

*Summer Recess*

must put this into context and perspective because we know that the NDP is the only party which does not have its leadership chosen on the basis of representation from every constituency in Canada on an equal basis. What they do in terms of their leadership selection is based upon membership. For example, the trade union movement is a very important faction in the consideration of party policy. The province of Saskatchewan has a large membership and a large delegation in terms of the national party and the support which the hon. member for Oshawa receives.

The voice of the New Democratic Party in Saskatchewan is very important in terms of party policy, and they came forward on the weekend and said that they were absolutely opposed to what was said by their leader. The headline in the Saskatoon *Star Phoenix* of Saturday, July 19, reads "Messer lauds pipeline pact". For those who are uninformed, Mr. Messer is the minister of energy for Saskatchewan. The article goes on to say:

Saskatchewan has welcomed the federal decision to proceed with the pre-build portion of the Alaska highway natural gas pipeline, mineral resources minister Jack Messer said Friday.

He said that the concerns which have been expressed by the NDP in Ottawa have, according to him, been resolved and settled to his satisfaction. He has no concern now. I am not putting these words in the mouth of the New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan. I am simply quoting what a very important segment of the New Democratic Party hierarchy says with respect to this policy which we now hear is 100 per cent the position of the New Democratic Party. I would like to hear an explanation from one of the spokesmen of that party, if there is to be another speaker from that party during this debate, on how they stand with regard to that particular policy.

**An hon. Member:** Tell us about the Socreds in British Columbia.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** I should put the rest of this article on the record, because it is interesting and because it has allowed me to hear both sides of the story. From there I can make up my mind with respect to this issue and determine how I want to vote. I want to know what both sides are saying.

● (1640)

I listened to the Leader of the New Democratic Party making a speech in Ottawa, and for the other side of the story I go to Saskatchewan to hear what the New Democratic Party there is saying. The article I referred to earlier goes on to say:

Despite provincial concerns, Messer noted the government has been fully supportive of an expansion of the Interprovincial Steel and Pipe Corporation (IPSCO) plant in Regina aimed at supplying pipe for the line, and it would be 'ridiculous' for the province now to be opposed to the project.

I wonder whether the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong) and the hon. member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin)—I don't see them in the House at the moment—are twitching to get involved in this debate. And what about the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans)? Where does he stand? Why has he been silent?

**Mr. Broadbent:** He speaks next.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Hallelujah, brother! We are finally going to hear, after this delay, what the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain, who has so many steelworkers in his constituency and relies so much on their support, what position he takes and precisely where he stands in respect to the position put forth by his leader.

**An hon. Member:** He doesn't want that pipe order.

**Mr. Deans:** Why don't you sit down?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** I simply want to put forth a calm and logical approach to this very complicated issue. I know members of the New Democratic Party will listen and take note, and be very interested in what I am saying.

What else does Mr. Messer have to say? He is the minister of energy in the New Democratic government of Saskatchewan. That information is for those who are just tuning in, in other parts of the country. I know it is getting close to the dinner hour and a lot of people will be watching this very interesting debate. Dealing with Mr. Messer's comments again, the article ended as follows:

Messer noted the provincial environment department is inviting comments from the public on the Saskatchewan portion of the line before final provincial approval is issued.

But he said he is not aware of any pressing environmental concerns in that area of the province which might significantly delay the project.

I have looked through this article and I have tried to contact my NDP friends in Saskatchewan to find out whether there is a dissenting point of view. The only one I have heard is with respect to the speech made by the Leader of the New Democratic Party in this House this afternoon. There is obviously a serious breach on this as on many other issues in the New Democratic Party. It is almost an article of faith now that if the hon. member for Oshawa says something in the House of Commons with respect to the position of that party today, someone else in the New Democratic Party elsewhere will say exactly the opposite. I can give a list of instances where that has happened. They came out against the proposal made by this party with respect to the home owners' grants and exemptions and the grants for taxes and mortgage deductibility.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Petro-Canada.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** At the same time that the Leader of the New Democratic Party was on his feet, Mr. Blakeney in Saskatchewan was introducing legislation which was the very same as the legislation we had proposed. It was incredible. There was a double-take by the people of Saskatchewan, I can assure you.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Wrong again.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I have just been handed a note to the effect that there is a feeling by some of my advisers that I should not take this amendment too seriously. I am trying to take it very seriously.