

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Miss Aitken: Surely there must be ten men, five men, or even one man with the intestinal fortitude to say, "No, C. D. Howe".

Mr. Harkness: You would think so but it just is not so.

Miss Aitken: I find it sad that today this great Liberal party of yesterday is nothing more than a caricature of Hollywood yes men. What has happened to the Liberal breed that it has degenerated into rubber stamps?

Mrs. Shipley: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. This afternoon I was refused the privilege of commenting on similar remarks which had been made by members of the opposition. I submit that hon. members of the opposition should not be permitted to continue in that same vein if we are not to be permitted to refute such comments.

Miss Aitken: Mr. Chairman, I can say in all truth, in sorrow more than in anger, that it is a sad thing for Canada that no man in this Liberal government today will show the vision and courage and faith of his forefathers. With this resolution before us today we have indeed come a far way from the vision and courage of our forefathers. In his history of Canada Stephen Leacock called the building of the C.P.R. one of the greatest triumphs of our history. Today the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is telling us that it is expedient to bring about one of the greatest disasters of our history.

Our leaders of the 19th century had the courage of their vision. They began building a trans-Canada railway when there were only 24,000 people in British Columbia. Winnipeg was a town of less than 8,000 inhabitants. Regina was what the Indians called a pile of bones. Calgary was not even on the map. Despite those handicaps of geography and population we built that trans-Canada railway. We invited foreign investors to help us. We welcomed their help and we gave them profits. But we made sure that control of the railway stayed in Canada. We invite foreign investors to help us build a pipe line. We will welcome their money and we will make profits for them, but let us make sure that control of that pipe line stays in Canada.

If this resolution goes through, I should change that and say when this resolution goes through, or when this resolution is forced through, we will have a pipe line it is true, or at least we will have part of a pipe line. The only thing Canadian about this pipe line will be its geographical location. Public funds are to be used to ensure private profits for foreign investors. Public funds are to be used to ensure that United States consumers

[Mr. Hees.]

get Canadian gas through an all-Canadian pipe line cheaper than Canadians can get it.

I do not believe that any other country in the world would put itself in such a position, not even a country less richly endowed than Canada. For instance, in India back in 1948 Mr. Nehru saw the danger of economic domination from outside and he issued this warning:

We would rather delay our development, industrial or otherwise, than submit to any kind of economic domination of any country. This is an axiom which is accepted by everyone in India.

We believe that the time has come for Canadians to assert authority over their own resources. No longer should we stand by and watch foreign industry control our resources. Presumably the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, and indeed I imagine the entire government, must be aware of the widespread resentment against United States capital dominating our pipe line while public capital takes all the risk. I do not believe that any Canadian government, or perhaps any government, has ever subsidized private enterprise in this way. No Canadian government, in fact no government anywhere has subsidized private foreign enterprise in this way. Whoever described this plan as one of the most bungled government transactions in Canadian history spoke truly.

The minister has said more than once that he is assured by Trans-Canada that more than half the common stock of the company will be made available to Canadian investors if they care to subscribe to it. That brings us to the question which has been brought up here more than once. Is the right hon. minister talking about a Pickersgill Canadian, someone born in Canada, or is he talking about someone who has a postal address in Canada? Is that a Canadian? If so, then the wholly-owned United States subsidiaries in the pipe line scheme are Canadians.

What we are facing today is not merely the building of a pipe line; we are at the crossroads in Canada's future. We are being faced with a basic policy which the Liberal party is trying to ram down Canadian throats. That policy can be summed up in five words: United States first, Canada second.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder if I could ask the hon. lady a question.

The Chairman: May I point out that the termination of this debate is fixed and I think it might be preferable to refrain from interrupting.

Mr. MacDougall: Mr. Chairman, I rise in this debate to speak as a Canadian who comes from a province which will be neither a buyer nor a seller of any of the gas that will go