

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

The charge of stifling the debate seems singularly inappropriate. Parliament has been discussing the trans-Canada pipe line, with little intermission, since May 9. In that space of more than two weeks—

May I interject that it is now three weeks.

—Mr. Drew, Mr. Diefenbaker, Mr. Coldwell, Mr. Knowles and many other opposition spokesmen have spoken repeatedly against it, and the house has seen some of the liveliest exchanges in its recent history. The arguments against the project have been fully presented. Since this is an undertaking in which "time is of the essence," the point has surely been reached for parliament to decide for or against it.

This great project, in my view, is just as much in the national interest as it is in the interest of the province of Alberta which I have the honour to represent in this house.

I should like to commend the hon. member for Calgary South for the stand he has taken on this issue. We have been told that he is an expert in the gas and oil business, but there is always a chance that an expert might be wrong. Therefore it was most interesting to have the information given in the house this evening that the Progressive Conservative executive of Calgary South supports the member for Calgary South 100 per cent on this issue. I think that is a tribute to him and to his courageous attitude, and a tribute also to this Liberal government from the Progressive Conservative executive in Calgary South. One wonders where the member for Calgary North really stands on this issue. I should like to know what his executive committee is thinking about the stand he has taken.

I come from an area which has experienced the benefits of natural gas for well over 30 years. I was glad when my colleague the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, who also represents an Edmonton constituency, placed on the record a few days ago some of the history of natural gas and oil development in the province of Alberta. This unequalled source of energy has long been recognized as the trump card in Alberta's truly remarkable store of national resources. Following the discovery in the past 10 years of truly amazing amounts of natural gas, the growth of industry in the province of Alberta, and particularly in the city of Edmonton, has amazed even the experts. But at the moment the growth of further new industries in our province, particularly petrochemical industries, is being stunted and hampered by Alberta's inability to export its surplus gas. Industry in Alberta has been doing its best to get along with various conservation measures, but in spite of their best efforts we have been told here that hundreds of millions of cubic feet of natural gas are being wasted daily. I submit,

[Mr. Hanna.]

Mr. Chairman, that in the interests of Canada as a whole this waste must be stopped at the earliest possible moment.

In the constituency of Edmonton-Strathcona hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested within the past 10 years as a result of gas and oil discoveries, and most of that industry has been established with the assistance of United States capital which, by the way, the members of the opposition profess to scorn. I should like to read a very brief quotation from an official booklet put out by the city of Edmonton. It says in part:

The \$60 million petrochemical colossus of the Canadian Chemical Company, a subsidiary of the Celanese Corporation of America, is in operation on Edmonton's eastern outskirts. It is one of the few plants of its kind in the world, producing many new chemical products never before manufactured in Canada. "Waste" petroleum gases are one of its basic material requirements. . . . Wood pulp, the other basic material, comes from the Prince Rupert plant of an associated company.

I should like to comment that this is only one of several petrochemical plants in the city of Edmonton, and I think I should add for the benefit of the opposition that the taxes that are paid by these petrochemical industries, which are largely American owned, have made the municipal district of Strathcona one of the richest municipalities in Canada in the past five years. I wish the members of the opposition could go out to Edmonton and see what outside capital has done and is doing there.

An hon. Member: And in Calgary.

Mr. Hanna: And in Calgary; and what is good for Calgary and Edmonton is good for the other cities of Canada. I wonder whether our Tory friends think the good Canadians of Edmonton or Calgary would vote against a proposal to exclude foreign investment. I certainly believe they would not, and I would feel very sorry for the politician who would go out there in the next election and suggest it.

The growing industrialization of the province of Alberta is one of the highlights of Canadian development today. This industrialization is good for all Canada, particularly for western Canada which has had practically no industry until the recent discoveries of vast quantities of gas and oil in Alberta. It amazes me to hear our C.C.F. friends from the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba opposing what is good for western Canada. They profess to be the great champions of the west. Then why are they opposing so vigorously a development that can do nothing but good for their own provinces? I am particularly interested in what the members from the city of Winnipeg, who