

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

beclouded and clumsily befuddled plan of closure. Never in history have we seen closure applied like this.

You talk about 1932. I was sitting on the government side of this house at that time. True, we had closure, but we were not very proud of it. Right Hon. R. B. Bennett was not proud of it. It was not the greatest project that had been presented to Canada. It was a case where men were starving in this country and farmers could not find sales for their products, and the Liberal party had lost every market in the world. It had lost the British market, it had lost more markets than any government since confederation. Yet they wanted to put the government in a spot and for 21 days they went on and debated. Finally Right Hon. R. B. Bennett did bring in closure. He said to me, "I hate to do this, for it establishes a bad precedent, but farmers are starving." That was because of what the Grit government had done in the years before. It was not an issue like the one in 1912 about the dreadnaughts going to Britain. But here we have a picture we are all in favour of.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Rowe: We are all in favour of the development of Canada. I am not confused by your applause. You applauded a member who said we had been speaking for 21 days, when the truth is that we have been speaking for only 14 days. You applauded another hon. member over here, the hon. member for Charlotte, when he told us how many years it would take if everybody talked as much as some of the members talk. He talked about everything except the issue before the house. These men who thump their desks and laugh so much, in this particular issue that threatens the freedom of parliament, have not even seen the insects that infect the carcass. You gentlemen seem to be lost.

An hon. Member: Is that your horses?

Mr. Rowe: I have listened to you in this house for a long time. I have prayed for the day when you might rise. I notice that the backbenchers opposite have demonstrated they have more brains in their seats than in their feet. We have seen the spectacle of these desk thumpers applauding the government, and today applauding the Speaker. Today the Speaker came in and said he was wrong yesterday. They said, "That is all right; we will support you today too." These gentlemen will support anything. If a long-tailed rat came in that door they would not shoot him. Never was a more subservient crowd in power in Canada. I have watched them in power for a long time. I remember the Minister of Trade and Commerce saying, "If we want to do it, who is going to stop

[Mr. Rowe.]

us?" and, "I never was much for rules." He has proven that now. They have thrown out the rule book and run over it with a steam-roller. If I were sitting behind this tired, smug, old government, I would hide my head in shame rather than pound the desks. Let them go back to their constituencies. The Minister of Finance laughs.

Mr. Harris: Yes.

An hon. Member: Who wouldn't?

Mr. Rowe: Let him tell the people—

Mr. Harris: Tell us what happened in 1935?

Mr. Rowe: Come on to Dufferin-Simcoe. The weather there is good there too.

Mr. Harris: Then hogs were about 3 or 4 cents, and now they are 26 cents.

Mr. Rowe: The Minister of Finance laughs with reckless glibness, and he speaks just about as glibly and just about as recklessly. The other night he told us that if nobody wasted Mr. Howe's time debating this bill, Alberta gas would be delivered in the city of Winnipeg before winter. More than that, the Minister of Finance said:

The completion of the line from Kapuskasing to Toronto and Toronto to Montreal may very well be done in the next construction season. Bear in mind what I have said.

At the same time we find that the Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Company says that the first delivery on their purchase of 30-inch pipe in England will not get here until 1957, and the completion of delivery will not be until 1959. What are you going to run the gas through? I suppose you will get the pipe from a blacksmith up in Grey-Bruce—

Mr. Harris: They are far better there than in Dufferin-Simcoe.

Mr. Rowe: Certainly I would expect the Minister of Finance to be a little more sure of his facts before he tells us these things so glibly. I never saw a man struggling harder to bail out another colleague. If he had not struggled so hard to bail him out in the last few years he would not be in this mess now. I wonder what they will be like in the future if he has to struggle so hard now. I hear the rustling in the mulberry bushes, and the Prime Minister seems to be getting ready to retire from the leadership. I wonder if there is something in mind for the future.

Mr. Sinclair: Tell us about Premier Frost now.

Mr. Rowe: That is the sort of proposition we have with respect to this great project.

Mr. Pickersgill: Tell us about Premier Frost.