

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

they any intention of doing it? We have a right to ask for that information and we have a right to get an answer. Subsection 5 reads:

(5) The aggregate, outstanding at any time, of the amounts advanced by the Minister of Finance to the corporation under this section together with the loans made by the Minister of Finance to the corporation under section 6 shall not exceed one hundred and thirty million dollars.

I am not too familiar with this as I have not had a chance to ask sufficient questions and get answers, but it has been my impression that the provincial government was going to put up \$35 million. I do not know whether that is part of the \$130 million, and I would like to get some further details on that. I have other questions to ask. Why not give us a reasonable time to consider this bill in committee?

We have many more questions. I have another one as to the urgency of this. We have been waiting for five years without one step being taken. On last March 15 the first resolution appeared on the order paper; the first day of debate. It never appeared again. Finally, some months later, we got into the second resolution, which by the way incorporated an entirely different proposition from the first one. Just as a common sense question, why this company and no other? I am not saying there is any other that can do it, but I should like to be told why this company only? Why 90 per cent of the loan to Trans-Canada to build the west coast section? Why not 80 per cent? Why not 100 per cent? We have a right to ask those questions. Why next March 31 as the deadline? Why not February 28 or April 30? We should have some answers to these questions.

Why has not the whole cabinet known what is going on, instead of only the Minister of Trade and Commerce? Can Trans-Canada get another mortgage if the crown corporation permits it? I think it can, as I read the bill. We are entitled to know if it can, and under what conditions it can, why it might need it and that sort of thing. What proportion of membership on the board of directors in this crown corporation will be appointed by the Dominion of Canada and by the province of Ontario? I do not know, and I do not think anybody else does. I think we are entitled to know.

I should like to say one word about that hatchet man from Charlotte. He reminded me very much of the daring young man on the flying trapeze. He skipped all over the lot, but mentioned not a thing about the pipe line. He was talking about wheat, the B.N.A. Act, Canadian early history, and in fact everything, including a dastardly attack on the hon. member for Eglinton.

Very briefly, the evidence of 1951 when Trans-Canada was set up indicated that this was to be an all-Canadian route. It was to be an all-Canadian project. It was to the effect that adequate markets in eastern Canada would consume all the gas that could be produced and moved through the line. That evidence was given. Engineering presented no great difficulty whatsoever. Finance, independent of government assistance, was no trouble at all. That evidence was given by Mr. Shultz on pages 9 and 10 of the proceedings of the committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines in that year. In 1954 evidence to the same effect was given in the committee, at pages 45 and 46.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Brown, Essex West): I regret to inform the hon. member that his time has expired.

Mr. Michener: I wonder if the minister would permit a question?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Brown, Essex West): Order. The minister has not been making a speech.

Mr. Hanna: In spite of the heat that has been generated in this house during the past few days, the fact still remains that Ontario needs Alberta's natural gas. The province of Manitoba badly needs Alberta's natural gas, and there is every indication that before very long Alberta's natural gas will be needed for the fast-expanding industries of the province of Quebec.

It has been established in the debate so far that there is available for immediate export a very large quantity of the world's cheapest and most usable fuel in the province of Alberta. It has also been established, I believe beyond question, that the absence of an export market for Alberta's surplus gas is very seriously hampering the development of oil and gas in that province. I am convinced that what hampers the development of the great province of Alberta also hampers the development of Canada as a whole.

I would like to congratulate the opposition for finally permitting this house to get down to discussion of the pipe-line bill. This bill has been before this house now for three weeks, and I can say that one of the biggest tasks of the government has been trying to get the opposition into a corner so the terms of the bill could be discussed. In this connection I should like to quote briefly from an editorial that appeared in the *Edmonton Journal* of May 25, a week ago today. It says:

No doubt this is legitimate parliamentary tactics for an opposition determined to block the passage of a measure. It is equally legitimate, however, for a government to counter by invoking the closure rule so as to bring the issue to a vote. That is what the closure is for.