

Prairie Transmission Lines

house further consideration of this bill should be deferred until the house has been assured that the route of any pipe line built by the proposed company will be laid out so as to serve Canadian requirements before any such pipe line leaves Canadian soil.

That is all I intend to say, in order that we may have a vote on this immediately.

Mr. A. L. Smith (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, we are not going to have a vote on this immediately. That is the first time I have been able to speak in this house with authority as to what the house is going to do. I intend to discuss first something which I hope may clarify the legal position though some people may say that my remarks will further confuse it. We have all been proceeding on the assumption that the province of Alberta has authority to forbid this gas going from that province. We have taken our cue in that regard from a statement made by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent); that, in short, was exactly what he said. I am a humble member of my profession, Mr. Speaker, and I have a great deal of timidity in submitting an opinion which may be in any way contrary to that expressed by this eminent lawyer who is our Prime Minister; but in my view that is an incorrect statement of the legal position. I put it on this broad ground; so that everyone may understand, I ask this simple question. Since when did any province of Canada have authority over interprovincial trade? The answer is never. So while the province of Alberta, no doubt with their tongue in their cheek, passed an act dealing with this very matter, I think they know very well that they passed legislation which is quite beyond their jurisdiction.

I give this simple illustration, which is familiar to all. During and after the war there was much discussion in this house

about the shipment of cattle from Canada to the United States. Those of us who were here in the last parliament will remember those discussions. Such shipments were then embargoed; but they were not embargoed by the provinces in which the cattle were raised. The embargo was put on by the dominion government under emergency powers this government possessed by virtue of the War Measures Act. But the point remains, and I am sure I am correct in my statement, that the province of Alberta has not the right to say whether or not gas shall be exported from this country. In my judgment that is a matter solely for the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), who has taken authority—and when I say that I mean he has been given authority by this parliament—to say whether or not these things may be exported from this country. It is my humble opinion that he and only he, not the province of Alberta, may deal with exports from that province or from the dominion.

It being eleven o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Tomorrow, which is a short day, we shall continue with the debate on the second reading of Bill No. 144, to amend the Combines Investigation Act. Being an optimist I think I can announce that after that we shall take up Nos. 64 and 65, which are two Department of Justice bills. If we have time we will take up Bill No. 63, respecting the inspection of fish and marine plants.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.