

*Private Bills*

bill suggest, this house has been in session since January 26. This house is now under pressure to adjourn. There are all kinds of people around the lobbies of the House of Commons trying to pressure hon. members into passing this bill at this time.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Gillis:** I have met them personally, and the gallery is full of them right now.

**Mr. MacKinnon:** I don't believe it.

**Mr. Gillis:** I have heard this story before. The natural resources of Canada have been given away under many camouflages to the detriment of the people of this country.

**Mr. Hatfield:** That is the old story.

**Mr. Gillis:** If this legislation is so important we should have had it before, and we should have had ample opportunity to study it. This is merely a decoy. There are six more to follow it. Let us have a look at—

**Mr. MacKinnon:** Let us pass this bill.

**Mr. Gillis:** Let us have a look at the people whom we want to develop our resources. The same thing holds good in coal. English and United States capital was coming into Canada to develop coal. The provinces leased the coal areas for ninety-nine years, and the coal operators permit it to stay in the ground if they cannot market it profitably. But worse than that, they can prevent anyone in this country from taking a lease, creating employment and developing new wealth in this country. That is true not only of coal but of steel. The iron ore deposits in Ungava and Labrador were given away by this House of Commons and by the province of Quebec within the last year or two, and the future of steel in this country is in the hands of United States capitalists today with front companies in Canada. The same thing is true of oil. We have tapped large natural resources in Canada and so someone, under the camouflage of building a pipe line to other parts of Canada, is going to be beneficent. They say we shall spend a lot of money building these pipe lines. But do not forget that along with that will go the right to exploit the resources which belong to the people of this country in Alberta.

Let us see who is looking after this matter. The Imperial Oil Company of Canada, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of the United States, who were so patriotic during the war that when the war effort was at a low ebb for the want of rubber they had a synthetic formula in the United States which they were under agreement to sell to Hitler—and they sold it to Germany while this country was in the middle of the war and was badly off for the want of rubber.

So far as I am concerned, if there is another war, oil will be one of the most important things required, and I do not want the oil resources of Canada to fall into the hands of Standard Oil of the United States.

**Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East):** Will the hon. member permit a question? Does he not agree that if there is another war one of these pipe lines will be a major asset to help Canada in that war?

**Mr. Gillis:** Yes, I believe that is true. But I want these oil resources and these pipe lines to remain in the hands of the government of Canada, who are responsible to the people of Canada and not to Standard Oil in the United States, over whom we have no control whatsoever. That is the answer. I think every hon. member is sensible. I think most hon. members want to do the best they can for the Canadian people; but at this late stage of the game let us not be pressured into something as important as this is in many ways to the future of Canada, particularly if and when we strike certain difficulties that we may have to face in the not far distant future. This bill could very well stand to one side. It should be laid over. The government of this country should examine it more closely. This is only a decoy. This is an innocent and simple little bill, but read the rest of them in their relationship to this particular one. If hon. members do that, I do not think they will be easy in their minds about it. I am not interested in talking it out, but I want a closer examination of this bill than we have had up to the present time. I suggest that the motion made by the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Young) should be passed by this house, and this bill should be given to somebody to study along with the others. When this house reconvenes with someone who has been elected by the Canadian people in authority to direct the destiny of this country for the next five years—

**Mr. Sinclair:** Louis St. Laurent.

**Mr. Gillis:** That will be all right. That will be his responsibility. It will be his responsibility to make the decision, but it is not the prerogative of hon. gentlemen who will not be members of this house tomorrow. The decision should be left to whoever will be directing the affairs of this country for the next four or five years. To deal with this bill now would be premature action on our part. It would be usurping the powers of the next parliament. I suggest that we be sensible at this time and let the bill stand over to be dealt with by those who may be here guiding our destinies for the next four or five years.