

Summer Recess

Mr. Mackasey: They are a spent force. The Leader of the New Democratic Party referred to higher prices later on. Of course, prices will be higher later on. The independent gas producer in Alberta needs the cash now. Ask him if he would rather leave his gas in the ground. As a matter of fact nobody in Alberta has to sell their gas. If they prefer to store it for their grandchildren or their great grandchildren, they can do that. They can leave the cap on the well, even though they may have an opportunity now to dispose of their gas to eastern Canada and to the United States.

Mr. Paproski: We want to share it.

Mr. Mackasey: If the Alberta producers want to leave their gas in the ground and take advantage of higher prices five years, or ten years from now, they can do that. After all, the oil is not state owned. The people who own it still have rights and they do not have to sell their gas if they do not wish to. We do not have the kind of regime which one might find in a socialist country and, certainly, if the producers in Alberta want to hang on to their gas and take advantage of higher prices later on, they can do so.

The Leader of the New Democratic Party said that there would be more jobs if the whole pipeline were built. That one really got me. Of course there would be more jobs if the pipeline is built, and of course the pipeline will be built. That is the difference. When it is built, there will be more jobs. The thought that possibly the project will go through bothers these prophets of gloom and doom in the corner. Of course the project will go through, and as the Leader of the New Democratic Party so aptly and so logically put it, there will be more jobs when the pipeline is built. I can assure the hon. gentleman that my instincts are as good as his, and I am sure that the whole pipeline will be built. I may be mistaken, but I believe that the NDP voted against the Alaska Pipeline Act. Perhaps they were not too concerned about the jobs which would be created or they could not see the need for them a few years later.

According to my notes, the NDP leader said that the pipeline will be built not at all, or only some time after 1985. Again he totally ignored the \$500 million which has been committed, the unanimous commitment of the Senate, the unanimous commitment of the Congress, and he ridiculed the president of our greatest friend.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, if I might be permitted a slight recollection at this point in this debate and do a double-take, if I might, with respect to the government's position vis-à-vis the amendment which has been proposed by the New Democratic Party, I recall rather vividly the furor and shouting match which went on at the time I made an announcement with respect to the export of natural gas from Canada, a very sensible decision and one which has now received the acclaim of all straight-thinking and forward-thinking people in Canada.

An hon. Member: Except the voters.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Indeed, I am fascinated to watch what is happening now with respect to the statements which have been made by the government.

Most of us are probably asking ourselves, "What are we doing here today?" I had made all the necessary arrangements to move back to my constituency of Saskatoon West to serve at the local level and to work directly within the constituency. What are we doing back in Ottawa at this point in time? It is a rather curious situation which has caused the continued sitting of the House during the summer. Of course it is the motion brought down by the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent). It is a very bold and imaginative gesture which he has taken in order to grab the attention of the newsmakers of our country while everyone else in the country is away on vacation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Unfortunately, I had to go back to Saskatoon on Friday, so I did not have the opportunity to hear the very excellent speech which was made by my leader. However, a very interesting development took place. The NDP were talking about the urgency of this matter and saying that the country was about to fall apart, action had to be taken, and Parliament had to sit on a continuous basis, but when the NDP was given the opportunity to continue the debate into the weekend on this very urgent matter, they turned the invitation down and went away from here to contemplate and consider whether or not they were on the right side of this issue as far as the newspapers were concerned.

Mr. Rae: We wanted you to be here, Ray.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: In fact, what really happened, was that the Leader of the New Democratic Party went to see the real leader and had a long talk over the weekend with Dennis McDermott. It was a very informative discussion in which the Leader of the New Democratic Party engaged at that time because he was worried about the vibrations he was receiving as to whether or not there was total support for his proposition.

Today, he stood up in the House and said that there was 100 per cent unanimous support on the part of the New Democratic Party for the proposition which he put forward. Unfortunately, the statement of the Leader of the New Democratic Party is simply not correct because a very substantial and important part of the New Democratic Party, in terms of its support and power within the party, is adamantly opposed to the position put forward by the Leader of the New Democratic Party today. I refer, of course, to the Saskatchewan New Democratic government.

I have just returned from enjoying a weekend in beautiful Saskatchewan.

Mr. Broadbent: There is good government there.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Notwithstanding the provincial government there. At the same time I was amazed to read in the newspaper the position taken by the New Democratic Party there. We