• (9:10 p.m.)

Northern Canada Power Commission Act

Mr. Bigg: I hope the hon, member for New Westminster (Mr. Hogarth) will always have a lucrative job in which he does nothing, because that is what he is doing as long as he sits on the back benches of the Liberal party and does not take the trouble to wake up the front benches.

Mr. Hogarth: I cannot wake them up when you are putting me to sleep.

Mr. Bigg: I suggest that if you want to sleep you should go where you usually go-somewhere other than this House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Is that true?

Mr. Bigg: Do you think he has had enough, Mr. Speaker?

An hon. Member: Give him another one, Jack.

Mr. Nielsen: Belt him again.

Mr. Bigg: When we think of free enterprise, we must remember people like Punch Dickens who was a bush pilot. We might ask what kind of man he was. De Havilland Aircraft of Canada produced the best aircraft of its type in the world. Then we might ask who they wanted when they were looking for a man to head Canadian Pacific Airlines. It was the government of Mr. Diefenbaker that gave this airline a licence to compete with Air Canada. We all know how much better Air Canada has been with a little competition. When they wanted a leader they got Mr. McConachie, another bush pilot.

I could go on, but I bore the Liberals because they are a heartless bunch. They are arrogant enough to appear on TV and get up in this House and say we never had it so good. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) stood in this House and told us we never had it so good. Maybe we didn't, but there are many young people in this country who are looking to us for leadership. The main complaint from the government benches is that they do not get leadership from this side of the House. That is what the Minister of Finance said. This is one reason I am on my feet tonight. I am glad the minister is here. I admit having been delinquent, but I have been sitting here waiting for the dynamic leadership of this great party of the people.

An hon. Member: Get Diefenbaker.

Mr. Bigg: I was here when he was our leader, and we had leadership. I am on my feet tonight because I have not seen the contribution I expected from the other side of the House. I want to know what is the dynamic policy for the Northwest Territories, and if the government is to provide electric power, a pipeline, and so on, in northern Canada, how that will give us better light.

An hon. Member: You tell us what you would like to see happen.

Mr. Bigg: I go right along with the idea that we should encourage free ownership, private ownership of every industry, of oil wells, farms, orchards—you name it. I am in favour of the free enterprise system. It is the only thing I am fanatical about. I am fanatical about freedom. I am such a fool about freedom that I put my life on the line in 1939, 1949, 1959, and I hope I will in 1979, because I honestly believe it is the only thing that will work, and it has been demonstrated.

You want the empirical process? You want to see what happens? What happened in England? In only 50 years they went from the top to the bottom, but I hope they are on the way up again. We will do it now without any excuse, with the blueprints in front of us. We know that free enterprise works and that socialism does not. It does not work for me, and up till now it has never been the Liberal policy. I would admire the Liberals more if they decided that liberalism no longer works, that the free enterprise system no longer works. Let them be honest like my friends to the left; at least they are honest.

An hon. Member: How far to the left?

Mr. Bigg: They espouse socialism, and I honestly believe that if they were put in charge they would try it and see whether or not it worked. I honestly think it would be disastrous, and so far so do the Canadian people. If they change their minds in 1972, or whenever they spring an election on us, I will stand to be corrected. That is the view of most of the people I know, and of course I only speak from my knowledge of people who are generally over 30, as I happen to be a grandfather.

An hon. Member: Don't forget to read your speech tomorrow.

Mr. Bigg: I do not make speeches to read them myself. I make speeches in an apparently vain effort-

An hon. Member: How right.

Mr. Bigg: —to help you people make your decision which, if you were truly Liberals, you would have made yourselves. My party does not need leadership from me.

An hon. Member: But they need it from somebody.

Mr. Bigg: They want participation, and I want to know when you people will be allowed to participate in this democracy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bigg: When are we going to do away with the 30 or so men who sit in the attic and really run this country today?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Before I recognize the hon, member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) I might mention that I rose because the hon. member's time has expired.