

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

of these resources. I urge the government once again to refer this matter to the appropriate standing committee of this house, or to a select committee. Let us get at the facts. Let us also find out when the government's position changed. Let us find out when there was any change in the position of the company. We have no evidence from them that there has been any change.

Let it also be declared by the government what steps they will take to proceed with an all-Canadian pipe line without delay, to bring natural gas from Alberta to the markets of eastern Canada. When the Minister of Trade and Commerce speaks about the desirability of markets in the United States, may I emphasize the fact that we have at no time suggested there should be no export. What we do say is, let us end this humiliating position where the government is dependent upon the whims of the commission in Washington. Let this government decide on the development of an all-Canadian line. It will then be in a position to lead from strength and not from weakness. If the United States is ready to accept gas from Canada, then let that gas be exported under proper terms of conservation and proper terms of control. Let us not await their desires. Let us act as Canadians on this occasion in dealing with our own resources.

When it is suggested that this is such a vast enterprise, have Canadians forgotten that we have already built many pipe lines? We have constructed in Canada many oil and gas pipe lines since the war. In fact, in the last eight years alone \$600 million has been spent on oil and gas pipe lines in Canada, and on the lines in the United States which are tied in with these pipe lines another \$200 million. The whole of that \$800 million has been private investment. Why should we be so alarmed, why should we be so concerned about this prospect now before us?

I should like to emphasize one point. There is a distinction between the handling of electricity and the handling of gas. You can go and measure with the greatest accuracy the potential power of a great waterfall. You harness that waterfall, tie it into the transmission line and the water continues to flow. Gas is not the same. It is a wasting asset. In order to keep up a gas supply, new wells must be discovered, new fields must be found. The evidence is very strong to support the belief that private initiative and the enterprise of individuals are needed to go and find these new sources of gas. Therefore I would hope that we would be able to keep this as a privately financed enterprise with the sources being found in the way they are now.

[Mr. Drew.]

I would also point out that we would be getting involved in a system that presents many difficulties if it should be found necessary to enter into a publicly owned system, because many of the collecting points would be drawing gas from privately owned fields. It will be almost impossible to divide the interests in that way. Therefore it seems obvious that private enterprise, in developing sources of supply and arranging contracts for distribution, is desirable.

Before I close I want to put certain suggestions before the house and for the consideration of the government, in the hope that they may be prepared to listen to the words of the Prime Minister when he told the house last year that he did not like this method. First, refer the whole question immediately to a committee of this house to obtain the facts and make appropriate recommendations. Second, insist upon the reorganization of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines as an all-Canadian company which can proceed immediately and under Canadian control. Third, if Trans-Canada cannot carry out its undertaking, then open the whole matter and permit new interests to make their proposals for an all-Canadian line, Canadian controlled. Fourth, if it can be shown, and I doubt that it is so, that part of the pipe line must be built as the government asserts on this occasion, then instead of building a part which could become an orphan under certain circumstances in the future, let them build the whole pipe line and lease it for operation under Canadian control.

By one of these methods, Mr. Chairman, Canada's main gas pipe line can be returned to the control of Canadians as it should be. This is our chance here in the House of Commons to mark a turning point in the greater control by Canadians of their own resources. Let this be a declaration not only in relation to natural gas but in relation to our great resources generally, not in any spirit of selfishness, not in any narrow approach but rather with the idea that as trustees for future generations of Canadians, along with any export that may be carried out under wise and appropriate conservation and control, our main purpose will be the future welfare of Canadians themselves.

We have been asserting this proposition for a long time. I find it difficult to understand how there could have been any doubt about that position. But, Mr. Chairman, on this occasion the greatest responsibility is on the opposite side of the house.

An hon. Member: I will take it.

Mr. Drew: I hear one hon. member amongst the Liberals to my right saying "I will take it." I hope that for once we will see some