

Trans-Canada Pipe Lines

has postponed that estimable end of securing a market for Alberta gas and the making available to other parts of Canada of that necessary form of energy. I ask the Prime Minister today to tell this house why he is so fearful of the facts; why he was afraid to allow the true facts of this nefarious scheme to be elucidated?

I ask why he found it necessary, and the members of his government found it necessary, to muzzle the representatives of the people in advance of anything in the nature of a filibuster or an interference on the part of the opposition with the policy and program of the government. I ask him to explain that today, for certainly the day of silence is past. Are they afraid of the truth over there?

This is the present Prime Minister speaking.

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): Oh that mine enemy would write a book!

Mr. Coldwell: I continue:

Is that why they hide behind the caricature of parliament which they have substituted by the adoption of the parliamentary form of closure in a way that it has never been adopted before?

He called the company a pampered pet of the Liberal party. He accused it of having been devious in its dealings with parliament. He said that in order to put through this nefarious deal, as he called it, they had found it necessary to make a caricature of parliament itself. As for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming), I want to remind him just before he leaves the house—

Mr. Fleming: I will be back.

Mr. Coldwell: That is fine. I want to remind him of what he said on June 5, 1956. Oh, what wonderful quotations one can dig up from the Minister of Finance if one does not mind taking too much time in reading them back to him. He said this:

Well, sir, it seems now we are narrowed down to a choice between two courses, the government's iniquitous proposal to hand over to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited great sums of public money to help them out and public construction of the entire line.

Then, he called it an iniquitous proposal to hand over great sums of public money to help the company and to provide, as recommended, public construction of the line. Now, the Minister of Finance is in an entirely different position. He is no longer sitting on the opposition side. Now he is an important member of the government because, after all, the Minister of Finance is an important colleague of the Prime Minister at all times and I am quite sure that he will agree with me that he is a very important figure in the government of Canada.

Mr. Fleming: No. A very modest one.

Mr. Coldwell: The Minister of Finance is in the position where he himself is proceeding to carry out this iniquitous proposal and is, in effect, handing over great sums of public

money for the construction of the entire line, not one part of it. The present Prime Minister asked the government at the time:

What have you been doing for five long years, playing around with this corporation, with these adventurers from Texas and New York, trading away Canada's resources at the expense of the Canadian people?

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): And they are doing it.

Mr. Coldwell: May I ask the Prime Minister a question? What have he and his government been doing during the past six months since they took office? Have they been playing around with these adventurers from Texas and New York in continuing to finance the pipe line proposal? Let them read the words I quoted of Sir John A. Macdonald, whom they like to think of as the founder of the Conservative party in Canada.

I want to say something else to the Prime Minister. He has the reputation of being a successful court lawyer. I think he deserves that reputation. He has won a number of important cases. When he appeared in a jury trial was he not very careful regarding the personnel of the jury to which the case was to be submitted? He has now appointed what is in effect a jury to report, among other things, on the Trans-Canada pipe line deal. Let us look at some of the gentlemen whom he has appointed to that jury or, as we call it, royal commission.

Let me say immediately that I have no doubt that, like some jurymen I am sure my hon. friend has challenged from time to time, every one of these gentlemen is a man of high personal integrity. I do not propose to attack any of them personally but I think I would fail in my duty if I did not point out that some of their associations would lead me to question their ability to achieve complete neutrality in this matter. The chairman of the commission is Mr. Henry Borden, again a very estimable citizen. Who is Mr. Borden? He is chairman of Brazilian Traction, one of the most powerful privately-owned public utilities in the world. In addition to his great electrical and other interests he is engaged in the distribution of gas in Brazil. On occasion he has expressed himself freely as a believer in private enterprise generally and in the private ownership of public utilities. It would, I submit, be unreasonable to expect a gentleman who has been associated throughout a successful career with the ownership of great private utilities to be entirely impartial in his approach to the Trans-Canada pipe line and other aspects of the development of Canadian energy resources concerning which he will be called upon to express an opinion.