

Alberta Natural Gas Company

This evening I had meant to say something about tolls and rates. There is no provision in the present Pipe Lines Act for the regulation of the rates that may be charged for transmitting this gas, although there is provision for regulating rates on oil. I have not, however, the necessary time tonight to go into that point further.

I promised when I opened my remarks this afternoon that I would try to point out why this issue is of importance not only to the people of British Columbia but to all Canadians; I refer to the question as to whether this route shall be an all-Canadian route and shall first serve the requirements of the Canadian people. We have exactly the same situation arising in Quebec and in Labrador with respect to the iron ore. Is that iron ore to be smelted in Canada to the greatest possible extent or is it to go to the United States? We have not one word from the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) or from the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) that would lead us to believe that there is to be any increase in the smelting of iron ore in Canada or that any new smelters are to be established. We have a lead given by the premier of Quebec, Hon. Mr. Duplessis. I have here a press dispatch of May 2, under the heading "Quebec May Manufacture Own Steel", which reads in part as follows:

Montreal, May 2.—A development which might have a big effect on Quebec's economy was made public when Premier Duplessis told of a plan for making steel from Ungava iron ore and graphitic shale.

What are the Americans doing? Within the last month three of the American secretaries—the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Chapman—have appeared before the public works committee of the House of Representatives, urging upon that body that they recommend the construction of the St. Lawrence waterway; and in each case when the secretary pleaded for such action by that committee, one of the main grounds given was that American iron ores were becoming depleted, that the Mesabi range was being dug out, and that it was essential to get the Canadian iron ores down to the American steel plants. Mr. Chapman appeared just last week or a few days ago, May 4, and he actually is reported to have said this:

Chapman said the United States would not have reached economic pre-eminence had it not been able to produce steel at a rate equivalent to its industrial growth . . .

Moreover, movement of the Labrador ores would conserve the remaining high-grade, open-pit ores of the Mesabi range for emergency use.

The Americans are taking the right stand. They want to use these Canadian iron ores to manufacture their steel. If a policy such as this government is following at the present time is continued for long, there is a grave danger that Canada will be nothing more or less than a satellite of the United States.

An hon. Member: Nonsense.

Mr. Green: It is all right for the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs to sneer at the satellite nations in Europe; that is, the satellites of the Soviet. But Canada does not want to be a satellite on the North American continent, and the Americans do not want us to be one. They want us to be a great strong nation in our own right; and that is what we could be if we used our resources such as these finds of iron, oil and gas primarily for the development of our own country.

It is perfectly obvious, Mr. Speaker, from the remarks of the Minister of Trade and Commerce this afternoon, that he does not intend to make any commitment in favour of an all-Canadian route; but I am going to try to put the members of the house on record on this question. This is a private bill. Private members have a right to vote as they see fit. It will not look well if they all flock behind the government as they have done up to the present time on this issue, with the exception of the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) and the hon. member for Coast-Capilano (Mr. Sinclair).

An hon. Member: And the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Gibson).

Mr. Green: I would not call the hon. member for Comox-Alberni a supporter of the government. There is some doubt about it, but he is supposed to be independent.

Mr. Gibson: That is right.

Mr. Fraser: In spots.

Mr. Green: If this amendment is defeated, I can only warn the people of British Columbia and the people of Canada that in this fight we have done our best to protect them. The responsibility for any failure to make this pipe line an all-Canadian line, and to have it serve Canadians first, from now on rests squarely on the shoulders of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the members of this government.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Smith):

That Bill No. 7 be not now read a third time but that it be referred back to the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines for the purpose of reconsidering the amending of the bill so as to provide that any pipe line built by the proposed company from Alberta to the Pacific coast must be by an all-Canadian route.