

*Alberta Natural Gas Company*

million, \$18 million, \$156 million, \$80 million, \$125 million, \$85 million—and it goes on for sixteen pages.

This is the sort of thing the promoters of this company filed with the board in an effort to get permission to export this gas from Alberta—and when I say “export” I mean even to another province.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am going to close with this, that having regard to other debates this one has been conducted on a reasonably high plane. But I think it is no credit to the House of Commons or to the minister that at least for the first time in this session he should project himself into the debate and start riding companies the officials of which are just as honourable men as he now is, ever was, or ever will be. That sort of nonsense I simply will not put up with. I ask your pardon, Mr. Chairman, for speaking again, even for a short time, on this matter.

**Mr. Coldwell:** I really did not intend to say anything this afternoon, but when the Minister of Trade and Commerce was speaking he referred to a speech made by the hon. member for Vancouver East, who is attending a committee meeting this afternoon. I was glad the minister said that he knew the hon. member would not advocate anything in the house if he felt there was something shady behind it. Those are not the words he used, but that is the implication of what he said.

I was glad indeed to hear the minister say that. But I wish to add this, that having listened to this debate—and when I say “listened” I mean exactly that, because I have participated in it only briefly on one or two occasions before—I have come to the conclusion that what we really lack in this country is a proper national policy for the development, conservation and use of our resources primarily for the Canadian people.

That can be attained in my opinion only through agreement between the federal and provincial authorities; because, after all, the resources of the provinces are under the control of the provincial governments. It seems to me this debate has illustrated how badly we need to do something comprehensive in the way of planning the use of such resources for the good of the country as a whole. If we are going to do that, then I believe further that that can be undertaken only by means of a publicly-owned plan and operation of resources of this sort. Because, after all, when we allow a pipe line to be built to convey oil or gas from one area to another it is obvious that that must, because of its nature, become a monopoly for the company

[Mr. Smith (Calgary West).]

granted that right. That is true of electricity; but certainly in connection with gas and oil it is also true.

No one who has listened to the debate believes for one moment that more than one pipe line will convey the gas from Alberta to the Pacific coast, whether it goes by a Canadian or an American route. Indeed it would be economic waste to have two or three pipe lines or two or three companies competing for the business in gas in a city like Vancouver. Where we have had gas made from coal in days gone by, and where there have been two or three companies in cities, we have found that invariably they have been consolidated into one company usually publicly owned. The experience in this city of Ottawa in regard to electricity confirms that point of view. Where you had various companies, today they are consolidated into one organization. It seems to me that the only way in which you can deal intelligently with the use of a resource of this description is by public ownership.

In the last parliament we moved for public ownership of the lines concerned with this great utility. I regret exceedingly that that amendment was not adopted as I think it might have obviated a great deal of discussion and removed many of the fears that are felt quite naturally by some hon. members from British Columbia, and particularly by their constituents. In the utilization of these great gas and oil resources, not only are the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta interested; the rest of the country as well has an interest. I do not know where and when another gas and oil field will be found, but I believe there are in Alberta huge supplies of gas which should be utilized for the benefit of the prairie provinces as well as of British Columbia. We should not be contemplating supplying gas to the Pacific coast of the United States before the needs of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and British Columbia have been considered.

I go further and say that with the distances that gas and oil are now being piped in North America it might be found economical to pipe this great natural resource to Ontario, or at least to the western part of the province should supplies be found to be adequate. This debate has indicated the need of utilizing this great resource on a national basis rather than on the basis of the needs of British Columbia and Alberta only. The only way we can plan the use of a resource of this description is to determine that it will be utilized through some form of public ownership and public control.

This afternoon the minister made the point that the consumer should be considered in