

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

and again that they have no permits either from Alberta or to export abroad, that they have no customers and no pipe. What is more, they have no gas. It would be foolish to start at this late date and attempt to let a new company conduct the necessary negotiations. What they would do about the millions and millions of dollars that have already been spent by Trans-Canada on surveys, the development of customers, and so on, I do not know.

The suggestion was made yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the C.C.F. party that the owners of the pipe, by not making the pipe available to McMahan, Gairdner, or anybody else who might want it, were holding a gun or a pipe at our heads. Who ever heard tell of people who pretend to be businessmen or who know anything about business even suggesting that a company in the United States that controls pipe, which is not only non-existent in Canada but is in very short supply and in great demand in the United States, should be told by the government of Canada to hand over the pipe to McMahan or somebody else. These arguments simply do not hold water, and it is a pity that the time of the house is taken up in having to listen to them.

With respect to closure, as I told you before I am a new member, but so far as I can see from my experience in the house closure will mean only one thing. We will have to listen to the same arguments from the same speakers probably six or seven times instead of 20 or 30. Already in the two addresses we have had from the Leader of the Opposition we have heard the same thing over and over again, and his arguments are just as unsound every time.

As to the McMahan proposal that we heard so much about yesterday, may I say this. There is something rather peculiar about that proposal. I would not like to say what it is, of course, but one could ask one or two questions. Here was a strange thing. A personal and confidential letter was sent to the minister concerned. The opposition pooh-poohed the fact and contended that it was not personal and confidential. May I say to them that if that is the way you run your business, that is your business; but we consider a personal and confidential matter to be personal and confidential unless we are released from that restriction, and I hope we continue to do so.

Here is correspondence, marked personal and confidential, in the hands of our minister concerned. But what happens in the meantime? Members of the opposition obviously have complete copies of that document. The newspapers in Canada obviously

[Mrs. Shipley.]

have full copies of that information. There is something extremely peculiar about that. When it became evident that the confidential information had been given freely to everyone else, our minister said it must be released. What happened? Within five minutes the offer was withdrawn. If that does not seem peculiar to you, may I say that it seems extremely peculiar to me.

I shall not refer to the statements reported in the *Globe and Mail* of May 10 made by the premier of the province of Ontario, but I should like to refer to what was said by the Leader of the Opposition in this house the first time this matter was up for debate. Then I should like to cite what was said prior to that time and available to everyone, in the legislature of the province of Ontario. This is what was said by the Leader of the Opposition as reported at page 2179 of *Hansard*:

The Minister of Trade and Commerce spent some time speaking about the position of Ontario. It is well known that Ontario made another recommendation to this government. It is well known that Ontario prefers another method. It is well known that Ontario only adopted the course they have adopted because they want gas in Ontario. They have no control over this.

I suppose the same kind of pressure was put on the premier of Ontario that it is contended was put on Mr. McMahan. Now let me refer to what was said in the house by Mr. Frost; and may I say that the Minister of Trade and Commerce was not sitting behind him telling him what to say. I assume he said it of his own free will. I know the gentleman well, and I know that he says what he means. This is what he said, as reported at page 390 of the official report of the debates of the legislature of Ontario:

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, these difficulties are not small.

He was referring to the difficulties.

It was not an easy matter to negotiate the agreement at all.

In reference to his first proposal—that is with regard to the five or more provinces coming in—he said:

Apparently the Trans-Canada Pipe Line agreement provides for the quickest and most effective way of bringing gas to Ontario. I think the Glassco report—

That is the report of Clarkson and Gordon, one of Canada's most reputable investigating companies and one which was used frequently by the present Leader of the Opposition when he was premier of Ontario.

—and the investigations made by our own agencies, show that in connection with an all-Canadian pipe line, owned and financed by the governments concerned, federally and provincially, there could be at least four provinces which would occasion