

*Alberta Natural Gas Company***AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Q. Mr. Dixon, that is clear cut and we are glad to have that statement but I ask you if in your talks with the Right Hon. Mr. Howe, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, that is the stand you have taken?

A. Just exactly. I have not said anything to Mr. Howe I have not said to you.

There, Mr. Speaker, was the difference between the attitude of the applicants for incorporation of the Alberta Natural Gas Company and the Westcoast Transmission Company. Last year the Westcoast Transmission Company did give a pledge in committee that they would build by the all-Canadian route. The application that company has made to the Alberta board is on that basis, and so far they have shown good faith in carrying out that pledge.

Mr. Dixon himself brought out a fact which showed clearly that his company intends to build through the United States. He produced a letter from the Dominion Bridge Company, stating he had been negotiating with them for steel pipe. The letter was signed by the sales development manager, and it ended with this paragraph, after setting out what that company could do in the way of supplying pipe:

It is further based on our understanding that the Canadian portion of the Alberta Natural Gas Company line would require approximately four hundred miles of pipe of twenty-inch diameter or over.

In other words, Mr. Dixon only asked the company for sufficient pipe to meet the requirements of a line, the main route of which lay through the United States.

There is no question but that the Alberta Natural Gas Company is to be controlled by people in the United States. We asked about where the stock control would be, and Mr. Dixon refused to contradict the statement that it would be in the United States. One of the partners of the firm of Morgan Stanley is an applicant for incorporation, and Mr. Dixon showed in his evidence that Morgan Stanley were taking charge of the financing of this whole project. He also admitted that the Alberta Natural Gas Company would be either a subsidiary of the Northwest Natural Gas Company or that the latter would be a subsidiary of the Canadian company. All of the evidence indicated that the company preferred to build by the route through the United States. They want the route through the United States because it will be more profitable for them. The line gets into the large market quicker by that route, and the promoters think it is in their interest to have the line go to the south at the first convenient point.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

Mr. Green: When the house rose for the supper recess I was pointing out that the Alberta Natural Gas people are obviously determined to build via the United States route. In that connection a very significant event happened in Vancouver on the first day of the month during a meeting of what is called the Pacific northwest trade association. That is an association made up of businessmen from British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. In reporting what happened at that meeting the Vancouver papers say:

But the northwestern U.S. states prefer the line that runs south out of Alberta through their territory first. This point was made almost rudely clear at recent meetings of the Pacific northwest trade association here. In meetings at hotel Vancouver delegates from Washington and Oregon hardly gave a thought to the British Columbia line, and even cheered lustily when it was mistakenly announced that Northwest Natural Gas Company—

Which of course is the parent of the Alberta Natural Gas Company.

—had received its charter and "would be able to build through our states."

That gives you the attitude of the people in Washington and also the aims of these Alberta Natural Gas promoters.

In addition to that, they ignore the north country completely. I need to quote only one question and answer from the proceedings of the committee to be found at page 99: I asked Mr. Dixon:

Your pipe line comes across southern British Columbia and is absolutely of no use to the Peace river or northern Alberta and north British Columbia.

A. Our line would be of no use to the Peace river.

As a matter of fact, these people are not interested in developing Canada at all. If they are allowed to build their pipe line by this United States first route it will not only mean British Columbia losing a chance for great development, but it will also mean that British Columbia will be in bondage for all time to the Northwest Natural Gas Company and to the United States federal power commission.

Unfortunately for British Columbia, the Alberta Natural Gas Company seems to have the support of the present Canadian government. The way the procedure of this house has been directed by the government to give this company the priority, right from the start of the present session, is a very clear indication that the government stands behind this company.

Then, a parliamentary assistant sponsored the bill. It should be pointed out that not only is he a parliamentary assistant but he is