

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

fallen by the wayside and now, rather than standing solidly on their own two feet, they are appealing for help.

The Prime Minister made some reference to what he termed "the amusing speech" of the hon. member for Peel. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I have made an error. It was not the hon. member for Peel and I apologize to the Prime Minister. It was the hon. member for Spadina who made the statement that he had seen Mr. Murchison on television some time ago and the interviewer asked Mr. Murchison if what he had heard was true, that Mr. Murchison had not put his own money into the ventures. Mr. Murchison replied laughingly, "not if I could help it." Apparently he does not intend to put his own money into this venture nor the money of the company with which he is associated.

I am impressed by the reluctance of the company to proceed with the northern Ontario section, the section which they took in their stride when they were applying for a charter. After it was made easier for them they found it was still too difficult for them to undertake. I wonder that the minister did not call them to task on that occasion because of their misrepresentations. Again they came along and said that now they had received help for the northern Ontario section they could not proceed with the easiest part of the line, the part from the Alberta border down to the vicinity of Winnipeg.

Then, Mr. Chairman, we had the spectacle of this company which had bragged that it was quite capable of financing its endeavours applying for this loan to finance the western portion, a loan which it has been admitted in this house can only be liquidated if this company can sell gas in the middle states. Meanwhile the bottleneck to such a sale has been created by the opposition presently being argued before the federal power commission.

I say once more, Mr. Chairman, that a most suspicious circumstance has developed out of this very situation, for here we have the spectacle of a large, powerful transmission company with heretofore a good public relations record which now departs from its usual methods of operation in these established markets and antagonizes distributors quite contrary to their established practice, to the extent that they are accused before the federal power commission of raiding an established market presently served also by reputable distributors.

I say if the transmission company had at its disposal contracts for the importation of large quantities of natural gas it would be quite natural for it to try to distribute that gas through recognized channels. Why would it attempt to antagonize the people already

[Mrs. Fairclough.]

established in that field, unless it hoped by antagonizing them to stir up such resentment on their part that they in turn would do just what they have done; namely, appeal to the federal power commission not to give the permission which they sought? Mr. Chairman, it is a most suspicious circumstance.

I cannot see why in the face of all the suspicion anyone could fail to wonder whether this great, powerful and wealthy Trans-Canada corporation wants to get out from under, as appears to be the case.

I cannot help but be suspicious concerning the minister's position when he presses this company to go ahead with its plans despite the repeated actions on their part which dictate the very suspicions I have mentioned. The Minister says these people are the only ones who have contracts. He says they are the only ones who have the pipe, and that we cannot purchase this pipe in Canada. Oh, no? Apparently Welland Tubes got into operation a little sooner than the minister expected.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Mr. Chairman, on a point order, Welland Tubes have not broken ground for their plant yet.

Mrs. Fairclough: All right; but they have accepted orders for delivery this year of 20-inch pipe.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No.

Mrs. Fairclough: They have accepted orders for pipe to be delivered to firms in western Ontario this year.

Mr. Rowe: For 30-inch pipe. He knows that.

Mrs. Fairclough: The minister says no, Mr. Chairman, but I am much too suspicious even to accept a "no".

Mr. Hees: Attagirl.

Mrs. Fairclough: I submit that if the Minister of Trade and Commerce had put one-tenth of the energy into supporting the plans of a Canadian plant to produce pipe in Canada that he has put into trying to force a United States corporation to accept a Canadian loan which he will get from the Canadian taxpayers, we probably would have had 34-inch pipe before this time.

Mr. Byrne: Why manufacture pipe if we can't have a pipe line?

Mrs. Fairclough: Too bad I did not hear you.

Mr. Rowe: You did not miss a thing.

Mrs. Fairclough: Considering what has happened in the past, Mr. Chairman, and what has taken place in this house today,