

(Translation):

Mr. Dupuis: I can say at once to the hon. member for Quebec West that I first took the precaution to state that I had not intended to speak. As I am a truly great representative of the people, I am not afraid to turn to the people, to speak to people in the galleries, even to the press gallery, and to all those who honour me with their attention.

Mr. Dufresne: This is the climax of the comedy.

Mr. Dupuis: If you really mean to be the representative of the people, I presume that you will not shirk your duty. That is your problem. But, as I say, we are going to talk about pipe lines. Once again I say that we of the Liberal party were never opposed to foreign investments in that province, but we did oppose the policy of giving away our natural resources to foreign interests and of dilapidating the province according to the requirements of campaign funds of the party supported by the hon. member for Quebec West in the coming election.

Mr. Dufresne: I do not support it, I do not even take any part in it.

Mr. Dupuis: No, Mr. Chairman, the word has gone around to "Keep Dufresne under cover. He cannot be shown in public."

Mr. Dufresne: You make a handsome picture, yourself.

Mr. Dupuis: For the last few days we have heard much about closure which has been applied perhaps by necessity—in the first case, perhaps somewhat out of time—I will give here the benefit of the doubt—but definitely to prevent a filibuster. Members have talked about closure. Well, the members of the opposition have been given an opportunity to show that they were serious. Let us remember that, in my speech on the budget, I urged Conservative members to be consistent, to show a little logic. Well, I make the same request today. The right hon. Prime Minister has just asked, in a democratic way, in this house, to give more time to the opposition to state its case against the bill now under consideration.

Now, these very people who, in this parliament, are the official representatives of inconsistency refuse the additional time that we are ready to allow them by sitting tonight and all day Saturday. All I ask the members of the opposition is to be a little more consistent. Instead of claiming in season and out of season that democracy is threatened—

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Mr. Dufresne: It is true.

Mr. Dupuis: We are making a democratic offer and the very people who claim that the rights of parliament are being scuttled do not want to sit here when they are offered the chance to do so.

They keep clamouring that this pipe line will be of no profit except to American financiers. There is none so deaf as those who don't want to hear. How many times has the minister of Trade and Commerce repeated in this house that 51 per cent of the equity capital of the company will be offered on the Canadian market? That is, to my mind, a sound assurance.

Secondly, this gas pipe line—as has been so often said in this house—will be built entirely on Canadian territory. It is certainly not a sellout of one of our natural resources, as when the premier of the province of Quebec sells out the ore for one cent a ton for shipment to the United States. We will have a pipe line all across the country, that will be a source of wealth for certain of the provinces, and at the same time of benefit to them all. That is all the difference.

But they say that the Trans-Canada Pipe Lines is an all American concern.

I can look at you; I can look at anybody. There is no standing order under which one may only look at the hon. member for Quebec West.

Mr. Dufresne: I don't like to be stared at in this way.

Mr. Dupuis: Mr. Chairman, it has been assumed in certain quarters that the main interests, or even all interests in the Trans-Canada Pipe Lines are in American hands—

Mr. Dufresne: 83 per cent.

Mr. Dupuis: The Hon. Edouard Asselin, attorney general of the provincial government of Quebec is a director of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited. Is he an American? Indeed, I have just been told that Mr. Asselin was a director of Trans-Canada. Is the Hon. Edouard Asselin, attorney general and the right hand of the Hon. Maurice Duplessis, premier of Quebec, and a director of the Trans-Canada Pipe Lines corporation, a Canadian or an American?

Mr. Dufresne: He is not attorney general.

Mr. Dupuis: I don't know just what position he holds. Is he attorney general?

Mr. Dufresne: Nor that, either.