

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

This is a necessary project. It is said we could put it off for another year, but these projects if long delayed fall to pieces. I became interested in this project directly a little over two years ago, two years and one month exactly. Hon. members talk about five years, but I did not have anything to do with this project five years ago or four years ago or three years ago. I became interested when Premier Manning came to Ottawa and asked the assistance of this government in marketing Alberta natural gas.

Those two years have been well spent. I think the progress that has been made by the company in working out its engineering, in acquiring rights of way, in acquiring production contracts and in signing up markets has been such as could reasonably be expected to take two years. But the project has come to the point where we may say, "True, you have signed up all the gas, and you have arranged sales contracts for more than half the capacity of the pipe line, but just hold another year and probably things will work out all right." When these things reach that point they do not hold through another year. These purchase contracts in Alberta are not going to hold for another year. The sales contracts are not going to hold another year, because people have to make up their minds about the kind of fuel that will be available to them.

It seems to me that the greatest possible compulsion is placed on everyone connected with this project to get the construction started this year. I am hopeful that this bill will pass in due time and the project get under way. I still believe that if this is my last project, it is still a project with which my children will be rather proud that their father had a hand in getting it going.

Mr. Rowe: Mr. Chairman, I listened with interest, as I know every other hon. member did, to the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce. His last notes were most touching. I hope his children are never ashamed of him, as I hope my children will never be ashamed of me. I hope this will not turn out to be the flop which the minister seemed to indicate he almost thinks it might. It does amuse me to hear one who has had such long experience in parliament tell us that his judgment has never been in error in building these great things in the past, and that he is building a monument now of which his little children will be very proud in the years ahead.

I have also been in politics a long time. You know, some men are born to greatness, some men achieve greatness, and some men, like the minister of immigration who laughs at everything, have greatness thrust upon

them, but still when they get up they hardly know whether they are going or coming. In the house you would wonder what is on. You hear a snigger here and snigger there, and you look around and you find it is the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

As I have said, almost since I was old enough to vote I have had experience in municipal, provincial and dominion politics. One of the first things I learned in the county council was to respect parliamentary procedure. Never in all those years have I witnessed what I have witnessed in the past two weeks. Never did I dream in the wildest stretch of my imagination that I would ever sit in any parliament that would disregard British parliamentary principles as they have been disregarded here.

This government, led by the man who never makes a mistake, by the man whose children and grandchildren are going to be proud of him, is going to create a crown corporation to construct this pipe line across northern Ontario. Yet they tell us how much they love private ownership. That man comes into the house and tells us that this is the most important project that has been brought into this house in the last quarter century. In one hand he holds the resolution and in the other he shoves out closure, almost ahead of the resolution. It would shock the most modest county council and disgust the smallest legislature in Canada, let alone the parliament of them all. This is the most shocking treatment we have ever seen.

The Prime Minister, who is as much concerned with his nephews and grandchildren as the Minister of Trade and Commerce, sits in sanctimonious silence and says it is all right as long as he sees a strong majority but he says, "We dare not go to the country now, for we may not come back like this." The Minister of Trade and Commerce gives us the resolution with one hand, but he puts on closure with the other. The Prime Minister says, with quiet, grandfatherly affection, "You can speak now for the rest of the week; and you know I will not stop you from voting."

Mr. Sinclair: That is what parliament is for.

Mr. Rowe: The Minister of Fisheries thinks that is very generous. We have seen closure after closure, for the sake of closure alone. The greatest project to be considered by this house has been brought here in a cloak of secrecy. At no other time in our history has any project been so deliberately hidden from the consideration of the House of Commons as this particular project. In haste and fear this important question has been rushed into the house and then hidden by this carefully