

at the last session of parliament and pointed out that the Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act is designed to protect Canadian consumers. It is necessary under the Act for the Minister of Trade and Commerce to give a certificate to the effect that the present and foreseeable future needs of Canada are protected before any exports of electricity or gas are permitted. It has been suggested frequently in the current debate that gas will be sent to the United States from the pipe line before the pipe line reaches Vancouver. I stated last session that that would not be permitted. I know from discussions with the sponsors of the pipe line that it is not proposed to undertake any such export.

That statement is to be effect that the minister is not going to permit the export of gas to the United States prior to its reaching Vancouver. Then the hon. member for Fraser Valley was not quite sure that he understood the question correctly and on Friday, March 17, he asked the minister a question which is to be found on page 850 of *Hansard*, where Mr. G. A. Cruickshank, the hon. member for Fraser Valley asked the following question:

I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I was not in the house yesterday when the orders of the day were called, but I note that the minister is reported on page 792 of *Hansard* as having said:

It has been suggested frequently in the current debate that gas will be sent to the United States from the pipe line before the pipe line reaches Vancouver. I stated last session that that would not be permitted. I know from discussions with the sponsors of the pipe line that it is not proposed to undertake any such export.

Am I to understand from that statement that no export permit will be granted other than through an all-Canadian route?

Then, the Right Honourable C. D. Howe, (Minister of Trade and Commerce) replied:

Several members of the house have given information that they obtained from the principals behind the bill, and I have given information that I obtained from the principals behind the bill. I might say that I cannot understand the unnatural fear that certain hon. members have of letting these men come before a committee of the house where members of the house could find out what they intend to do.

To which Mr. Cruickshank replied as follows:

I take it the minister is not going to answer my question. Is that correct?

Now, Mr. Chairman, a very careful reading of Mr. Howe's answer to Mr. Cruickshank shows that with regard to many people concerned, there was at least the element of doubt in their minds. I refer particularly to his second answer, because his first answer is quite definite. No export is going to be permitted from Canada prior to the line reaching Vancouver. His second answer on the page following certainly leaves the element of doubt. Now, Mr. Chairman, it is because of that in the first instance that I am supporting this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herridge, did you listen to what Mr. Applewhaite said when he was speaking?

Mr. HERRIDGE: Yes, I listened to him and I am coming to that in a few minutes, Mr. Chairman. Then, any of us here who have listened carefully to the evidence given by these gentlemen—and I want to say that I think they have been most patient and very fair in answering the large number of questions—but anyone who has listened to them carefully would realize that future Canadian