

Alberta Natural Gas Company

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): Who said "stupid"?

Mr. Cruickshank: If you want me to say so, I will say so.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): Nobody said it.

Mr. Cruickshank: Mr. Chairman, I have already said one thing. The Westcoast Transmission Company have withdrawn their application before the board of transport commissioners for a United States route. I am authorized to say further, Mr. Chairman, and I particularly want a couple of my junior friends from the province of British Columbia to listen to this with interest—

Mr. Thatcher: Capilano.

Mr. Cruickshank: The Westcoast Transmission Company have a charter, and of course these charters are valuable, or why would they invest hundreds of millions of dollars, if they were not? I am authorized to say, Mr. Chairman, that the Westcoast Transmission Company have absolutely no objection to having it inserted that they will build an all-Canadian route if the other two companies have the same proviso inserted in their charter.

Mr. Campney: Mr. Chairman, I had not intended until last evening to participate in any of the debates with respect to the bill to incorporate the Alberta Natural Gas Company, for reasons which I will mention in a few minutes. I rise now to take exception to what I regard as entirely unwarranted and unjustified insinuations and innuendoes contained in the speech of the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra. Referring to me in his remarks in the debate on this bill in the committee last night—

Mr. Hodgson: May I ask the hon. member a question? Are you still the lawyer representing this company?

Mr. Campney: I am representing myself and I will indicate that in a few minutes. Referring to me, the hon. member said that when the original petition for incorporation was presented at the final session of the last parliament I was one of the applicants for incorporation. That is correct. On this fact, and on the fact that I was present at times at the meetings of the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines, as were many other hon. members of this house, and as was entirely my right as it was the right of every other hon. member of this house, he said that my position was open to question and implied that in some

way or other I had not taken the proper attitude as a member of this house on the consideration of this question.

I resent very much the aspersions on my conduct in this house which the insinuations and innuendoes to which I have referred clearly allege, and I want to state briefly the facts with respect to my own position.

These are the facts. Almost three years ago the sponsors of this company came to me as a solicitor and asked me or my firm to secure for them a Canadian incorporation to build a pipe line. At that stage the incorporation was obtainable, as was any other incorporation, from the Department of the Secretary of State under letters patent. We proceeded with that incorporation; but before it was completed parliament had passed the Pipe Lines Act which made a statutory incorporation necessary before a company could engage in the construction or operation of a pipe line. We thereupon abandoned the proceedings to incorporate under the Companies Act and launched a petition to parliament, and on that petition my name appears as an applicant, in accordance with what I think is generally recognized as a common practice in solicitor firms. Purely as a matter of convenience, I was a formal petitioner for the purpose of incorporation.

That petition, for reasons which in themselves are very interesting but probably not relevant to this debate, failed. That was in April, 1949.

In June of that year I was elected to parliament. I may say that during that election the same sort of attack by radio, by press and on the platform, as we have witnessed in connection with this bill, was directed against me.

Mr. Green: Not by me.

Mr. Campney: I was the subject of vicious and unfair attack on the part of my opponents in that election simply because I had been the petitioner as a solicitor for this particular company, and had acted as a solicitor in the usual way. Well, I won that election, by almost 4,000 votes.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Campney: The Progressive Conservative candidate and the C.C.F. candidate, the then sitting member, very nearly lost their deposits in each case. Therefore this line from the hon. member from Vancouver-Quadra is not new.

Mr. Green: I did not attack you in the election.

Mr. Campney: It is old stuff, like so much, shall I say, of his contributions to *Hansard*.