

Committee on Railways and Shipping

Another matter that concerned me was the possibility of going to Montreal on some occasion and seeing there a large sign bearing the words "Hilton-Queen Elizabeth Hotel". That would be a ghastly business. I do hope that whatever happens so far as the management is concerned, the name of a man called Hilton is not allowed to appear on the building, on the stationery or in the advertising, but that it will be known for all time as the Queen Elizabeth hotel. I trust the committee will have opportunity to make inquiry into this unusual and, we consider, totally unnecessary arrangement which is damaging to Canadian prestige and would be a blow to Canadian pride.

That is all I am going to say on the subject. I am going to keep up my reputation for speaking briefly, stating the facts and presenting an unassailable argument.

Mr. Knowles: A good, solid C.C.F.'er.

Mr. Herridge: I wish now to say a few words about the trans-Canada pipe line question. I do so because I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for Hastings South (Mr. Follwell), when he urged that the government consider having this very necessary pipe line built by the Canadian National Railways. I was particularly interested to hear this proposal coming from an hon. member supporting the government. I thought it indicated that he had given serious consideration to the problem, one which is giving concern to a good many Canadians at this time.

Ever since we have talked about a trans-Canada pipe line this group has urged that such an undertaking should be publicly owned and under the management of the Canadian National Railways. This pipe line will be piping Canadian gas required by Canadian consumers. We in this group say, let Canadians build the pipe line, without paying tribute to any United States capitalist interests.

I think there are many arguments in favour of public ownership of this pipe line, and having it built under the jurisdiction of the Canadian National Railways. The railway company has a right of way across Canada, and no property problem would be involved. There would be none of the complex difficulties in the matter of easements and other things which take so much time and often cost large sums of money. The building of the pipe line by the Canadian National Railways would mean lower construction costs because it could be serviced from the railway itself. Maintenance under public ownership through the railway company would be lower, for the same reason. If we were to undertake this great project in the near future it

[Mr. Herridge.]

could be a first step in an over-all plan for unemployment relief, as suggested earlier in debate by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

I suggest the government should float a tax-free bond issue for the building of the trans-Canada pipe line. This procedure has been popular in the United States in connection with undertaking certain large public works. Such tax-free bond issue would be subscribed to only by Canadian citizens, and would not be transferable. This procedure has been followed in the United States with a great deal of success in connection with large irrigation projects and the like. I think the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low) made reference to this in a committee we attended some days ago. These bonds would be of small denominations, perhaps from \$100 up, and an opportunity could be given to hundreds of thousands of Canadians to subscribe to this Canadian-owned project. This would be greatly preferred to the procedure of asking United States interests to come in and build the line, and then reap the profits and have the control of this important public utility.

I am confident if the Canadian government were to undertake such a project it would capture the public imagination and would receive an excellent response from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Mr. Gillis: Not from the Atlantic. That is the pipe line that will scrap our coal mines.

Mr. Herridge: I understand there are some persons in the maritimes who have surplus capital to invest and who, no doubt, would be willing to invest it in this national project. However, I see I am treading on the toes of the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis).

I do think this is a project well within our capacity. We have raised large amounts of money through the sale of Canada savings bonds, and I think it is about time that we started to raise money in Canada for these public projects. This is a good one to start with, a national bond issue for the building of a trans-Canada pipe line. This is an opportunity for the first step in the greater development of Canada and long-term plans to meet unemployment, by Canadians and for Canadians. I think it would be a demonstration of confidence by Canadians in Canada's future.

In the opinion of members of this group this is a natural field for public enterprise, in this case public enterprise supported by the investment of hundreds of thousands of Canadians who I am quite sure would prefer to see this being done in this way than to