

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

I shall return to those remarks. We have heard the boasts of the Prime Minister and his supporters. Let us have a test of the vaunted courage of this government. Let the government give its supporters something really to believe in, in the form of decisive action. Let them call an election immediately and let the people of Canada decide. We have been told that this is a great venture; we have been told that this is one of the most important developments in Canada, yet it is being financed with Canadian taxpayers' money and handed over to United States promoters. This is the money of the Canadian taxpayer. It is our economy and his future that is at stake. Let the government go to the people and let the people decide on this issue.

Mr. Coldwell: Mr. Chairman, this afternoon in almost the opening sentence of his speech the Minister of Trade and Commerce accused the opposition—I take it the whole opposition—who are opposing this particular project of having vacancy of mind. I do not know when I have seen such a vacancy of vision as this government has exemplified before this house. I want to say again as I have said before that this whole proposal is an outrageous proposal. It places in the hands of powerful United States corporations one of the great resources of this country. The Leader of the Opposition said over 83 per cent; it is 83.4 per cent, according to the figures in this particular report.

The Hudson Bay Oil and Gas, a good Canadian name but a United States controlled company, 17 per cent.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Twenty-five per cent owned in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Coldwell: Possibly, but still United States controlled. Canadian Gulf Oil, a Canadian corporation established by the American Gulf Oil and Gas Company, 17 per cent; Tennessee Gas Transmission, 17 per cent; Canadian Delhi Oil, another Canadian company established by a United States Corporation, Delhi Oil, 25.8 per cent; International Utilities Corporation, New York, 6.6 per cent.

Add them together and you get 83.4 per cent; and yet this government had the audacity this afternoon to come before the house and through the Minister of Trade and Commerce say that we are not going to be allowed to discuss this proposal at any length, that closure will be moved tomorrow to end this particular debate. That is what will happen if as I suspect closure is proceeded with.

I want to tell my hon. friends that never in the history of this country has a debate

[Mr. Drew.]

in this house been brought to a close in this manner. The debate had not begun when the minister moved closure. All he was doing was introducing the motion, and then he moved closure to stop all the rest of us from discussing it in the manner in which this proposition should be discussed in this house.

I say this was a most atrocious proceeding, unknown in a Canadian parliament at any time in the past. Not for 24 years has closure been moved in this house. It was moved 24 years ago, and what did the leader of the Liberal party do at that time? He made this chamber ring with his protests. He denounced the autocracy of the government then in power. He said this was a negation of democracy. Perhaps I had better use his own words.

Mr. Argue: And he won the next election.

Mr. Coldwell: I am reading from page 1626 of *Hansard* of April 1, 1932. This is what Mr. Mackenzie King said:

They bring in the weapon of closure, and with that weapon they strike at the very heart of this House of Commons thereby stifling all further discussion on a great question having to do with the very foundations of parliamentary government and the constitution of our country.

Those words may not apply. They are not now striking a blow at the constitution of our country, but striking a blow at parliamentary government in this country.

They say, "We will not even allow you to discuss in committee matters which relate to the control by parliament of expenditures;

As a matter of fact this particular resolution involves the control of expenditures, because it is the money of the taxpayers of Canada that is going to be placed at the disposal of this American-controlled company. Whether we take the whole project; whether we take the bridge across northern Ontario—\$83 million from this government, \$35 million from the province of Ontario—that is \$118 million, and if it is intended that we shall appropriate 90 per cent of the cost of the prairie section of this line, not to exceed \$80 million, separately—which I suspect is the real intention—we shall be in effect appropriating nearly \$200 million of Canadian public money. What for? To promote the profits of a United States corporation.

Let there be no mistake about it. I say with the Leader of the Opposition that this government dare not face the people of Canada at this time with such a proposition. There never has been anything like it in the history of this country.

I have said before and I shall say again that, while we may not agree that what Sir John A. Macdonald and his friends did at