

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

the Bindloss field is among those committed by the board to Trans-Canada. Bailey-Selburn and other owners of gas in that field must, if they wish to market their reserves at all, enter into a contract with Trans-Canada. This company, of which I am a director, is now therefore in process of negotiating such a sales contract.

Under ordinary circumstances—and those surrounding the questioning of my right to vote in this house are not normal circumstances—there are certain matters I shall now briefly refer to that are rightly and properly the private concern of the individual and not matters for public revelation or discussion. Under these most unusual circumstances, where my integrity and honour have been publicly challenged, an adequate defence dictates that my personal affairs to some extent become public property.

I am prepared to prove to the appropriate committee of this house that my interests as a Canadian taxpayer would somewhat outweigh my interests as a participant in gas reserves, in my judgment and votes on the northern Ontario pipe-line measure. My income tax payments—including those of my wholly-owned company, C. O. Nickle Publications Ltd.—have amounted to \$99,010 during the first four years and four months I have been a member of this house, and will possibly not be inconsiderable in the future.

I am prepared to prove that I have, from personal choice, followed a policy since I was first elected to the House of Commons designed to guarantee that I could derive no personal financial gain from attendance in the house, or from parliamentary decisions in which I might take some active part. This has partly involved meeting the costs of having my business enterprise run for me by others in order that I might attend sessions in Ottawa, and the added out of pocket costs of being in attendance here. These costs have been considerable.

This policy, and a normal human interest in the well-being of others less fortunate, has also involved my making donations and grants to charitable and educational causes, with particular emphasis on assistance to youth, in my home province of Alberta and community of Calgary. These have amounted to \$123,509. The authority for these figures on taxes and gifts is Harvey, Morrison and Company, chartered accountants of Calgary, who audit my books.

I trust no member of this house will judge that I am trying to assume a role as a paragon of virtue. I am very far from being that. I am a capitalist, Mr. Chairman, and I see no reason to be ashamed of that label.

[Mr. Nickle.]

Like other members of Canada's parliament, I do have a sense of public responsibility and a social conscience, together with a strong faith in the future of our country and its people, and a desire to help realize that future. In this parliament, and in the years ahead when I am a private citizen again, a clean reputation is important to me and to the objectives I still have in life. I trust that the house, after its careful appraisal of all the facts in the rather distressing case involving my honour, will help restore something that I value more than money.

Meantime, Mr. Chairman, for the reasons I advanced in this house on May 15 and May 18—and for those reasons only—I again voice my support for this government measure. On the remaining occasions when votes are registered on this measure, I intend to cast my vote for it. I trust there will be no further challenge of that right to vote.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Chairman, I must admit to having been extremely interested in the words which have just been spoken by the hon. member for Calgary South. I must also admit to having had a great deal of sympathy for the hon. member because of the position in which he found himself, where interests undoubtedly conflicted with interests.

I have only this to say. The hon. member has made quite a point of the amount of income tax he has paid and his charitable donations. All of us, Mr. Chairman, pay income tax according to our income, and it hurts the least of us as much as it hurts the richest of us. With respect to charitable donations also, if we have a public conscience, as I think most of us have, they are likely made in proportion to the amount of revenue we earn. I must say, Mr. Chairman, in behalf of myself and my colleagues, that the hon. member might have accorded us the courtesy of admitting that the rest of us are in precisely the same position.

This has been a difficult debate, Mr. Chairman, what there has been of it. Those of us who have fought, probably not in the debate itself because there has been too little of that, with the only means at our disposal have been fortified by the interest that has been taken in that fight as shown by the letters and telegrams which have come to us from our constituents and from others across this country. It is largely because of the interest which has been shown in this measure, not only, I might say, in the measure but in the incidents which have taken place in this house, that I feel it would be difficult for any of us to convince even our most well-meaning constituents that what has taken place here today could actually have happened. *Hansard* will not show it.