

if someone in a responsible position would give us an assurance that what we are incorporating is an all Canadian route. We have said that publicly and I have asked everyone in the House of Commons with authority to say that. We went further and offered to support—I offered publicly to second, if necessary—an amendment to the main Act providing that so far as these gas lines between Alberta and Vancouver were concerned that we should have such an amendment that would put them all in the same position. There was not a sound from anybody with respect to this very fair proposition.

Then coming to my good friend and travelling companion of other days—he is not much of a poker player, I may say,—but coming down to the remarks made by him and our good friends in the United States, he used the expression “flag wavin”. Well, perhaps that is as good an example of that type of thing as one could find. But I remind him of this, and I am dealing with gas, the same commodity we are dealing with here. Western Ontario not so long ago was shut off from gas by the same Texas Panhandle Eastern Company that my friend Mr. Dixon had been at one time associated with. If you read the newspapers you will have found that in the last ten days the dominion government department of External Affairs has been in Washington before that same power commission begging the United States to give us seventy-five million feet under the river between Detroit and Sarnia.

Mr. FERGUSON: There you are!

Mr. SMITH: That is the item we are dealing with, gas. Our government, officially,—Mr. Matthews, I think was the name of the man who made the application before the Power Commission—are down in the United States now officially; the dominion government is there officially begging this company to give us some gas in western Ontario. Are you going to agree with Mr. Maybank’s view of the law? I am going to agree that perhaps this is the poorest way to bring these things about. I said in the House of Commons: if you do not give us statutory protection, will somebody give us an undertaking. But that was only if we could not procure all these things by way of a statute.

Mr. APPLEWHAITE: We have them by way of a statute.

Mr. SMITH: You are referring to the Fluid and Electricity Act. Well, I know all about it, and what that means is this: an individual has a right in his discretion to turn off the tap as the power commission in the United States turns off the tap in a pipe line already constructed. As I said a moment ago, I want to stop talking about this matter but I want to ask two simple questions, perhaps three, about some words in the statute itself. Shall I do it now or shall I wait until this amendment is voted down, because I have no doubt that it will be. The experience of the last few days is eloquent.

Mr. MAYBANK: I just want to say something in agreement with you, that is all.

Mr. SMITH: When we were going out of here today something was said by the honourable member; he said that both he and I needed a drink. I agree with him on that. That is as far as our agreement goes. Clause 6, in the very first lines of (a) reads:

“The company may within or outside Canada construct, purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire and hold,”

I want to know from Mr. Connolly why we are legislating for things outside Canada over which we have no jurisdiction whatever?

Then it goes and says this company is permitted to make purchase of gas from international companies. I am curious about this.

I want to know how the parliament of Canada has got any right whatever to give authority to a company to do something outside of the Dominion of