

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Mr. Fulton: I refer to page 9590 of *Hansard* for 1912-13, in which it was stated by a number of members then sitting on this side of the house that the report was a false report, and that question was simply not dealt with by the Speaker. I claim the point should be dealt with and the member who is the object or subject of the report should be given an opportunity to state what the facts were.

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, you were kind enough to suggest that I might have some responsibility in this matter, and I accept that, having in mind the fact that it is now 1.30.

An hon. Member: Do you want to go?

Mr. Harris: I am quite prepared to stay as long as the hon. member. It seems to me that the chairman of the committee of the whole was called upon by the hon. member for Kamloops to consider a point of order which the chairman did not feel he could entertain, having in mind the wording of the rule.

Once again, I do not question at all the decision or the judgment of the chairman of the committee of the whole, but I am sure that we would save time if we heard the point of order in the committee rather than before Mr. Speaker in the house and that then, if the point of order is well taken, there might or might not be an appeal to you, sir. If there is no appeal we could dispose of the question in the committee of the whole and sooner or later we could come to the conclusion of whatever we are doing.

On the other hand, if there is a report made to Your Honour, as there has been, and Your Honour feels that the matter rests with the house, we might take a considerable time discussing the report. If my hon. friend's point would be met by reverting to the position as it was in the committee of the whole, so that the point of order might be made and a ruling made on it, then I presume he would be content. Whether or not this point was accepted would really make no difference in the long run, because he would have the right to appeal to Your Honour in the circumstances.

Mr. Speaker: Is that satisfactory to the hon. member?

Mr. Fulton: I was desirous of making a point of order in the committee—in my submission, a valid point of order. Naturally I am prepared to make that point of order in the committee. All I can suggest is that, if the leader of the house would restrain his colleagues in the cabinet as well as in the house, these difficulties would not arise—and I am perfectly prepared to go on in committee.

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Mr. Speaker: If the house is so disposed as to deal with the report that has been made to it through me in the fashion that has been indicated by the Minister of Finance and agreed to by the hon. member for Kamloops, all that the house can do now is to resume forthwith the sitting in committee of the whole.

And the house having resumed in committee:

The Chairman: Hon. members will realize that this procedure is somewhat new. I have drawn hon. members' attention to the latter part of standing order 33, which I shall read once more:

...and if such adjourned debate or postponed consideration shall not have been resumed or concluded before one o'clock in the morning, no member shall rise to speak after that hour, but all such questions as must be decided in order to conclude such adjourned debate or postponed consideration, shall be decided forthwith.

I had put one of the questions which must be decided, being the resolution itself. Then I put the other question. I asked if it were agreed that I should leave the chair to report the resolution, and some hon. members said no, as I understood it. I therefore proceeded to put the other question which must be decided in accordance with standing order 33. That question is the following one, that I do now leave the chair and report the resolution with respect to the Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation.

I considered and I still consider that I am bound by the strict terms of the standing order in putting the two questions at this time. On the other hand, as I said, it is a new question and I have in effect received instructions from the house. Therefore, I will be glad to hear the hon. member for Kamloops on the point of order, but since, after all, I must actually decide these points without debate, I hope he will confine his remarks to the problem as I have outlined it and what I think is the crux of the problem.

Mr. Fulton: I accept your terms of reference subject to one amendment, and that is that you will decide it without debate, but I hope you will listen to debate before you decide it. My point of order relates directly to the last words of standing order 33 under which you have said that you and the committee are now operating. These words are:

...and if such adjourned debate or postponed consideration shall not have been resumed or concluded before one o'clock in the morning, no member shall rise to speak after that hour, but all such questions as must be decided in order to conclude such adjourned debate or postponed consideration shall be decided forthwith.