

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Mr. Churchill: We are restricted to 20 minutes on an issue like this that touches upon our rights and privileges in a free country. We are restricted to 20 minutes and even those 20 minutes are restricted by unnecessary interruptions—

Mr. McIlraith: Irrelevancies.

Mr. Churchill:—such as the one by the hon. member for Ottawa West. Let him get up and talk on this subject. Why is he not a defender of the liberties of the people?

Our parliamentary system has grown up over the centuries. The British people have gone through all forms and known types of government and have decided upon the parliamentary system as being best suited to their needs. We settle matters by debate, by majority rule; we settle matters by using the ballot, not the bullet. In the development of our parliamentary system the majority has learned not to ride roughshod over the minority.

Some hon. member said tonight that he was glad that the government had now determined to rule the opposition, or rule parliament, or something like that. Parliament is the union of forces; the government on the one side and the opposition on the other. There is give and take in the procedure. Under normal conditions the government would change and those on this side would change places with those on the other side. We have had 20 years of what has become almost one-party government and the people are forgetting the basis upon which our parliamentary system was founded.

It is unfortunate that we have reached the stage where parliament cannot be conducted as it was in the days of Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mackenzie King, Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Bennett.

The Chairman: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. gentleman but I am obliged to advise him that his time has expired.

Mr. McIvor: Mr. Chairman, it is almost presumption on my part to take part in this debate after the big guns we have heard have spoken. I should like to hear some member of the opposition, and I expect it would be the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra, stand up and speak without calling the government or cabinet ministers by certain names which are undignified.

I had been on the committee of railways, canals and telegraph lines since the beginning and I cannot forget those first meetings. I see again the right hon. minister standing up and making his statement and saying, "We want an all-Canadian pipe line." He

wants to get it. He told us then that that was a government policy. It is government policy yet.

As I listen to the opposition I see that the official opposition and the C.C.F. are agreed on two things. They are agreed that we should have an all-Canadian pipe line. They are agreed also that the government is not doing it the right way. If the government did it according to the official opposition the C.C.F. would be up two, three or four at a time. If the government did it the way the C.C.F. want it the opposition would be telling them off. Perhaps they would be right in doing so.

I agree with the hon. member for Peace River when he says that the opposition have brought this closure on themselves because of their attitude. In the last two days we have had seven obstruction votes. An hon. member sitting on this side of the house cannot help but wonder why an hon. member would call another vote when he knew perfectly well how it would turn out.

Some years ago the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce was called a dictator, but I think that name would be more honourable to him than would LL.D. He was blamed for selling out to the United States when it was announced in some papers that Canadair had been sold. He was accused of selling out to the United States. But he said that a United States company had only got an option and that if there was anyone in Canada who wanted to buy Canadair they could do it. Those who called him a dictator then were no more right than are those who call him that today.

The reason we have this pipe line is because the people want it. I can remember when the right hon. minister was called home from Ottawa to Port Arthur and Fort William. The two city councils and a delegation including the mayors and representatives of nearly every municipality around met with him. It was just after the minister had got the two companies to co-operate. I asked the delegation why they were asking the minister for this thing and the whole chorus was, "We want it." They did not have anything to offer in the way of cash, but they wanted it and they still want it.

Then I asked the minister if when these two companies had come together the last hurdle had been cleared but the minister just shook his head. He knew far better than I did. I remember in the early debates in committee there was one hon. member who impressed me very much. He knew far more about oil and gas than I did. I refer to the hon. member for Calgary South. I congratulate him upon his courage. No doubt he