

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

who sent us here, to ask them to dip into their pockets and pull out approximately \$9 per capita—because that is about what it amounts to, \$9 for every man, woman and child in this country—to make a contribution to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines, a private monopoly.

So far as I am concerned personally, Mr. Chairman, even if Trans-Canada Pipe Lines were willing and able to build this pipe line with their own capital and were not dipping into the public treasury at all, I for one would still stand for a publicly owned pipe line system because I do not believe it is wise or prudent, and I do not believe we have the right to harness the people of Canada with a private monopoly and put it in the position of being able to squeeze our municipalities and consumers for the next century.

Let us not forget we are not building this pipe line for tomorrow or next year or for the next five years. It is something that is going to be here for perhaps 100 years or more. We hope this is true so far as this country is concerned because it is an important step. I for one would not be satisfied even if Trans-Canada could build this pipe line with their own money, because I do not believe it is a wise thing to grant a monopoly to a private company to operate a public utility. But the situation is infinitely worse then that because the government is asking us to go to our taxpayers and ask them to contribute \$9 apiece for every man, woman and child in order to help a private company to set up a private monopoly in this country, and they wonder why the opposition has reacted so violently to this measure which they brought into the house. What would our taxpayers say? For example, in my constituency there are approximately 50,000 people. I would have to go to them and say, "I am asking you to donate \$450,000 to the government so they can hand it over to a private company to build a gas line which will give them a private monopoly across this country." What would the response be?

Mr. Hansell: They are not handing it over; do not be silly.

Mr. Zaplitny: I shall come to my Social Credit friends in a moment. The stand this party has taken is the only logical stand any party could have taken if it had any respect for the public interest or the consumers of this country. I do not think it will be long before the people of Canada will feel they are thankful that there was at least one group in this house which in spite of the combined opposition made up of the huge Liberal majority and their Social Credit allies stood up in this house and fought for a principle which is in the public interest.

[Mr. Zaplitny.]

I have heard my friends to the left chipping in once in a while and I think I should devote a few minutes of my time for their benefit. The hon. member for Macleod made a speech yesterday in which he made a number of statements. I regret that I have to deal with them because some of our friends to the left who speak in this house occasionally speak with sense. The kind of speech the hon. member made yesterday did no credit to himself or to his party. What was his theme? His theme was that anyone who is opposed to the measure brought in by the government is following the communist line.

Mr. Hansell: Hear, hear.

Mr. Zaplitny: The hon. member says, "Hear, hear", which confirms it.

Mr. Hansell: Yes, sir.

Mr. Zaplitny: I am glad to have the hon. member's confirmation. Let me ask the hon. member for Macleod this question: Would he be in favour of a publicly-owned gas pipe line across Canada?

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Zaplitny: The hon. member for Macleod does not reply, but an hon. member of his party with less experience says, "No." If we follow his own definition, his own logic, we must assume that if he is not in favour of a publicly-owned pipe line then he is following the communist line.

An hon. Member: Perfectly ridiculous.

Mr. Zaplitny: Let me quote his own words. He said that he believed that we were following the communist line, first because there is not a communist in this country who wants this pipe line. We are proposing that the pipe line be publicly built. The member of the Social Credit party says that he does not want it, so according to his own definition he is following the communist line. Let him say something in reply to that.

I have an article which appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* of today in which it states that a United Church in downtown Toronto held a meeting and agreed to send a petition to the Governor General asking that he dissolve this house and call for an election. The article sets out the terms of the petition and it ends with these words:

We are sending this petition because we feel our democratic rights as Canadians are being misused.

They were strenuously opposed to the government measure dealing with this pipe line. That was the United Church of Canada in Toronto. Does the hon. member for Macleod claim that—