

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Mr. Hahn: We have waited for a beginning on this line, I am not denying that. I am pleased that you brought it up. I believe the government is largely responsible for that delay and I would support you in that, but I will not support you in the tactics you are using today.

Mr. Knowles: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. Hahn: I beg your pardon, sir?

Mr. Knowles: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair? Is the Chair responsible?

An hon. Member: Enough of your childish technicalities, Stanley.

Mr. Hahn: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman. I have been brought to order again by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, who no doubt looks forward to sitting in your place some day. It has now been pointed out to me that the hon. member has been appointed as assistant to the chairman. I am told that this is his new vocation.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier I am interested in finding out exactly what the Conservatives do support. Do they support the McMahan proposal? It is a very simple matter to come into this house and be critical but let us have something else to offer in place of it.

I hear that the Conservatives want natural gas in this area but apparently they do not want it very quickly. Here again I wonder quite seriously if we are not beginning to feel the effect of the United States coal lobby and the United States gas lobby in this house in delaying this bill at this time. It is quite possible in view of the particular methods that are being used, Mr. Chairman. The United States coal and gas industry is willing and prepared, as I understand it is doing in the United States today, to stop natural gas from this country going into the United States. They want this very lucrative market that we have in this area as well. They want to keep it for their own. Certainly the expenditure of a few more millions would not stop them, I would say.

Coming back to our Tory friends, I would like to pose this question: Where will another pipe-line company get the necessary pipe? Hon. members of that group have tried in their own way to answer that question. Another question I would like to ask is: Where will this man McMahan, or anyone else, get gas? You have to have contracts for these things. Surely it is for sale and there is no denying that, and I would not doubt that McMahan or anyone else who is prepared to build the line could eventually obtain contracts, but it takes time and you just do not

[Mr. MacDougall.]

draw up contracts overnight. As far as the people in the province of Alberta are concerned, time is of major importance. This is also important to the rest of Canada, because this is an urgent problem today.

Has any other company purchased a right of way to build the gas pipe line? Where have these honoured gentlemen been for the past five years, three years or even two years? How is it that they come in at the last moment each of them saying, "We have a new plan. This is the thing. Take this. This will keep everything in Canada". No, Mr. Chairman, I cannot go along with that kind of reasoning.

An hon. Member: Trans-Canada was not asking for a handout two or three years ago.

Mr. Hahn: As I began to say earlier, this is not a question of natural gas alone. This important project also involves by-products, propane, butane and sulphur. I feel that my own province will benefit very directly from the fact that sufficient sulphur will come from this particular project to supply the whole of this country with all its sulphur needs. We speak about saving Canada for Canadians. Here we have an industry which will be built up. We will have rubber plants—

An hon. Member: And rubber money.

Mr. Hahn: I regret that I did not hear what the hon. member had to say. With the passing of the present bill petrochemical plants will be set up on the prairies and in Ontario and there will be an increase in population. All these things should be taken into consideration when we are considering postponing the construction of this line for two years. By building this line today we are going to create in Canada at least 20 new industries, and our economy requires these secondary industries.

I forget the exact figure used by the minister the other day in discussing our imports. I believe four million tons of coal per year was the figure used. A bit of computation will show that that works out to about 109,500 million cubic feet of gas on the basis of b.t.u.'s. One ton of coal is equal to 27,375 cubic feet of gas, and if the price of coal is \$28 per ton in this province a bit of simple arithmetic will show that the consumer could be charged \$1 per thousand cubic feet for natural gas and still be saving money. That in itself is an important factor. The price quoted is much below that and will be much below that.

In closing may I suggest that if hon. members will just take time to think this thing out reasonably we will all be cooking with gas.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Chairman, the first thing I should like to bring to your attention today