

Boundary Pipeline Corporation

a most unfortunate state of affairs if too many companies obtained the right to carry gas from Alberta, thereby destroying or impoverishing the supply so that all these companies would lose heavily.

An hon. Member: What is the question?

Mr. Blackmore: I am coming to it. It is not in the best interests of the companies themselves for too many companies to get permission to export gas. They would be depleting the source of supply, and eventually they would be losing money.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Will the hon. member permit a question? I am wondering what your question was.

Mr. Blackmore: I was leading up to the question. Is the hon. member aware that it might not be in the interests of the companies themselves, the province of Alberta or the country as a whole if too many companies obtain permission to export gas?

Mr. Stick: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

The Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Trinity-Conception rises on a point of order.

Mr. Stick: May I ask who has the floor, because I cannot listen to two gentlemen at the one time?

The Chairman: I believe the hon. member for Lethbridge has asked his question.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): I understand the hon. member for Lethbridge is asking me if I do not think the Alberta government is considering that it might not be in the interests of the province or the country to have too many applications granted. I do not know whether the hon. member is referring to applications to parliament or applications to the conservation board of Alberta?

Mr. Blackmore: The reference is to the Alberta conservation board. The hon. member has used the word "choosy". I think perhaps "choosy" was not fortunately chosen. "Choosy" would seem to indicate that the board was discriminating, but it is a question of using the resources which are available and not permitting any uneconomic developments until there is an assured supply.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Well, Mr. Chairman, I have read a good deal on this subject during the past week or so; I have followed the proceedings of the committee, and I am aware of the attitude of the Alberta government. It seems to me they are extremely cautious. Certainly the province is prosperous at the present time as a result

of the tremendous flow of capital into it arising out of these discoveries and the subsidiary industries that have been established. They can afford, therefore, to pick and choose between applicants. I am not so sure that the province is considering to any great extent the interests of the particular corporations or companies that are making these applications. I am inclined to believe they are thinking only of the best interests of the province; and indirectly, I suppose that would be the best interests of the country. But certainly I do not suppose they are greatly concerned with the effect upon the fortunes of the company of any refusal they might give.

No; this is a business proposition. The people from the city of Regina who are making this application are lawyers and businessmen who are certainly well aware of the chances they are taking when they ask to have this company incorporated. In the present state of development of the oil and gas business in the province of Alberta, and the probability that it will spread to a considerable extent into the province of Saskatchewan, they feel they would be justified in forming this company. Personally I think they deserve a certain amount of credit. As I said before I am sure the House of Commons, a few years ago, would not have considered turning down a proposition such as this. But now that there are so many other companies in the field the house can be eclectic; that is the word I would use instead of "choosy".

(Translation):

Mr. Poulin: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to speak at any length on the bill now before us. I am sure that hon. members, having heard that preliminary statement, will be glad to know that I intend to be brief.

However, it is fitting that some members from the eastern provinces should make known their views during the discussion on such a bill, because of the great problem which is at stake, namely, the way Canada may dispose of her natural resources.

I know very well, Mr. Chairman, that, in making these remarks, I stand very close to breaking the rule of the committee of the whole on what it is permitted or forbidden to say. For this reason, I wish to revert immediately to the subject matter of the bill.

In short, we have here a group of persons seeking to form a company to dispose of natural resources, in this case oil and gas. According to the request set out in the bill, the use of these resources would be restricted at least as far as Canada is concerned, to