

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

consumer is going to pay. No one knows anything at all, and yet the government want us, the people of Canada, to put money into a thing like this. I would not touch it with a 10 foot pole. With the small number of contracts secured we do not know how long it is going to be before we are able to get the cost out of it, and no one seems to know. That is the funny part about it. No one seems to know what is going to happen. Of course the people of Canada are not going to get a chance to vote on it.

My thought about the matter is just this. If the line cannot be financed by Canadian private enterprise then let the government construct it part by part on a good sound business basis. That is the way it should be done. Why not go directly from A to B, leave out the United States millionaire and do it, as I said, on a sound business basis? Why does this pipe line have to be started today and started in such a haphazard way? Who is yelling for gas in Canada right now? What industry?

An hon. Member: Premier Frost.

Mr. Rea: You have not read what he has said. He says that they do not need any gas until 1963. We all know who are doing the yelling for gas and who are short of gas. It is the people south of the border. There is no question about that. Murchison and Company do not give a darn about Canada. All they are concerned about is making money out of selling gas. If we have a surplus of gas, by all means sell it to our neighbours but let us not sell it on a long-term contract with low prices because they are going to need that gas very badly in a few years' time.

To me as an ordinary businessman this whole bill smells bad. It smells of poor security. It smells of sudden and unexplained waste. It smells of mystery and intrigue. It also smells of expensive perfume on the hands of millionaires reaching out to grab money from the little Canadian taxpayer.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Fulton: Here is St. James street.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Chairman, it sounds rather strange in this end of the chamber to hear a member from one of the Toronto constituencies rise in his seat as a member of one of the great parties of Canada, the Conservative party, and heap abuse upon these men who, whether with white collars or by their hands, have made some wealth in his country. I do not stand, Mr. Chairman, as other than one member among 264 other members in this House of Commons, and if I may have the indulgence of the house for a few minutes I should like to speak briefly. I

shall be brief because so far as I am concerned, as I said in the first speech I made after entering this house as a new member, I do not need closure to keep me within a 20 minute time limit. I think that on most issues most of us who try to bring a note of seriousness to the matters that are brought before this, the great forum of Canada, should, except for the leaders of each of the parties, be prepared to discuss these matters within a period of not more than 20 minutes, and that I propose to do now.

First of all, if I heard the Leader of the Opposition correctly earlier this session and if I have read *Hansard* right, I understood him to say, and on this I think we are all in common agreement, that the pipe line should be built within Canada and that it should be controlled within Canada. Second, my understanding of all that I have heard, and I have listened diligently all through this debate, is that the line should be built as soon as possible. There may be some disagreement among us as reasonable men as to the proper time for the building of a great national undertaking. I suppose that all those who enter public life, and I am only a novice at it, acquire a certain amount of partisanship sooner or later and it stays with some more fully than others, but I suppose that in the area of party politics there may be reasonable disagreement between us as common-sense reasonable people as to when that time should be.

Members of the opposition have said to the ministers on the front benches, and rightly so, I submit, that the line should be built now, and that is the opinion of the cabinet at least. Members of the opposition have said: Let us put this matter before a committee. I submit that it has been before a committee. First of all, it has been before a committee of this very house, the cabinet. I am not one to say that the members of the cabinet are infallible, not at all. I stand here not necessarily as the member for St. Lawrence-St. George but, as I read the books, as a member of the whole Canadian parliament from east to west and from the north to the border. What does that mean to me as one member? It means, whether I sit on this side of the house or on the other, that I have to make certain assumptions.

One assumption that has to be made by every hon. member of this house, I submit with great respect, is that those members on the treasury benches tonight, those who have occupied the front benches since 1867, have had as much loyalty to this country and to the people at large, have had by and large as much information and have had as much integrity as any other 20 members among any of the 264 members of this house.