

*The Address—Mr. Drew***IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED****QUESTION AS TO ROUTING OF PROPOSED PIPE LINE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Ross Thatcher (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has the government received any representations from western Canada asking that Imperial Oil Limited be directed to build its oil pipe line through Canadian territory to Port Arthur instead of south to a terminal at Superior, Wisconsin? Has the government considered the matter, and if so, has a final decision been reached?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I have received representations from Fort William and Port Arthur, as well as from a number of surrounding municipalities. I should like to point out, however, that, by virtue of the pipe lines bill which was passed by the House of Commons at the last session, all jurisdiction over the routing and location of pipe lines was placed in the hands of the board of transport commissioners. The board held hearings at which representations were received from the lakehead, and a decision of the board has been rendered approving the route as filed by Imperial Oil Limited.

Mr. Thatcher: Has the minister issued a licence to this particular company to export oil?

Mr. Howe: Yes. The Department of Trade and Commerce, as a matter of ordinary routine, has issued a licence under the Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act, which permits the company to export oil for re-import into its refinery at Sarnia.

Mr. Thatcher: Then the decision is final.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY**

The house resumed, from Friday, September 16, consideration of the motion of Mr. Maurice Boisvert for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, first of all I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) on his elevation to the position he now occupies. No higher honour can come to any Canadian than to be chosen, by the free decision of the people of this country, for the high office of first minister. As I said on another occasion, he has every reason to be satisfied with the decisive support he has received from every part of Canada. No matter how much many of us may

have wished that the results had been somewhat different, I sincerely extend to him my best wishes for his health and happiness in carrying out the heavy responsibilities of his great office. Whatever differences of opinion there may be from time to time as to the way in which the business of our country should be carried on, I am sure there will be general agreement that he will occupy that office with distinction, and with credit to himself, his race, his profession, and the historic party which he leads.

No matter how much some of us may have preferred to see a different disposition of the seating arrangements in this chamber, we can all sincerely thank God that we do live in a country in which decisions of this kind are made by a free people, who will be equally free to make other decisions on other occasions in the future.

I wish also to extend my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Boisvert) and the seconder (Mr. Laing) of the motion now before us—and I do so, Mr. Speaker, not as a matter of mere formal expression. Each discharged in an able manner the responsibilities delegated to him, and each expressed that pride in the particular part of Canada he represents, which is in itself a source of strength to the whole nation. No matter what party we represent—and most certainly that representation is overwhelmingly one way—we do collectively, by the choice of the electors, represent all the people in every part of Canada. They have made their decision, and we are gathered here to do the business of those people, who are fully represented by those who sit in this House of Commons. It will certainly add greatly to the strength of Canada as a whole when every member has the feeling of pride and affection for the constituency he represents which was so unreservedly expressed and so well exemplified in the words of the mover and the seconder of this motion.

May I say something at this point about the announcement made a few moments ago by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier). As leader of the opposition I wish to join with him and with the other members of this house in expressing deep regret not only that such a dreadful tragedy should have occurred, but also that it should have involved so many of our friendly neighbours who visit Canada in large numbers and whose constant movement back and forth is one of the factors contributing to the deep understanding which exists between the two countries.

The announcement that inquiries are already under way to determine the cause of the disaster will undoubtedly be reassuring. They will serve the purpose of determining in what way the repetition of such a calamity may be prevented. It would be unfortunate