

still owed an explanation by the Prime Minister with regard to that statement, which was incorrect and which deserves an explanation in the house.

**An hon. Member:** It was private and confidential.

**Mr. Drew:** Later it turned out that in addition to personal discussion of the subject on different occasions, not just on March 27, Mr. McMahan had written to the Minister of Trade and Commerce on April 4, on April 16 and on April 24, making the most positive proposals.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Some hon. Members:** Ask Frost.

**Mr. Drew:** May I suggest to some of the hon. members that they get a copy of the correspondence and read it so they may find how positive these proposals were. May I remind them also, as I have on earlier occasions, that the man we are discussing is the only Canadian who has yet organized and financed a gas pipe line in Canada, and he has done so successfully. May I also point out that his undertaking was sufficiently positive that he gave an unqualified undertaking to post a \$500,000 personal bond for the fulfilment of that undertaking.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Drew:** I hear laughter.

**An hon. Member:** He withdrew after that.

**Mr. Drew:** The Prime Minister suggested that this was not such a very large sum in relation to such a big venture. It was just exactly \$500,000 more than anyone connected with Trans-Canada Pipe Lines has pledged in connection with the line.

**An hon. Member:** That is not correct.

**Mr. Dickey:** They are pledging \$15 million.

**Mr. Rowe:** What's a million to your crowd anyway?

**An hon. Member:** Here comes "what's a million" Howe.

**Mr. Drew:** The nature of the communications makes it perfectly clear that they were not private and confidential, no matter what appeared on the letters.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**An hon. Member:** That is the way you treat it.

**An hon. Member:** It would not be to you.

**Mr. Drew:** I hear the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who has just returned, say "It would not be to you".

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I did not say anything of the kind.

**Mr. Drew:** I am told it was one of his supporters who made the statement. It was one of the parliamentary assistants who made it. The fact is that these were not private and confidential. No writing of "private and confidential" on them could make proposals to a member of the government anything but public proposals, and no one knows that better than the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In any event, if he felt himself under any such limitation his duty then was to do what he did on May 3 and ask for the withdrawal of any limitation. He knew he could get it. He got it very quickly on May 3.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I received lots of withdrawals.

**Mr. Drew:** Oh, yes, the minister got a lot more than a withdrawal. He got Mr. McMahan out of the way as well.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Drew:** It was the duty of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, if he felt he was under any limitation, to communicate with Mr. McMahan, who had demonstrated his ability in this field, and tell him that these were communications to a government. Of course, as far as that is concerned, they had not been kept private and confidential. The minister had officials of his department in on the discussions. This matter had not been private and confidential. It was in the press.

**An hon. Member:** You had a copy?

**Mr. Drew:** It was being discussed by everyone except the Prime Minister, who did not know about it. This was public knowledge. It is certain that at any time the minister could have had that undertaking removed, just as he so successfully did on May 3.

But there is a good deal more to this than the contempt of parliament displayed by the reply of the Minister of Trade and Commerce which was so contrary to the truth. At the very time these discussions were taking place and the Minister of Trade and Commerce was receiving positive proposals, the government was considering the fact that Trans-Canada Pipe Lines was not going to be in a position to carry out its undertaking. Surely that was a time when the Prime Minister should have been informed that a man who had had some experience in financing pipe lines was asking for the opportunity to take some part in this venture, at a time when they were discussing new arrangements. That was the very time he should have known. Yet we have the strange situation that although the government were meeting