

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

statement of Sir John A. Macdonald which he did not quote and which I think this house should bear in mind in discussing this problem. At the conclusion of his remarkable speech when he was urging the building of a Canadian transcontinental railway he said this, as reported at page 494 of volume 1 of the debates of 1880-81:

I can trust to the intelligence of this house, and the patriotism of this country, I can trust not only to the patriotism but to the common sense of this country to carry out an arrangement which will give us all we want, which will satisfy all the loyal, legitimate aspirations, which will give us a great, an united, a rich, an improving, a developing Canada, instead of making us tributary to American laws, to American "gas companies," to American bondage, to American tolls, to American freights, to all the little tricks and big tricks that American "gas companies" are addicted to . . .

I have changed two words. In two places I have changed "railways" to "gas companies". Otherwise that is the verbatim statement of Sir John A. Macdonald in this house in discussing the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

I say that no one reading the history of our country can fail to appreciate the many times and ways in which the independence of this country has been jeopardized. I say to my hon friends from the province of Quebec that every time the economic independence of this country is jeopardized or handed over to foreign domination, to that extent the political and cultural independence of this country is jeopardized.

I say that to them particularly for this reason. Looking back over our history, I believe they have been in the forefront in maintaining Canadian integrity and Canadian independence. One of the reasons I am opposed to this measure is that I believe the domination of our economic life by these foreign corporations is threatening the independence of this country, and that this is almost an immeasurable step in that direction, a step which this country will regret in the days to come. In so many ways we are dominated, through the radio, magazines, television, our defence arrangements made necessary by the international situation, perhaps; nonetheless our independence is gradually being whittled away.

I say that in this proposal there is a new danger, a new threat to our economic welfare, our independence and our development. I ask this house where among us today are the patriotic instincts that caused the fathers of confederation and the people who lived before us to build this country the hard way, if you will, but until quite recently successfully as an independent, sovereign nation?

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is six o'clock.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

[Mr. Coldwell.]

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Coldwell: Mr. Chairman, in his remarks this afternoon the Minister of Trade and Commerce made a statement which I found very interesting and new. That was that the premier of Alberta would only agree to the export of gas to eastern Canada provided that gas was also exported to the United States. I did not know that proviso had been made by the premier of Alberta, but it seems to me that is selling Canada's birthright for a mess of pottage.

Mr. Hansell: I doubt whether he said that.

Mr. Coldwell: I was very surprised that that should have been included because, after all, the provincial governments hold the resources of the provinces in trust not only for the people of their own provinces but for the people of all Canada.

Now may I also say something about the remark the minister made this afternoon regarding the attitude of Ontario. In an order for return, which was tabled a few days ago on my motion, I find the revised report to Premier Frost from Mr. Grant Glassco, of the firm of Clarkson and Gordon, which indicated very clearly, and I quote the exact words—

That an all government-owned pipe line would be economically feasible even though no sales were made in the United States.

That, of course, is an opinion which should receive the careful consideration of the house, since it confirms the position we have taken from the outset and intend to take throughout this debate. It is true that Mr. Glassco's report does outline some difficulties which, in his opinion, might be inherent in government ownership of a pipe line, particularly the length of time required for the several governments interested in the project to reach agreement on the terms of a joint government undertaking.

This afternoon the Leader of the Opposition said that Premier Frost and his government had preferred another plan, and I believe that plan was indeed a plan of public ownership, a project directly undertaken by the Dominion of Canada and the provinces together.

Mr. Glassco further recommended that before advancing any money we should be satisfied that conclusive proof is available that the company is able to carry out its commitments. What we are doing is in effect considering the advancing of money in the form of a spur line across northern Ontario, and we have no assurance that the company will be able to carry out its commitments, since the carrying out of those commitments depends in large