

Mr. BENIDICKSON: Mr. Chairman, this bill was introduced in the Senate. It passed the Senate only on March 1 and, as far as I can find out, if there was a committee hearing in the other place, the proceedings were not recorded by a *Hansard* reporter.

Mr. NUGENT: There was a hearing in the Senate. The chairman of the committee asked the Senate if they wanted to have it reported. It was voted down as it was felt that it was not necessary. There was just the one meeting that morning.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: The bill was explained in our chamber only on Tuesday night and two days later we are asked to deal with it in committee. This, to me, seems to be hurrying it. I have not been a member of your committee for some years, particularly during those years when there were a lot of pipe line bills, and I am not familiar with past practices. However, my understanding is that most of the other companies, at the expense of prospective investors and those primarily interested initially, did their own feasibility studies before they came for a charter. I am wondering if we are not moving a little too fast in this connection.

Have any other people indicated to you they would have liked to be here in connection with this application?

The CHAIRMAN: No. I have not had requests from any other organizations in this connection.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: Mr. Nugent, the sponsor of this bill gave a short explanation in the house the other day about it, and he referred to the fact that the right to export would form part of this bill. What can the prospective officers of the company add to what Mr. Nugent said with regard to export intentions?

Mr. DOWNEY: Again, at the risk of repetition, we feel we are in a new field of the gas industry, and we are asking that this be included as we feel that in the foreseeable future there will be a market in the United States. Of course, we have no intention at the present time of going into the United States. But, if I might proceed a step further, to answer one of your previous questions, I believe that before the national energy board was set up it behooved any company coming before parliament to prepare a feasibility report because parliament, in essence, bore the responsibility of establishing all the rights and so forth of a company. At the present time your national energy board looks after this, and it really is to them that he will have to present a feasibility report before we can proceed with this particular project.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: I note that the Saskatchewan terminal is Melville. How far is Melville from the United States border?

Mr. DOWNEY: I would suggest that it might be 180 miles. That would be a very close figure.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: After obtaining approval of the terms of this bill from the federal parliament, would it be possible for you to obtain the right by some legislation within the province of Saskatchewan to proceed to the border from Melville?

Mr. DOWNEY: No. This would require our appearance before your national energy board.

Mr. PIGEON: Mr. Downey, could you give us some idea of the number of jobs which will be created by the construction of this proposed pipe line?

Mr. DOWNEY: The construction would involve approximately two spreads of pipe line equipment. In essence that is two complete components of pipe line equipment employing 225 men per spread, making a total of 450 men employed during the building of the line. In regard to the number of men employed running the line, of course, this would involve considerably less.