bill is on the basis of having obtained the permission of the house at a previous sitting to do so. No such permission was asked for yesterday and no such permission was obtained. Mr. Chairman, it is my submission that Bill No. 298 died at ten o'clock last night.

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

**Mr. Knowles:** Hon. members can laugh and I am not surprised at their laughter because they have thrown the rule book into the filth of the Ottawa river; but it is a fact that can be confirmed by the *Votes and Proceedings* of this house which are clearly defined in our rules as the official records of the house, and I defy any hon. member of this house to show me anywhere in the *Votes and Proceedings* of yesterday that the committee obtained permission to consider Bill No. 298 again at the next sitting of the house.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if you were to try to tell me that we are acting in pursuance of what is on today's order paper, I wish to tell you that I sought with the loudest voice I could possibly muster to rise on a point of order while the Speaker was in the chair to make the point that order No. 2 on today's order paper is there illegally, but I was denied the right to make that point of order. The Speaker left the chair; but that does not do away with the fact that order No. 2 has no right to be on today's order paper.

We were told earlier in the discussion that the Speaker took the responsibility for putting it there but he did not give anybody a chance to question it at all and it is my submission that it has no right to be there.

Do not let the government say there is nothing the government could do about it, if they accept my contention that Bill No. 298 died at ten o'clock last night, because citation 695 of Beauchesne's third edition indicates certain other ways in which a bill that has been considered in committee can die. These other ways are if a motion is put that the chairman do now leave the chair or if the