

*Unemployment*

many real and great contributions to Canada must now be somewhat dimmed by the unrealistic thinking that produced his natural gas policy.

That does not mean that "Howe's folly" will not create any new jobs in Canada this year. It could, for example, put a stenographer or two to work preparing dismissal notices for a considerable number of western Canadians working for companies with shut-in gas reserves, or on drilling rigs that need no longer be kept at work drilling more gas wells to join the hundreds already shut in. These notices might read: "Gas jobs cancelled by Howe's folly. Glory be to nationalism and Howe". We can also put some sign painters to work painting signs to decorate several score idle gas fields in western Canada. Some of these signs, to be different, might read: "This gas field is graciously permitted to remain shut in, by authority of the Canadian government, in order that it may have the privilege some day, some way, of serving the nation".

Then of course we shall need signs for the information of job seekers who have been looking forward to starting work this spring building gas gathering and transmission pipe lines from Alberta to Winnipeg and southward; who have been looking forward to building distribution systems in Moose Jaw, Regina, Brandon, Winnipeg and other western communities; to building some more eastern Canadian transmission pipe lines in southern Ontario and perhaps also through to Montreal and Ottawa; and to expanding gas distribution systems in many southern Ontario and Quebec communities. Those signs might be for the information of the host of Canadians who had looked forward to new jobs in the manufacture of line pipe, or in the manufacture, transport, sale or installation of gas furnaces, stoves, water heaters and other appliances. These signs could keep a few painters working, for there are a great many national employment service, utility, contractors' and manufacturers' offices where the signs might be hung. These signs might read: "Howe's folly still in; jobs still out—but give thanks for unemployment insurance".

Of course, Mr. Speaker, it may still be possible to get gas and jobs unshackled this spring. Maybe the Minister of Trade and Commerce will suddenly see the light, and apply to gas the same realistic and sound thinking he has previously applied to many other Canadian problems. Maybe the members of his cabinet who in recent weeks successfully resisted his demand that an all-Canadian pipe line be built with backing of the Canadian taxpayer will now persuade the government to put gas in its proper light,

[Mr. Nickle.]

and regard it as simply one of several competing fuels, in increasingly surplus supply, and desperately needing freedom to market in an economic way; and that means yanking down the barriers erected by Canada at the international border to its south.

**Mr. Prudham:** You are more interested in American jobs.

**Mr. Nickle:** Because maintenance of present jobs is important to Canada and creation of more new jobs is even more important, I hope the minister and/or his colleagues will act quickly enough to beat the fast approaching deadline beyond which no project can be started this year. As of now, there are only a few days left. After that? Oh well, the 1956 construction program is only a year away and maybe job-hungry Canadians will not mind waiting.

But in fairness to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) I should like to explain what I mean by "Howe's folly", as well as outline what can be done to replace folly with common sense. To do that, let me first quote from the speech made in Dallas, Texas, last night by an outstanding Canadian, Arnold Heeney, our ambassador to the United States. I presume Mr. Heeney spoke officially for the government. Mr. Heeney had this to say in Texas last night with reference to oil and gas:

But when full provision has been made for Canada's own foreseeable requirements, we will still have large surpluses of those two energy resources. It is our hope that they can be exported to the United States and used to fill such shortages as are apparent or may develop in this country. Here, as so often, wide scope would seem to be left for profitable co-operation between the two countries even after each government has given first consideration to the needs of its own citizens.

From time to time we in Canada have been disturbed by doctrines expressed in the United States which, if applied in full rigour, would seem to make such sensible co-operation impossible. In addition to the difficulties we have been encountering for some time with regard to natural gas, we have been disturbed by recent efforts to restrict imports of crude oil into the United States.

That is one quotation from the speech last night by Canada's ambassador to the United States, a speech delivered, I presume, with the full approval of the government and expressing the government's policy. May I say that I fully agree with the conclusion of Mr. Heeney, which I presume is now shared by the government, that Canada will still have large surpluses of both gas and oil over and above Canada's needs which will have to find markets in the United States. In general, this government has fully recognized that fact in regard to oil and has thus permitted oil pipe lines and market planning on economic, international lines. But unfortunately its whole