

Pipe Lines

The Minister of Trade and Commerce indicated very clearly that under certain circumstances it might be essential to take this over as a public undertaking. If we are going to finance, through the province of Ontario and through this parliament of Canada, some 95 or 96 per cent of the cost of this undertaking at the present time, why not do it as a completely public undertaking? Why not go back to the original proposal of the premier of Ontario that the government of Canada and the governments of the provinces concerned should together build this pipe line, and that each province should distribute the gas under an organization which it cares to set up?

In Ontario we have the power commission of this province, of which every Ontario member of parliament or of the legislature is very proud indeed, distributing electric power. In my province of Saskatchewan we have a similar power commission distributing electric power, and the province of Saskatchewan already has taken up the option granted by the Manyberries field owners of gas in Alberta and of gas within the province of Saskatchewan, so they are going to build their own pipe line and distribute gas in that province to their own people under their own authority, the provincial power commission. So I say to my hon. friends that we have in Manitoba, in Saskatchewan and in Ontario the machinery ready to distribute the gas.

My hon. friends on the other side of the house say this government does not wish to be involved in negotiations with various municipalities, and with various cities and towns in the distribution of gas. The federal government does not have to be involved in that respect. Already the machinery has been set up in several of our provinces. Instead of providing the finances for United States corporations controlling 83.5 per cent of this particular project, why not do this as a Canadian undertaking, under Canadian auspices, with Canadian ownership, with Canadian guidance, and serve the Canadian people without building enormous profits for private United States economic buccaneers?

Mr. Victor Quelch (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that the members of this group are glad the decision has finally been made to make an immediate start on the western leg of the pipe line. We reserve any further comments until such time as the measure comes before the house.

[Mr. Coldwell.]

INQUIRY FOR RETURN**HAMILTON AND DISTRICT TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL**

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough (Hamilton West): May I address a question to the Postmaster General? Can the Postmaster General tell me when the motion that was adopted as an order for the production of papers on April 16 will be tabled? That was No. 58.

Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Postmaster General): I shall look into the matter. I thought it had been tabled. I know it was prepared.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**RAILWAYS AND NON-OPERATING UNIONS—REPORTED BREAKDOWN OF MEETING OF MAY 8**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the breakdown of this morning's discussions between the railway companies and the union representatives, will the government hold a conference with the railway companies so as to impress upon them the desirability of accepting the majority report of the conciliation board?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have been advised that the meeting in Montreal this morning was discontinued. I have also been informed that I shall be hearing from the two parties concerned later. Until then I have no comment to make.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister supplementary to the question I asked of the Minister of Labour. In view of the compulsion imposed upon railway workers in 1950 and threatened by the government once or twice since, just what attitude does the government take toward the railway companies in the light of their refusal to go along with the report of the conciliation board? Does responsibility not now rest with the government itself?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): The responsibility does not rest with the government itself, legally or technically, but the government does feel that this parliament has a responsibility to the Canadian people in respect of the operation of transportation services.

Mr. Knowles: Will the Prime Minister look into the desirability of impressing upon the railways the importance of accepting the report of the conciliation board?