

Interim Supply

own untrammelled, unhampered and undoc-tored evidence; the refusal to reconvene the defence committee to consider the principle that is involved in the defence bill; and finally, what the government has now done within the brief space of the few weeks we have considered this matter, constitute three flagrant violations of the responsibility of the executive to the legislative branch of government. I feel, Mr. Chairman, I could not allow this debate to conclude without setting on the record my views and the alarm I feel at the trend I see developing.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, it was not my intention to enter this debate but the remarks of the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam were simply too much of a temptation. I agreed with a great deal of what he said, particularly about priorities and the need to get on with the legislation that will increase the old age security pensions. But I was interested that he should spend his time this afternoon talking about defence.

From the remainder of his remarks, I understood he wanted the House of Commons and the Canadian public to forget the many hours of this interim supply debate that were taken up by himself and members of his party discussing the proposed pipe line and the suggested routes for it. He said it was not his intention to debate frivolous subjects, but I submit that in this debate we have heard a great amount of frivolous talk about the pipe line. I think we know now one of the reasons why it is particularly urgent that the pipe line be built along the southern route. This has been expressed by Mr. White, the chairman of the Federal Power Commission in the United States. The *Globe and Mail* quotes him as follows:

● (4:50 p.m.)

—he shared the concern voiced by domestic producers over the increasing inflow of Canadian gas.

It was reasonable, he said, to expect the development of new markets in the United States would create incentives for the discovery and development of additional gas reserves . . . Recent reports indicate that if proposed imports to this country are permitted further substantial exploration and development of Canadian reserves could be expected,—

Note the sequence of events. If the proposed importations are permitted, further expansion and development of Canadian reserves could be expected. I think the opposite would be equally true; that is, if the importations are not permitted, the development will not take place. We, in the western part of Canada particularly, have a very keen interest

in the development of that region, the prairie provinces, and British Columbia as well.

It seems to me that the arguments put forward by the New Democratic Party in this debate have had a rather false ring about them. The drive to build into the Canadian economy one more huge subsidy for the province of Ontario has been disguised in the cloak of rather narrow nationalism. We have heard a great deal about a policy which they refer to as continentalism, and this seems to be regarded as a prime evil. I cannot understand why they take this line; it seems to have little to do with socialism itself. Just last week the Prime Minister of Great Britain, who follows the same political creed, made these remarks in the House of Commons in London:

I want the house, the country, and our friends abroad . . . to know that the government are approaching the discussions with the clear intention and determination to enter the E.E.C. if, as we hope, our essential British and Commonwealth interests can be safeguarded.

I think we have had many experiences in the last few months which show how faithful that particular government is toward a great variety of Commonwealth interests. Lest he be taken seriously, the next line of Mr. Wilson's remarks is:

We mean business.

I imagine he means business about joining the E.E.C., and not about protecting the Commonwealth interests.

We have heard a great deal about the designated area program. We have heard a plea that the entire northern part of Ontario be declared a designated area. During the study of the estimates of the Department of Industry, we heard figures which indicate the expenditures which have gone into that program. We know that, with regard to the province of Ontario, these figures amount to hundreds of millions of dollars. In the province of British Columbia at that time the figures were in the order of \$13 million. Even that program, in a sense, has been a subsidy for the province of Ontario. Certainly, this move to force the building of the pipe lines through the northern route immediately would constitute one more subsidy.

The elimination of the United States market for the surplus gas which is not going to be used, which cannot be sold anywhere else, and which would assist in balancing our trade deficit figures, again would be a subsidy to the central provinces and a blow to the developing economy of the west. The suggestion has been made by members in this house that if the sale is not made to the United States,