

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

government compare those two examples of closure?

You talk about haste. In 1951 you told us there was an incorporated company going to build the pipe line in three years in Canada. For three years all that took place was a courtship between the two and finally you made it a shotgun marriage. Then they came back to you and said, "Mr. Howe, we are married now but we cannot get along without a little bit of help and a line is difficult to put through your country around Fort William in that rocky part of the nation. That is the hardest section of the line. Will you give us some help?" And the Minister of Trade and Commerce said, "Yes, we will give you some help," and so he arranged for \$130 million. After he arranged for that they came back and said, "Now that you have given us \$130 million, will you let us use \$80 million of it to build the softest part of the line?" So you bonused them to build the hardest part and let them use the same money for the softest part, and if they build the softest part, you will have to introduce closure again to get some more money for them to build the hardest part. What an unholy mess this has become. As has been mentioned, the taxpayers of Canada are being victimized and the crown company which has been organized will be disabled by this very move.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce says this company had great foresight. Yes, it had great foresight. It ordered 180 miles of 34-inch pipe. I believe he said it was ordered from the National Tube Company of McKeesport, Pennsylvania. They ordered it, however, on the condition that the federal power commission in Washington would accept delivery of the gas. As the minister said yesterday they had to know what they were going to get before they were going to deliver it. Now he says there is a change and they have ordered 600 miles of pipe. How did that come about? That is not what I call foresight.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): This is the greatest piece of fiction we have heard tonight.

Mr. Rowe: This so-called foresight—

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): There is not a word of truth in what you are saying.

Mr. Rowe: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to listen to any lectures on truth from a man whom we have heard misrepresent the facts more frequently than any hon. member during the session. Mr. Chairman, they ordered the pipe because the Canadian taxpayers were going to have to pay for it, and the government is hiding behind closure in order to force the issue. I can well understand why the Prime Minister gives his

silent acquiescence. He has already told them what he thought about it. He said that of the three propositions it was the worst one. Eighty-three per cent of the control is in the hands of United States interests. Ninety per cent of the cost is to be paid for by the taxpayers of Canada. The taxpayers of Canada are paying for 83 per cent of the dividends and profits which go to United States interests.

We were told that a government agency might interfere with the federal power commission accepting gas. Now we have a government agency established to build the hardest part of the line and there is a 90 per cent mortgage on the whole thing.

An hon. Member: Why don't you tell the truth?

Mr. Rowe: If this was not such a tragedy it would be ridiculous enough to be amusing. We were told tonight by one of the ministers that this is the greatest national project which has ever been put before this House of Commons.

An hon. Member: It is.

Mr. Rowe: It is so important that the government does not want anyone to speak about it. The government is afraid to send it to the committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines, as was suggested by the Leader of the Opposition. The Prime Minister seems to be afraid to speak about it. The Minister of Trade and Commerce is afraid to let the rest of us speak about it and the Liberal party is afraid to go to the country. I challenge you. You are afraid to let the people answer. You cannot put closure on the people because they will defeat you.

Mr. Hees: That a boy!

Mr. Rowe: The Prime Minister is ashamed to speak about it. Closure was brought in, Mr. Chairman, because the date was fixed at Washington. The date was fixed by United States interests and we in parliament were told not to talk in order to please our friends. I am reminded of the old days when we were told that we must not provoke the United States. Our party has stuck solidly to its traditional policies. I am not concerned about those little henchmen or the ridiculous gibes from the front benches or the back-benchers. Down in the province of Quebec we have seen how you and the Social Credit are married in that province and are running a honeymoon up here. I am not a bit concerned about this.

If there ever has been a time in the history of this country when a man was more