

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

in the field of public ownership in Saskatchewan. Social Credit, which I think is probably the party in Canada least inclined to public ownership, is making quite a creditable success, through the government of British Columbia, in the management of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway in the field of public ownership. Hence I think we can all say that when public ownership is suited for the job, we are all in favour of public ownership. But if there is any virtue of which this government can boast it is that this government has picked as the chosen instrument for each particular job whichever kind of enterprise seemed to be better suited for that particular job.

I submit that public enterprise is not what we should proceed with now for obvious reasons. The most obvious reason, I think—as anyone with any common sense will agree—is that there would be years of delay. In order to build a pipe line, whatever else you must have, you must have pipe. If we were to abandon the Trans-Canada company now in order to go into some unstated public ownership proposition, the government of Canada would immediately be faced by this problem: Where are you going to get the pipe to build the line? While I have no doubt that in a year or perhaps two years they could get the necessary amount of pipe, there is certainly no guarantee whatever that they could get that pipe by the year 1957 or the year 1958; and in my opinion it would be extremely doubtful whether you could complete a public ownership pipe line within two years after the end of the time that you could complete a pipe line under private enterprise.

The second reason, in my opinion, why we should not go ahead with a public ownership project at this time is that public ownership at this time would result in substantially higher gas bills for the users in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and all other centres in central Canada. I am able to talk on this particular matter with some knowledge of gas bills. I have been the user of a gas furnace in the city of Vancouver ever since 1942. We, of course, have to manufacture gas. This winter, one month my bill was \$38.18. I will say that we had a very cold winter in Vancouver. The next one was \$35.08. Last week I received a notice saying that as a result of the coming to British Columbia of the natural gas pipe line my heating bills will be reduced 52 per cent. I see the Leader of the Opposition is smiling. I have no doubt he is thinking that this gas is coming to Vancouver by reason of the enterprise of a gentleman named Mr. Frank

[Mr. Philpott.]

McMahon. Let me point out that in this particular case the whole project would have been completely impractical had they not sold the major block of gas to the United States. So, when I talk to my academic friends opposite whose slogan seems to be socialism or bust, public enterprise at any cost, at any time, wise or unwise, common sense or no common sense, let me tell them that in my opinion the whole public ownership proposition of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines would be an extremely difficult proposition to make on an economic basis. How is the government of Canada,—

Mr. Fulton: How is the government of Canada?

Mr. Philpott:—let us ask ourselves the practical question, if they are going to have to sell a big block of gas—the hon. member for Kamloops is good at obstruction, but his obstruction days are over now.

How is the government of Canada, which would require to sell big blocks of our natural gas to the United States in order to be able to serve eastern Canada at reasonable prices, going to go about selling gas in the United States? Do the hon. gentlemen opposite foresee the government of Canada going hat in hand and saying, "Please, Mr. Uncle Sam, will you buy our Canadian gas?" How ridiculous can you get?

So I say that, first we should not proceed now with the nebulous public ownership plan until we have tried every other avenue. A public ownership corporation would not be in the best position to try to sell gas and unless we do sell that gas it would result in higher bills for the actual consumers in Canada.

Now, what shall I say about that strange partnership, the other wing of that strange partnership? When I saw that strange alliance beginning last week, an alliance first of obstruction, I thought back to the year of 1932. We have heard today about 1932 when there was closure in this house and great protest about it. I remember another country in which there was a tie-up between the extreme right and the extreme left, namely Prussia. In that country the extreme right and extreme left, by tactics much the same as were attempted here last week by two gentlemen whom I shall not name, the extreme left and extreme right tied up and parliamentary government went down in that country. It was because the government of the day did not have the gumption or perhaps I would be forgiven the plain word "guts" to deal with that kind of obstruction as it should have been dealt with by parliamentary processes. Just for the benefit of the opposition may I say that the filibuster which they have been