

Natural Resources—Development

that is, for some years to come. However, the development of the lead and zinc resources at Pine Point, where I understand the owners or part-owners, at least—the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company—are ready to take out about 800 tons of concentrates daily, would prolong the life of this great mine at Kimberley, thereby protecting the investment and interests of a large number of my constituents. As I say, the matter has been introduced in this debate, and for that reason I am mentioning it.

The hon. member for Peace River said that the two great railway companies have lost their pioneering spirit, and then he went on immediately to discuss the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, which is, of course, another railroad. But immediately, he asked the federal government to come to the rescue and build the railroad to the far north. Where is their pioneering spirit? I am one who has continually petitioned the government to give further assistance to the P.G.E. It is a great provincial railroad, and it will work in the best interests of the province, but when we present these arguments we should keep our consistency relatively stable.

The speech to which I listened with greatest concern yesterday was that of the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green), who seeks to prove by his misconception of the facts that there is a large body of members on this side of the house who are prepared to give all our natural resources to the Americans and be content to sit back and play second fiddle. In my opinion he has misrepresented the facts regarding the entire natural gas development in Canada beginning with my early days in the house in 1949. Last evening the hon. member had this to say respecting the development of natural gas in British Columbia.

Mr. Green: What page?

Mr. Byrne: Page 1171 of *Hansard* for February 11, near the bottom of the page on the right-hand side. He said:

First of all there is natural gas. We have heard a lot about natural gas in this chamber in the last eight years.

No truer words were ever spoken.

Mr. Green: We are hearing a lot right now.

Mr. Byrne: The hon. member went on to attempt to prove that and referred to the fact that some members on this side of the house, including me, were prepared and willing to grant a charter to a natural gas transmission company which was willing to build a pipe line through southern British Columbia along the border either entirely on the Canadian side or with a section in the United States,

[Mr. Byrne.]

having attempted to prove that we were prepared to give away our birthright because we were willing to grant the charter, the hon. member went on to say:

We would get Canadian gas after the people of the United States had had all they wanted, if there was any left.

If that is not direct misrepresentation of what the actual facts are, I do not know what it is. Those words bear remembering. I ask hon. members to keep those words in mind as they are related to some of the actual facts and figures I intend to present in a few minutes. The hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra went on to say:

My good friend, the hon. member for Kootenay East—

I wish to assure the hon. member that his salutation is reciprocated.

—was one of the main advocates of such a course. I do not blame him, because he represents that part of British Columbia.

I want to say categorically that as a member of parliament I have never taken a parochial attitude. When there are matters of concern to my own constituency I work for them wholeheartedly, but in this particular instance my concern was for the people of British Columbia generally and more particularly for the vast number of people in the lower mainland of British Columbia including the riding of Kootenay West and my own riding of Kootenay East.

I have said that my concern was for the whole lower mainland of British Columbia. I am also concerned about the northern portions but they are being developed very rapidly and undoubtedly will receive great benefits from the natural gas pipe line under construction through the rugged interior. I shall have something to say on that later in my speech.

The company to which I refer, the Alberta Natural Gas Company, proposed to build a line from southern Alberta joining with an Alberta grid and would have built a line through the Crowsnest pass which would have served the communities to which the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Harkness) referred a few moments ago. These communities would have been provided with natural gas and the scrubbing of the gas that probably would have been taken from the Pincher Creek area would have resulted in the development of a large by-product plant. Many of the people in the Crowsnest area on the Alberta side would have been employed in that plant rather than working for two or three days a week as they have been for the past several years in the coal mines.

The hon. member for Cariboo pointed out last night that that type of industry is going