

Private Bills

house that the cabinet might as well stop discussion here—they have virtually stopped it anyway—adjourn parliament, go home and proceed by order in council. It is not as bad as that because, thanks to some of the gentlemen of the press and to public opinion which has been created by the efforts of gentlemen of the press or those who have had the privilege of speaking in this house, the protests have been so great that the government has seen fit to open at least some of the clauses of the bill to a short discussion.

What is this shortage of time? If we examine the facts we know that it is five years—here I am bound to repeat—since this company was set up. I remember when the matter was before the committee. At that time there was no question of government assistance; this thing was going to be built by Canadian private funds. It was to be an all-Canadian route to serve Canadian consumers. When questions were put to those who were sponsoring the bill they scoffed at the idea or suggestion that it might be anything but Canadian controlled.

What is the picture now? Three United States gas and oil companies control this company to the extent of 84 per cent. My hon. friends to my left have talked about the producers; they say, "What about the poor producers in Alberta?" You can almost see a picture of a group of poor people with their knees out of their trousers as it were; underprivileged people with little farms. You get a picture of those people wanting to be able to sell this gas in order to make their fortunes. But who are the owners of this gas, who are these poor producers? They are the same companies which are going to build the line. We have been told today, with what authority I do not know, that it will be the same companies, or companies of a similar nature, which will do the distributing in the United States. The producers are the same people as those who will own the transportation system and those who will do the distributing at the other end of the line. It is true of course that the people of Alberta will receive royalties on the sale of this gas.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The poor people of Saskatchewan will be paying 84 cents for their gas.

Mr. Coldwell: That is the retail price of the gas. They are supplying small towns along the way.

Mr. Knight: My time is quite short and I shall deal only with one additional point. We have been told that this is to be an all-Canadian pipe line for the benefit of the Canadian people. Let us leave British Columbia out of this discussion for the

moment as they have natural resources which will make them wealthy no matter what they do with them or what form of government they have.

But what about the maritimes? What is this going to do for the maritimes? They are going to have the privilege of putting their money into the kitty and taking nothing out. They have been doing that for the past 50 years and I suppose they are getting accustomed to it, but it is not a very satisfactory procedure.

The last great steal, and I am not making a pun, that was perpetrated on the people of this country was when we gave away the iron ore in Ungava. I see the minister of immigration looking at me and I imagine he would like to tell me that that is a provincial matter. I know all about that; I know that the province receives certain royalties; but nine years ago we made it possible for these people with their foreign capital to come in there to take out that iron ore. They built railroads and all the rest of it.

What do they get out of it down there? There are hundreds of unemployed in the maritimes and those people are constantly having to go to a foreign country in order to make a living, or else come up to Montreal or to the centres of industry in central Canada. Something should have been done for those people down there. If in the case of our natural resources we had done what the C.C.F. party would like to do with this particular pipe line, those people would not have to go to foreign soil in order to get jobs.

What is going to be left to those people? I was amused when the minister said that this was going to be an all-Canadian pipe line because the thing is going to be situated in Canada. What is going to happen will be the same as has happened in connection with our iron ore. In that case the people are going to be left simply with the hole out of which the iron ore has been taken. In the meantime the ore will have been transported to the United States where the smelters are located and where the secondary processing industries are located. The people of the maritimes have had to follow their own ore on United States boats in order to get jobs.

We are proceeding now to create another steal. We are doing exactly the same thing in regard to this pipe line.

Progress reported.

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ANDREA MARIETTA HIEKISCH FARAGO

Mr. W. J. Henderson (Kingston) moved the second reading of Bill No. 348, for the relief of Andrea Marietta Hiekisch Farago.