

Alberta Natural Gas Company

I should like to place before hon. members of the committee exactly what did happen following my election as a member of parliament. When the applicants for this charter came to me prior to last session and said that they intended to proceed with a petition to endeavour again to obtain incorporation I told them, definitely, in a general way, that I would not act in any way that was incompatible with my duties as a member of this House of Commons, and told them specifically a number of things.

This is what I told them: That neither I nor any partner of mine nor my firm would act for them in this or any other matter which would come before the parliament of Canada. I told them further that I would not be an applicant on the petition. I said further that neither I nor any member of my firm, nor my firm, would accept any fee or payment whatsoever payable to me or my firm or any member of it with respect to the petition to parliament to incorporate this company, so long as I was a member of parliament. I told them I would not sponsor their bill—

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): On a point of order. The hon. member is now speaking in complete breach of the chief rule of our profession, and that is that he is giving us information passing between him and a client.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Chevrier: Tell that to Sweeney; great stuff, that is!

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): Will you let me go on and finish my point of order? In spite of the raucous intervention, particularly by the Minister of Transport, that privilege is the privilege of the client, and not of the solicitor.

Mr. Abbott: It was not your client.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): No, it was the client of the member who is now speaking, and who was busier than a one-armed paper hanger in the committee just a short time ago.

Mr. Campney: I said that I would not vote on the bill, and that I would be free to take any attitude I thought desirable in the interests of my own constituency, my own province and my country, a position which I have meticulously and continuously maintained to the present time. I believe that is a position which will commend itself to members of this house; and I would hope that it might even commend itself to the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green).

I am extremely desirous, as is every member from British Columbia and from Alberta,
[Mr. Campney.]

and particularly desirous as a member of the House of Commons from the constituency of Vancouver Centre, that natural gas be brought to Vancouver at the earliest possible date, in abundant quantity, by the most safe and secure route in the best interests of Canada and at the lowest possible cost.

I would prefer to rely upon the decision of the board of transport commissioners which has been charged with the jurisdiction and with the responsibility of dealing with all the matters attendant on that decision rather than upon the jurisdiction and responsibility of the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra who, I do not think, has been blessed with either of those qualities.

Let me say in conclusion that from my observations during the short time I have been a member of this house nothing I have seen would lead me to have any desire whatever to base either my parliamentary ethics or my conduct in this house upon the example of the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra.

Mr. Gibson: Mr. Chairman, on April 3 I spoke in this house during the debate on second reading of this bill to incorporate the Alberta Natural Gas Company. At that time I urged hon. members of the house to allow this bill to go to committee where we could ascertain further information, believing as I did that in committee evidence would be available from independent sources which would enable hon. members to make up their minds as to whether or not this all-Canadian route which was spoken of was both economically and physically possible.

I regret very much that my absence from the country made it impossible for me to attend the first meetings of the committee. But I have now received a belated edition of the evidence, and after a careful study of it I have come to the conclusion that the pipe line promoter was biased in the extreme, no doubt by his very evident desire to get his gas as quickly as possible out of Canada and into the United States, by the shortest fire escape, far from the searching eyes and voices of members of this House of Commons.

An hon. Member: Louder.

Mr. Gibson: By his own admission we now know that he never gave a passing thought to the welfare of the northern part of British Columbia, not having even tried to examine the possibility of using the Yellowhead pass route through Kamloops to Princeton and down through Hope to the Fraser valley. He had other fish to fry, evidently, with gas across the border to the south. The committee however was able to extract the monumental and exotic promise from him that he would