

There is one point I wanted to raise before the supper adjournment regarding a few comments that were made by some of my friends in the Conservative party about letting the free enterprise system operate in this project, letting the independent corporations compete and letting the chips fall where they will, in the hope that Canadian corporations will get a great deal of the work and the contracts. However, I did not hear any member of the Conservative party—I may be wrong—mention the fact that when Canadian corporations, great or small, find themselves in financial difficulties, it may not be their own fault. In fact, in many cases in the last two or three years it has been the fault of the government.

When they find themselves in financial difficulty, Mr. Speaker, where do they go? They may go to their bank or they may go to their shareholders and stockholders; but ultimately if they are in trouble they come to the government, whether it is the federal, provincial or municipal government. They come to the public purse and say: "Unless we can get some financial assistance from the various federal or provincial programs, we will go broke, we will go into receivership".

I am not personally opposed to this. If a company is potentially economically viable but is running into hard times within a few months or perhaps a year and a half, in such cases I think it is the duty of the country to assist that corporation. But what I dislike about what I have heard from some members of the House in both the Conservative and the Liberal parties is that one would think that the only people who come running to a government agency, whether it is for welfare, unemployment insurance or the Industrial Development Bank, are the down and outs, people who have been laid off or who are on welfare. I want to state now for the record that personally I am not opposed to government hand-outs to business which will assist the business to remain viable; but I am opposed to hearing only one side of the story, which is what happens very often in the House.

● (2012)

A few years ago this party coined the phrase "corporate welfare bum", and I know it hurt a lot of people. I do not want to refer to the corporate sector or to any individual as a corporate individual bum. I just want to point out that when corporations or individuals find themselves in trouble these days, they go to government. As members of parliament we know that, because they come to us for assistance.

Earlier this afternoon I spoke of the social problems that will affect people living in the Yukon. I do not profess to be a specialist in the social environment of the Yukon but I have read something about it and I have been there. When I was in my teens I saw what happened at Elliot Lake, Blind River, Spragge and Cutler and other places in northern Ontario during the uranium boom. I also saw what happened after the boom when the economy dropped to nothing. During the boom hucksters and hustlers came in, made a fast buck and the cost of living went up. That is one thing that I hope will not happen to native born Yukoners and people from southern Canada who have made their homes there.

Northern Pipeline

This bill should provide for some kind of agency not only to monitor the cost of the pipeline but to monitor the cost of living and social effects of the pipeline on the Yukon. I sincerely hope we will also go a lot further in settling land claims before the pipeline gets under way.

We have heard a great deal about the financing of the pipeline. Members on both sides of the House agree that this is an important matter and that we should get on with it. But I emphasize that we must be cautious. We must not march into what could be a huge, horrendous undertaking without certain guarantees for the Canadian people. I am not talking now in terms of narrow nationalism. I suppose the fashionable word today is nationhood, or love of nationhood, as propounded by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). Love of nationhood refers not only to Quebec but to Ontario, the maritimes and certainly the Yukon. We must make sure that the people of the Yukon understand they are an integral part of this country and that people from southern Canada are not going north to exploit them, to rip the shirts off their backs, whether they be native born Inuit or others living there.

We must make it plain that we are there for two reasons: first, to develop a gas pipeline to deliver United States gas to that country through Canada. The second reason is that eventually, perhaps 10 or 20 years hence, the pipeline might benefit Canada even though we have an abundance of natural gas at the present time. In my riding consumers complain that their natural gas costs have been mounting in the last two or three years. I do not think that even the economists can understand that unless it is because of the cost of delivery via the TransCanada pipeline.

When we talk of a pipeline, Mr. Speaker, we talk of development, development which will affect most Canadians. I hope it will provide needed jobs and an opportunity for investment in our country for those people who have the money. Unfortunately, the vast majority of Canadians do not have the money to invest. For that I blame this government which has been in power since 1963. That is the main reason that the majority of Canadians do not have money to invest. Members of the government can talk all they like about being proud of this country, investing in this country and all the rest, but people just do not have the money to invest in a pipeline.

The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton) made an excellent speech in the House last evening. It was a business oriented speech. I stand to be corrected but, in effect, he said: "My speech is based on making money." He did not mean making money himself, of course. He went into all the arguments of how a pipeline could be financed. He spoke of the average Canadian taking pride in developing this great undertaking. If my memory serves me correctly, one thing he omitted to mention, however, was that probably 80 per cent or 90 per cent of Canadians will never have the opportunity to contribute financially to the pipeline and get a decent return on their investment. It will be left to a few people, groups of people, consortiums or organizations, to make money if there is money to be made. And I am quite