

*The Address—Mr. Coldwell*

**Mr. Speaker:** I think I have heard enough to determine the matter. There is nothing on the order paper which would preclude a discussion of this matter. The royal commission is not a court of record and matters before it are not sub judice. Therefore I see no reason why the hon. member should not discuss it.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Closure by order in council.

**Mr. Coldwell:** I will say immediately I will not refer to the royal commission again though I have the right to do so, but what I am going to do is to refer to some of the statements made by my hon. friends in this house in 1956. I submit that we have to look into this matter in this parliament apart altogether from the fact that it may be looked into elsewhere.

It has been suggested in this house by this group on a good many occasions that we should go into the matter of the trans-Canada pipe line and other matters associated with oil and gas very thoroughly in order to safeguard the public interest. Indeed it was suggested by the very Conservative party now in power that the crown corporation, that is the Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation, should be enlarged in its powers to do certain things in order to protect the public interest. I quote Mr. Drew on June 4, 1956, as reported in *Hansard* at page 4673:

Enlarging the powers of the crown corporation (Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation) so that the entire pipe line may be constructed immediately under public ownership.

So that there may not be any doubt about the position put by the Conservative party at that time, let me read something of what Mr. Drew had to say before moving the motion. I quote from *Hansard* at page 4672. Mr. Drew said this:

The Prime Minister said that we made no suggestions.

That is, the Conservative party made no suggestions. I continue:

We were not given the opportunity. There could have been proposals. Now, on third reading, we say to the government: You want to get ahead with the pipe line. All right, if you are determined to follow the course of going ahead with the pipe line with a crown corporation, go ahead with it but expand the crown corporation and give that crown corporation the power to build the whole line from the Alberta boundary right to the east. That was what I said on March 15, and I repeat it.

He went on:

Therefore if it comes to the stage where the government forces through an unnecessary venture of this kind, then there is only one thing to do and that is to build the whole pipe line and not just part of it and have control over the whole line.

Mr. Drew, on behalf of the Conservative party, issued a challenge to the government. He declared at that time:

Let them go ahead, let them introduce a bill to expand the operation of the crown corporation to embrace the whole line.

That is the challenge Mr. Drew made to the government on that day and that is the challenge that has returned to haunt the government of today, for that is the challenge I am making to them tonight. So that there may not be any confusion or any charges of misrepresentation of the Conservative position at that time, I would like to read the whole motion that Mr. Drew moved at the time.

**Mr. Fulton:** You forget that part of the line is already built; the circumstances have changed entirely.

**Mr. Coldwell:** The reference may be found at page 4673 of *Hansard*. This is what Mr. Drew's motion was on that day:

That the bill be not now read the third time but that it be referred back to the committee of the whole with instructions that they have power to amend sections 5, 6 and 7 thereof to include the agreements made with Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited as schedules to the bill and add other sections necessary to ensure that the bill shall give effect to one of the following principles:

First, the immediate agreement of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited to reorganize as a company under effective Canadian ownership and control and to undertake construction without a grant of public money, in accordance with the assurances upon which its charter was granted by parliament; or—

That is the assurance that the promoters gave to parliament five years earlier.

Second, failing such agreement, the immediate consideration of other proposals submitted by any other persons or companies for the immediate financing and construction of the pipe line under effective Canadian ownership and control and without a grant of public money; or

Third, enlarge the powers of the crown corporation so that the entire pipe line may be constructed immediately under public ownership.

Those were the three alternatives placed before the house by Mr. Drew. Let us examine these proposals for a moment. The first proposal immediately falls to the ground. The second is eliminated by the passage of events. The grant of public money has been made to the pipe line company. Therefore the Conservative party is driven back to the third proposal made in March, 1956 and reiterated on June 4 when Mr. Drew said:

Therefore if it comes to the stage where this government forces through an unnecessary venture of this kind, then there is only one thing to do and that is build the whole pipe line and not just part of it, and have control over the whole line.

That was the Conservative policy. What is their policy today? They called Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited the pet of the