

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pickersgill: Does the hon. gentleman suggest that I know nothing about politics?

Mr. Bell: Mr. Chairman, after the smart remarks that have been made by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration today and on previous occasions, I wish he would take one of these loose closure motions that are lying around and use it on himself. But that is what is the matter with this government today. They have not the feel of politics in their blood. They have not taken the time to find out what is going on at the grass roots level in this country today. Most of them have been in business or in the civil service, and they were fortunate enough to be around in the wartime days of that great mediocrity of Canadian politics.

I say, Mr. Chairman, that the days are coming when these giants of the war days will pass. But those are the reasons we are in this state. It is not the opposition; it is not the Liberal backbenchers, it is these eight men in the cabinet who came up the easy way.

An hon. Member: How did you come up?

Mr. Hodgson: He came up in the merchant navy, and none of you fellows had guts enough to get in it.

Mr. Bell: I mentioned when I began that in the maritimes we have a very proud tradition and history, and we are paying a price to be in confederation. Make no mistake about it. When the director of the national gallery says that Saint John is the ugliest city in Canada and the maritimes have the least social and cultural development of any area in Canada I do not like it, no matter how untrue it may be.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Bell: I say there is a responsibility on the Prime Minister to do something about that and not throw out the smokescreen that he did at the labour convention in Toronto a few days ago. He knows that was a smoke-screen. We have been trying for a long while down our way to get some assistance, but what happens? It is the same old smoke-screen, and the Minister of Finance knows it. He knows why we are waiting.

As I say, we respect our part in confederation. We have a proud old motto down our way which is—I am not too sure of my Latin—*spem reducit*. It means “bring back to life”. I should like to throw that thought out in this house tonight, because I say the opposition are bringing back to life the real parliament that was known only by those early British parliamentarians whom the cabinet ministers have not even heard about.

[Mr. Bell.]

The other night I read in the *Toronto Star* of May 28 a report of a meeting in North Bay, at which the hon. member for Timiskaming is reported as follows:

Of the closure motion taken by the government she said “I can't repeat here, at a ladies' meeting, the words that I have heard in the house about it. The screams and roars have been terrific. We're back in the days of Sir John A.”

In view of those words of the New Brunswick motto, I hope we are moving back to the days of Sir John A., because I think it would be a great contribution to Canada. In closing I want to say one thing more. Hon. members have made light of the fact that we took a Canadian flag and draped it over the desk of the hon. member for Eglinton.

An hon. Member: Where did you get it?

Mr. Bell: I want to say this. The worst part of it as far as the government were concerned was that for an hour and a half they had to look at the flag that a great many of them had not even seen before, much less appreciated.

Mr. Habel: As the member representing a riding most vitally interested in the construction of the pipe line I would feel remiss in my duty if I did not take part in this debate. However, it is my intention to try to talk about the pipe line.

I was much impressed by the speech made by the hon. member who has just taken his seat. In the last part of his remarks he referred to the flag incident. I may tell him that it did not have on me the impression it had on him, and I shall tell him why. It was the second time I had seen the flag act. I had seen the same thing done in the Ontario house by the Tories. When they are cornered they have recourse to the flag. Whenever they find themselves in a bad spot they say, “O, Canada; we stand on guard for thee”. But when it comes time to sing the national anthem they do not want to listen to it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Habel: I regret, Mr. Chairman, as much as does any other member in this house the illness of certain members of the Conservative party. But if we wanted to dig a little bit to find out the reason for their illness, it might well be that we would find the reason in the report in the *Ottawa Journal* dated January 17, which reads as follows:

Tom Bell, M.P. for Saint John-Albert, newly elected president of the young Conservatives of Canada, said his organization had renewed its pledge of loyalty to Mr. Drew—“We are going out united, strong and eager to do something for this party and the easiest thing to do is just ‘get mad at the Grits’”, said Mr. Bell.