

Government Organization Act, 1970

sets the rates, and sets them at a high level, it no longer in reality would be a common carrier. Those who decide the rates for input and output are the people who will decide whether, in reality, the pipeline will be a common carrier. Therefore, the information we have asked for is vital information which the House of Commons ought to have before we are asked to make decisions.

The real difficulty for members of Parliament stems from the fact that the government makes these decisions and announces them on motions. We are then given a chance to comment for three minutes or five minutes. Surely, as members of Parliament, we ought to have the opportunity to assess all the facts and to discuss them. After we have discussed them and expressed our views, the government must of course make a decision. That is its responsibility. Surely, however, the government ought not to make that decision until all the information has been made available to hon. members and hon. members have had an opportunity to express their views. That is why I make an urgent appeal to the minister that he give us a full and frank statement as to what the government has in mind. We do not need more platitudes. We do not need more statements to the effect that we are only going to sell such of our resources as are surplus to our needs or, to quote that lovely phrase, that the resources of Canada will be developed for the best interests of the Canadian people. What we need are concrete statements from the minister regarding some of the problems which I have raised here today. I hope the minister will make these statements, and I hope that we will have the opportunity to question the minister after he has made them.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, may I call it one o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair. The committee will resume at two o'clock.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The Committee resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, the importance of the bill before us this afternoon is not underscored by the attendance that we have. I expect that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will be here in a moment.

An hon. Member: Here he is now.

Mr. Dinsdale: Good. Friday afternoon provides an opportunity for an atmosphere that is conducive to discussing these important issues in a cool, calm and collected way.

Mr. Greene: And a lonely way.

Mr. Dinsdale: At the outset of my remarks, I wish to suggest that this atmosphere provides an excellent opportunity for the minister to make a statement on resource

[Mr. Douglas.]

policy. Parliament and the country has been waiting for this for many a long year.

The question before the House this afternoon is the reorganization of the Department of Energy, Mines, Resources and Technical Surveys. It is logical to assume that the reorganization of the department concerned with the most important subject in our economic development is concerned, resources, provides an opportunity and a platform for the minister to clarify some of the confusion that has existed within the cabinet ranks during recent days. The policy of the present government seems to be to move in several directions at the same time. I suppose they feel that a moving target going in different directions is harder to get into focus, but unfortunately it produces a sort of schizophrenic reaction on the part of the country. I am sure the minister realizes from very significant events that have taken place in important areas of influence, not only in Canada but elsewhere on the North American continent, that an unhappy state of economic schizophrenia exists. It is a shocking situation when the leaders of the financial institutions of Canada have to go to New York and, in an important discussion with the American business community, make a bitter attack on the economic policies of the present government.

There was an article in last week's issue of the *Financial Post* which pointed out the tendency of the government to be schizophrenic in its approach to fundamental problems. The area of communications is basic and vital in order to get across ideas. There has been a situation of schizophrenia in the Department of Communications since it was reorganized. Obviously reorganization does not necessarily mean increased efficiency. It can sometimes lead more in the direction of disorganization than in the direction of reform and efficiency, as a comment by Jeremy Brown published recently in the *Toronto Daily Star* and quoted in the *Financial Post* indicates. This points out the situation that I am briefly describing this afternoon. I quote:

Eric Kierans, minister of communications (which formerly included the Post Office), sent a text of a speech to a Toronto address before the Feb. 11 delivery date. The package arrived 13 days later. The title of the Speech? Canadian communications: outlook and alternatives.

● (2:10 p.m.)

This quiet Friday afternoon does provide the minister an opportunity to give us an outline in the same terms as the minister responsible for communications. It could be called something like this—"Canadian Resource Development—Outlook and Alternatives". It has become increasingly clear in the past two decades that the basis for any great economic development in Canada must be our abundant supply of resources, particularly the growing development in the north. The wise utilization of the rich resources we have there, will be to the benefit of all our people. It is this growing interest in the management and development of our resources which in the latter 'fifties turned the attention of the Government of Canada in the direction of ensuring that these resources were managed as wisely as possible.