

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

reason and for many other reasons which I could cite, the people who are producing gas in western Canada today do not want to be in the position of having to sell or of being ordered to sell gas to a nationalized pipe line. Not only that, but the government of Canada does not own any right of way. It would have to get a right of way and to do so it would have to negotiate in exactly the same way as a private company. It would take a long time. The government would have to secure a licence to export gas out of the province of Alberta. The government would also have to get a lot of other things all of which would take time.

If we should take the principle of nationalization—and God forbid that we ever do—it would probably delay the realization of a pipe line and a market for Alberta gas for a good many years to come. There is urgency, Mr. Chairman, in securing a market for Alberta gas. Let us see what that means. I wonder if the Conservatives who are playing fast and loose with other people's money today in this filibuster realize—

Mr. McGregor: Have you gone nuts?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Low: I wonder if they realize that the position they are taking actually means \$50,000 a day to the people of Alberta in return for their gas. It does mean \$50,000 a day. But that does not phase them a particle. Some of them will stand up and say, "Oh, well, it will not hurt to set this back one, two, three or four years". I want to tell hon. members of this house that there is a real urgency to get a market for Alberta gas and to get it at the earliest possible time.

Not only is it a question of dollars and cents to the actual producers of gas, and there are many hundreds of them in Alberta; it also means that there is waiting today in the province of Alberta a \$100 million industrialization expansion program which depends upon the finding of that market for gas. Every day that this filibuster goes on that program is set back and made more difficult of realization. Any time industrialization takes place in the province of Alberta it helps not only the people there but the people of all Canada. We have to look at it in that way.

We have not been wholly satisfied that the government policy has been 100 per cent sound right from the beginning, but we decided at the beginning to go along with it because we felt it was in the interests of Canada to accept that policy and try to work for its realization.

An hon. Member: How much money is Alberta putting in?

[Mr. Low.]

Mr. Low: You are forcing us to put in \$50,000 a day which is now going up in smoke. Not only that, but there is something else that should be told to this house.

Mr. Harkness: The Social Credit government held it up for three years.

Mr. Low: If you will just dry your tears, sister, I will answer you in a minute. There is a very important matter which I think hon. members should consider. The exploration in future years will be set back materially and perhaps for all time unless we do get busy soon and get a market for Alberta gas. We have something like 16 trillion cubic feet of reserves which we think will supply the needs of Alberta, the needs of the population of eastern Canada and the needs of the United States market if it is realized for some 25 or more years. But if a proper market is found for Alberta gas it is more than likely that further exploration will be stimulated which will result in the extension of those reserves at a rate of not less than one trillion cubic feet a year for the next ten years.

It is important that we get a market as soon as possible in order to realize something like the full potential of that tremendous gas field. We need to be put in a position to be able to export some of our surplus to our neighbour to the south in order to balance up our unfavourable balance of payments which in the current year amounted to one billion and thirty million dollars. That is one argument which we need time to develop and I do not intend to do it tonight. I shall have further comments on another stage of the bill.

Before I close, may I just answer the hon. member for Calgary North. He mentioned the fact that Alberta had been responsible in the initial stages for the delay. I deny that most emphatically. May I tell him that the only delay that ever occurred in the province of Alberta with respect to the export of gas was in those days more than 5½ years ago when the province was determining by careful exploration the extent of their reserves. When they knew the extent of those reserves Mr. Manning and his government came out and announced the government's policy and it was followed immediately by an announcement by this government. The hon. member for Calgary North does not know what he is talking about and he will find that out when he gets back home.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, faced with one of the most important measures ever to come before this house, the Canadian House of Commons has been gagged and fettered in this debate by a despotic government. This