

this one that provides millions of dollars as a handout to foreign capitalists.

The minister responsible for this is the very one who, during his career, has been ignorant of parliamentary history, impatient with parliamentary procedures and disdainful of the customs and usages of the House of Commons. He is the one who last year attempted to usurp full power and was checked by a vigilant opposition. This year he is determined to have his way and to use the forms of parliament in order to destroy the substance of our liberty. This is a black day in the history of the Canadian nation. All of this is being done on the plea of urgency, which is a specious plea.

We have been told that the pipe line must be started by July 1 if it is to be built this year, and that Trans-Canada company must have the handout of taxpayers' millions by June 7. After five years of bungling delays everything has to be decided by parliament in twice five days. This is coercion. The argument of urgency to pass this legislation is misleading. The pipe line could be started this week if the company had any initiative and was prepared to substitute deeds for words. There is no need for such an arrangement as an agreement that this legislation must be passed by June 7 before the company will undertake its part of the contract. It is misleading to suggest that if this legislation is not forced through the house by June 7 the company cannot proceed.

Apparently the company requires a loan of about \$80 million. The work will take an estimated four months, and that is an average of about \$20 million per month. In all likelihood the first month would be used in preliminary activities for which perhaps much less than \$20 million would be required. The precious pipe, cornered by the Tennessee gas company, is worth \$30 million. It cannot be put into the ground all at once. The option to purchase it runs until well into the fall and payment is required only on delivery. The company is reported to have \$8 million in cash on hand. There is nothing to prevent the company from starting immediately. Certainly, it is right to press on with the construction of the gas pipe line this year, but to do that it is not necessary to mislead parliament or the people of Canada. It is not necessary to confuse the issue or to bypass normal parliamentary methods.

Why such a sudden concern on the part of this government for the people of Manitoba? Where was the concern last year or at any time within the last five years? They are now concerned that gas shall be provided for Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and they are anxious that Winnipeg shall have it this year.

#### *Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

So are all of us who live in Manitoba, but Manitoba has been sold down the river by this government. In 1951 a charter was granted to a Canadian company to build a gas pipe line to Winnipeg. Had the Minister of Trade and Commerce not interfered, Alberta gas would have been delivered to Manitoba three years ago.

**An hon. Member:** Have they an export permit?

**Mr. Churchill:** Manitoba now has had to wait and apparently it will have to continue to wait. In addition to that it must pay a subsidy through taxation to get gas and to bail out the Minister of Trade and Commerce and assist his American friends. The urgency is not so much the desire of this government to get the Alberta gas to market nor is it a matter of getting gas to Manitoba this year. The real urgency has been summed up extremely well by Blair Fraser in an article published in a recent issue of *Maclean's* magazine, and I give you his words:

They are determined that they will not enter an election campaign next year still carrying an inactive American-owned pipe-line company on the back of their necks.

The American masters of the Minister of Trade and Commerce do not understand our parliamentary system and the minister cannot explain it to them because he does not understand it himself. They do not trust him—

**Mr. Garson:** We do.

**Mr. Churchill:**—hence the agreement that the commencement of the work depends upon the passing of this legislation and hence this muzzling of parliament. Some of the minister's American masters perhaps may think Canada is still being ruled by Great Britain—

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Mr. Chairman, on a question of personal privilege, I have no American masters and I suggest the hon. gentleman withdraw.

**Mr. Churchill:** I will withdraw that and substitute masterful American friends.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Well, once a louse always a louse.

**Mr. Fleming:** You ought to know.

**Mr. Churchill:** It is time they learned the facts of life. Perhaps they think that the House of Commons is like their House of Representatives or that our Senate is as powerful as theirs. Some of them may think the proposals of our government run the danger of being rejected by parliament. Perhaps they think that somewhere in the background is the power of veto.