

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

the motion moved yesterday by the Prime Minister or any motion purporting to be based upon the notice that the Prime Minister gave in this house on May 30 are a complete nullity.

Then there is the final point, Mr. Chairman, that where, in the absence of express words or a clear citation or the clearest kind of precedent, there is no provision in our rules or in the jurisprudence based upon those rules requiring the chair to rule that this motion has any surviving effect after ten o'clock last night until this day, it is the duty of the chair to give the strictest type of interpretation to any such rule as this, which is a harsh rule in the first place and which derogates from the proper rights of members of a free parliament. Far from this being a rule with which the chair can be fast and loose in its treatment, this is a standing order that requires the most punctilious respect for and the most meticulous adherence to every provision of it. That has not been given, Mr. Chairman. I say to you, on what I conceive to be as important a question of order as is likely to come before this house at any time in its history, that the entire proceedings in this chamber this afternoon in this committee of the whole are abortive; they are a nullity; and the conduct of the chair in arbitrarily refusing to permit even so much as a statement of this important question of order, let alone argument to the chair upon so important a question, makes the proceedings in this committee a travesty of democracy.

It may be late in the day, Mr. Chairman, in view of the action that you have taken in denying to members of this committee their proper rights to raise important questions on the proper interpretation of the orders that govern this house—or which once, I should say, governed it, because we now must speak of the rules in the past tense—but I raise it. This is so important a question that it ought to be raised now. It ought to be raised to the humiliation of this committee of the whole today and to the humiliation of the government on whose shoulders, in the last analysis, rests responsibility for the travesty that has been committed upon parliamentary freedom and the integrity of the Canadian parliament this day. This is a point of order that affects everything that is going to happen in this committee from this point on. While you have gone so far—as far, I suggest, as any chairman can go, in view of your conduct at the opening of the committee today—to prevent a point of such great importance being raised when normally it would be raised and when I sought to

[Mr. Fleming.]

raise it, as I had sought in the house to raise it several times already before the Speaker fled from the chair, I ask to raise it now because I say to you that it now being five o'clock—

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Fleming: May I just finish; I was in the last sentence. I submit that this motion died at ten o'clock last night and that it cannot be revived today; and that the attempt to carry the motion this afternoon was a complete failure. At five o'clock this afternoon we proceed to private bills. At six o'clock the house rises. If there is any attempt in this committee to do anything to the contrary I submit that it will be abortive and it will be a nullity.

Mr. Cannon: Mr. Chairman,—

Some hon. Members: Five o'clock.

The Deputy Chairman: It is now five o'clock and I am leaving the chair in order that private and public bills may be proceeded with. The committee will resume its deliberations at this stage at six o'clock p.m. or when private and public bills have been disposed of, whichever is the sooner. Meanwhile it will be my duty to inform Mr. Speaker that the matter being considered in committee is under closure.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, that involves a ruling on my point, I take it, and I wish to appeal your ruling.

Some hon. Members: Five o'clock.

The Deputy Chairman: At six o'clock the committee will resume.

PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are several bills coming up for second reading. They are all divorce bills. Shall we take them one by one?

Mr. Henderson: I would ask that order No. 46, second reading of Bill No. 366, for the relief of Ruth Carol Friedman Allen, be allowed to stand.

Mr. Nicholson: We cannot hear down in this corner.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking that item No. 46 be allowed to stand. Shall it stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Stand.

SHIRLEY SUSAN MORRIS DUGGAN

Mr. W. J. Henderson (Kingston) moved the second reading of Bill No. 374, for the relief of Shirley Susan Morris Duggan.