

Northern Pipeline

idea of delaying the production of certain studies which are now under way until next June will not help the government's commitment that was made to provide this second stage inquiry.

Last, and most important, we insist there be a standing committee of whatever nature may be necessary to monitor pipeline conditions. Those are the conditions which we set forth on August 4 during debate. The minister really said nothing during that debate with respect to the government's plans, which they well knew at the time and which we insist upon knowing now. In case there be any doubt about what I have said with respect to the Yukon input by its people, let me just refer to a special delivery letter mailed from the Yukon only five days ago which I received only this evening thanks to the Postmaster General (Mr. Lamontagne). The minister in the Yukon responsible for pipelines is directly at odds with the views of the commissioner and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in this government.

The report in the *Whitehorse Star* quoted Mr. MacKinnon as saying:

The pipeline legislation presently before the House of Commons reflects a growing and powerful federal presence in the Yukon.

He refers to the clause of the bill calling for a single regulatory agency with respect to the pipeline construction, and calls attention to the fact that the Yukon representative will sit on the federal side of the council and will be appointed by the federal government. He said he objected to the concept of the Yukon not being treated equally with provincial counterparts on the council. This is apropos of the parliamentary secretary's comment that this government would not lose any face if the Yukon adopted the views of their elected representative, which I have put forward today.

The commissioner-in-council indicated that a legislative assembly should make legislation which could be accepted. Mr. MacKinnon pointed out that the Yukon should be totally involved in all matters pertaining to the pipeline through the territory and that it should not be confronted with complete and absolute federal control. The commissioner of the Yukon, viewing federal civil servants appointed by the minister, says—it is not true—that this advisory council—referring to the federal-provincial advisory council—will allow Yukoners to make an input, and added that this view was put before the Lysyk inquiry and was completely ignored in the legislation. He also pointed to the provisions for second stage environmental hearings and further socioeconomic hearings, misleading the people of the Yukon into believing that there would be that second stage public hearing and opportunity for input. This is false.

The commissioner further said that the Yukon representative would be selected by the executive committee and would reflect Yukon policy, which he claims makes the appointment a political decision that follows the wishes of the Yukon representatives. This is false. That is not what is provided in the bill.

With respect to this commissioner, and previous commissioners in terms of the colonial status of the Yukon, when the

[Mr. Nielsen.]

minister says to his commissioner "Jump!", what the commissioner says is "How high?". That is exactly what is going to happen unless amendments are made to the bill.

● (2022)

The native position has been betrayed by the renegeing of the government on their promise, embodied in the law, of a second stage inquiry. I can foresee grave difficulties being encountered in dealing with that situation in order to give quick and efficient passage to this bill.

The hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) will be the next participant in this debate. He will deal with the labour problems involved in this legislation and the utter lack of any plans being in place by the government regarding training. Private enterprise, through AGTL and others, have been in the process of training northerners, particularly native northerners, for six and seven years to assume operative skills once that pipeline is completed. What has the government done? Nothing. My friend from Vancouver South will deal with that at great length.

I was interested in a television program last night in which the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) participated. The subject under discussion was the pre-build of the Alberta section. I ask him to correct me if I am wrong, but I gathered it was his opinion that this would delay the Yukon construction some ten to 20 years. I am not that pessimistic.

We were assured by the Foothills officials with whom we spoke in our studies prior to this debate that there would be no delay. We were assured by the Deputy Prime Minister that it was the intention of the government to adhere strictly to the schedule which set forth the international agreement that pipeline laying would begin January 1, 1981 in the Yukon. If I were a gambling man, I would not bet on that because of the financial implications inherent in the pre-building of the Alberta section, enabling the more facile financing of the northern sections.

It is likely that the construction schedule will be delayed. That is of great concern to me, as it should be to all members. Complete financing will not happen; it will happen section by section. However, assuming complete financing at once, the implication could be as much as \$100 million a month in interest alone on a project of this magnitude.

I want to mention something in passing, but with no less sincerity for it being mentioned in such a style. It is essential that the government include in its overall Canadian content planning and Canadian participation in not only pipe and steel but all the related industrial requirements in terms of supplies such as valves, fittings and the like, the province of Quebec, their steel industry and their manufacturing capability. They should be very positively involved in a most encouraging way in this whole project. I can see very positive implications in this project of interest to all Canadians with regard to encouraging the process of national unity.

It concerns me that there may not only be governmental but financial pressures brought to bear with regard to tendering