

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

have it revoked. After all, this is the workers' money and I think he has a perfect right to say how it should be handled.

I recognize immediately that some abuses may creep in and I have expressed my opinion in that regard. I make no apology for having said that the unions should be very careful in the way they use the fees they obtain from labour, particularly as it would apply to political parties. I am not going to say any more on that on this occasion.

An hon. Member: Why not?

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): I have no hesitancy at all, but surely it should be clear to the members of this house that when six out of the ten provinces have this legislation there is no great abuse of the measure. I do not think it is asking too much of this government to ask them to incorporate this in their labour relations.

We in Alberta probably took the lead in this connection. We established the principle and five other provinces have also adopted it. I cannot for the life of me see how this would interfere in any way with free collective bargaining because it has nothing to do with the problems which ordinarily come under the heading of collective bargaining. This would be agreement between the employer and the employee, an agreement which would be voluntarily entered into it, an agreement which could be revoked if necessary.

After having said this I think you will understand that we are in favour of this bill. I have spoken in favour of it on many occasions and it is our intention at this time to support this bill.

Mr. C. W. Carter (Burin-Burgeon): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member who just resumed his seat supplied the key to this problem when he said that after all this is the employee's own money. I submit that the employee should be free to determine just how his money is to be handled. The fact that five provinces have adopted this legislation is no reason why this government should follow their lead. We believe in free enterprise and we believe in a philosophy which stresses the importance of the individual. We have today systems of government which stress that the state is more important than the individual. This legislation implies that a union or a group is more important than the individual.

I cannot subscribe to that as a matter of principle, because certainly the big issue in the world today is freedom of the individual. There has been no attempt to interfere with those who want to pay dues to unions; they are free to do it. If any union wants to make a bargain with an employer and wants this

clause inserted in the agreement, it is free to do so. Why should this government interfere in any way with that freedom? I think it would be a grave mistake on our part to interfere. This legislation not only insists that we interfere with the individual in connection with the spending or handling of his money, it insists also that we interfere with the freedom of the employer as to the use of his time and his accounts in collecting money for a union.

Unions are good things and they serve a good purpose in our way of life, but if a union is to continue to serve the best interests of the employees or of the workers as a whole it must learn to stand on its own feet and prove itself worthy of the loyalty of its members so that fees will be paid without any compulsion from an outside source.

On motion of Mr. Carter the debate was adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that I leave the chair for the house to resume consideration of whatever business was under consideration at five o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

NORTHERN ONTARIO PIPE LINE CORPORATION

CONSTITUTION OF CROWN COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT PIPE LINE, MAKE SHORT-TERM LOANS, ETC.

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. 298, to establish the Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation—Mr. Howe (Port Arthur)—Mr. Applewhite in the chair.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Chairman, at five o'clock I had been stating that when this company and its affairs were first considered by a committee of the House of Commons we were assured that the company would be created with Canadian funds, that it would build on Canadian territory, would be under Canadian control and all the rest of it. But what is the situation now? We find that three great American gas and oil companies will hold control to the extent of 84 per cent and that great quantities of gas are to be siphoned off from the pipe line at Emerson, Manitoba. The Canadian government together with the Ontario government are to use the Canadian taxpayers' money to do two things, to build and hand over