

*Supply—Transport*

I cannot add much more to what I said in a previous session when the pipe-line bill was up for discussion. I think the house dealt pretty fully with the circumstances surrounding the applications which had to be made. The board of transport commissioners is the regulatory body as far as the various pipe-line companies are concerned. My hon. friend did not mention the pipe line that he was interested in. I believe the application of the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company has been approved and I think one other, but I am not quite sure of that.

**Mr. Knight:** I was thinking of the pipe line which would run down from Regina to Superior, Wisconsin.

**Mr. Chevrier:** That is the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company. Once the board has approved of the application and given a licence, I presume the company is authorized to build the line from the points mentioned in the application.

**Mr. Green:** What concerns me about the whole picture is who is responsible for deciding whether or not a pipe line shall go into the United States rather than be laid in Canada. I think that is one of the key questions that should be answered. As I understand the situation, it is not at all clear at the moment who is responsible for such a decision being made; and I think that the oil companies are the people who are making the decision. For example, with regard to the pipe line which is going to Superior, Wisconsin, in the United States, it would appear that that decision is made by the Imperial Oil Company, which means by the Standard Oil of New Jersey.

We have a similar situation coming up on the west coast, because apparently there is a plan to put in a natural gas line, from southern Alberta, which is to go right into the United States at the first convenient place. I should like to know whose responsibility it is to decide whether or not that is to be permitted. Does the board of transport commissioners have the power to say that this line may go into the United States and that line may not? Or does the government exercise that authority? Or just where does the authority lie? I think we must make absolutely certain that there is not any confusion as to who is going to be responsible for these lines going into the United States.

As I read the act, the board of transport commissioners have merely regulatory power. They are in a position to decide whether it is in the interests of Canada that such and such a pipe line should go into the United States. Personally, I think that responsibility must rest on the government; but I do not believe

[Mr. Chevrier.]

the government is accepting that responsibility at the present time. Will the minister explain just how that situation is handled?

**Mr. Chevrier:** The hon. gentleman asks what jurisdiction the board has over these applications. I must say to him that their jurisdiction must be and is limited to Canadian territory. The application made by the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company was for a line running from Regina to Gretna, Manitoba, and that application was in due course granted. The board have no jurisdiction to grant applications to go into United States territory.

I do not know what happened, but I presume the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company made application to the interstate commerce commission, or whatever counterpart to the board of transport commissioners exists in the United States, and that the licence to build the pipe line in United States territory was granted. But the board have no jurisdiction in United States territory.

**Mr. Green:** Yes, but of course the effect is this. The board of transport commissioners did give permission for a pipe line to be built to the United States boundary. Then once that permission is granted, apparently the Canadian authorities just wash their hands of any further responsibility. But the fact is, nevertheless, that the oil or the gas goes to the United States. Somebody in Canada must decide, as a matter of policy, whether this oil and gas should be piped to the United States rather than be used in Canada to build up industries here and to give employment. I should like to know whether there is anybody, from the Prime Minister down, who is at the moment exercising any control over that question as to whether or not this Canadian oil and gas is to be piped to the United States rather than used in Canada.

**Mr. Chevrier:** I am afraid I cannot satisfy my hon. friend. All I can tell him is what the board of transport commissioners does and what this department does in connection with an application such as that. I know that, under the Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act, the Department of Trade and Commerce has the right to license the movement of electricity or the fluid, or the gas or the oil. As my hon. friend knows, in the debate which took place some days ago in this house the Minister of Trade and Commerce indicated that he had granted a licence for this particular movement.

**Mr. Knight:** I had hoped that the minister would give a statement which would cover what I wanted to know. Let me be more specific. Let me state definitely the fear that