

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

That record cannot be contested; it is from Trans-Canada Pipe Lines itself. It shows that Canadians are to be taken for a ride for the benefit of Gardiner Symonds, the Mid-western pipe line company and the Tennessee pipe line company. We are to pay, they are to get and Canada is to guarantee. That to me is the terrible indictment with which this government stands charged; the hiding of information, the concealment of facts and the answering of argument by simply saying "It is a distortion". Facts are not answered by statements such as that, particularly when the person making them has fooled this House of Commons on so many occasions on so many matters.

I have only to recall, Mr. Chairman—even my hon. friends supporting the government cannot have forgotten the incident—that only a few weeks ago the Minister of Trade and Commerce denied that he had ever heard from McMahon, that he had any documents from him, over and over again. Then when finally he found out that one of the other members of the cabinet had a copy or that there was a third copy, he finally said, "Well, I did have correspondence, but that correspondence was private and confidential".

Let us pass on to the next argument about McMahon. They say that McMahon's proposition could not be accepted because it implied the export from Canada of 400 million cubic feet of gas—that is what the original proposition set forth—and that would be too great a proportion, the Minister of Agriculture said, of the amount available for export.

I am going to disagree with that, for the sake of argument, but I ask the Prime Minister to find out from his colleagues—just conduct a little Gallup poll—which of them communicated with the Northern Natural Gas Company in the United States to find out whether they would be prepared to give the same price to McMahon for 200 million cubic feet or 100 million, on the promise that in the future that would be reconsidered. I put it through you, sir, to the Prime Minister, that one of his colleagues did communicate with these people who said, "Yes, we will accept less than the 400 million cubic feet covered by the McMahon proposal, and we will pay 6 or 7 cents more per thousand cubic feet than that favourite of this government, the Midwestern pipe line company, the infant of the Tennessee corporation, under the presidency of Mr. Symonds, a director or executive of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines."

I have three minutes more, and I would have liked to ask quite a number of questions. Before I ask any more, I should like answers to those questions I placed before the

house two weeks ago yesterday, for if we get answers to them we will certainly be in a position to ask further questions based upon those answers. I should like also to ask one additional question. At the time Mr. McMahon engaged in the telephone conversation with the Minister of Trade and Commerce and suddenly out of a blue sky withdrew the offers he had made which were so complete that they even covered the defects of the Trans-Canada proposal, did the minister pronounce a seven year curse on McMahon unless McMahon did withdraw that offer? I want Mr. McMahon brought here. I should like to see him before a committee, and I should like to be able to ask him what happened. What was the conversation between the Minister of Trade and Commerce and Mr. McMahon? Certainly I do not believe the minister would be careful of his language. He certainly has not been too careful in his desire to destroy parliament by the steamroller.

I should like also to ask a number of questions in regard to the proposition that was offered by Northern Natural Gas Company. I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether Gerald Waring was right when he quoted the reason Northern Natural Gas Company had its offer swept aside in July and August of 1955, an offer to pay some 6 or 7 cents more per thousand cubic feet in Minneapolis, the area served by that company. I should like to ask whether on that occasion, as reported by the gentleman I mentioned, on March 6, 1956, the minister said when speaking to Mr. Merriam, the president of Northern Natural Gas Company, as long as he was running the Canadian economy Northern would never get one cubic foot of Canada gas.

Was it because of that statement, which Mr. Waring says the Minister of Trade and Commerce made to Mr. Merriam, the president of Northern Natural Gas Company, that the Canadian people are to be mulcted in this way, the Canadian consumers are to pay more than the United States consumers, and the Canadian producers must thereby suffer?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Mr. Chairman, let me say at the outset that there is no foundation in fact for the last statement made by the hon. member. I had no such correspondence with Mr. Merriam and I had no such conversation with Mr. Merriam. I have not seen Mr. Merriam for at least 12 months.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That was July, 1955.

**Mr. Lennard:** That could have been over the telephone.