

Mid-Continent Pipelines Limited

and its heating value. There are a number of parts of refrigerators, automobiles and equipment of that kind which could be made by industries in this country if they had that natural gas today. These parts are being made in the United States and imported into Canada.

Those of us who believe in the tremendous development of Canada, those of us who believe in its tremendous expansion in the years ahead, find it difficult to deal with a subject of this kind merely in terms of cold economics or in terms of the quick dollars that can be realized. Those of us who look to the use of these resources for our own future, the future of a country of 50 million or 100 million people, like to think of the long-term use of this gas and its employment in the expansion of industry in every part of Canada. I am sure the people of Alberta are just as much interested in the development of the other parts of Canada as are the people who live in this part of Canada. I am sure every part of this country recognizes that the problem is that of building a single nation as strong as possible.

If there is more gas than could be employed by this eastern pipe line, if there is more gas than could be used in Alberta itself and more gas than could be used in British Columbia, then by all means, subject to the consideration of economic factors, let us export gas, to the extent that will avoid any waste of the gas that is actually coming from the ground. Mr. Chairman, I do suggest that to deny Ontario and Quebec the natural gas they are anxious to buy, at the price that it will cost, is hardly consistent with the desire expressed by all of us to build one strong united nation of which every part will benefit from the expansion and increase in population and prosperity of every other part.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if there were unanimous consent I could finish my remarks in about three minutes.

Mr. McIlraith: I should point out that there are others who will be speaking on this bill.

Mr. Drew: I understand that. The only reason I suggested it was that I had spoken for a few minutes before and if it is convenient to the members—and only in that event—I would prefer to finish these remarks at this time instead of breaking them up and making another speech on another occasion.

Mr. McIlraith: That is quite all right.

The Chairman: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Drew: In the past Canada never had enough gas, oil, iron or some of these resources that we now find we have in such high quantities. With these resources, and with the fabulous mineral discoveries that have been made in recent years and months, it seems that we should contemplate anything of this kind with the picture before us of the kind of Canada that can develop from a policy of sound, legitimate self-interest, without at any time adopting a dog in the manger attitude in relation to those resources which can properly be exported over and above our own requirements.

I suggest that it is Canada's manifest destiny to become a great industrial nation. We are now an industrial nation, but we can become one of the really great industrial nations of the world by the employment of the raw materials which can be fabricated with the cheap electricity, the coal, the petroleum and the natural gas that we now have.

As we discuss this subject I think we should have in mind one of the most important documents that has been prepared on this continent for many years. I refer to the Paley report, which was presented to the government of the United States last June. In that comprehensive survey of the resources of that country it is pointed out that 50 years ago the United States had such an abundance of raw materials that they were not only meeting their own expanding requirements but were shipping raw materials elsewhere as well. Now they are actually in a deficit position. The Paley report emphasized the fact that within 25 years that deficit in many raw materials is going to assume serious proportions. With this evidence before us I suggest that we should profit by their experience and decide that in developing our own expanding economy we shall also conserve our resources, always subject to reasonable employment of our surpluses for export, and that our own development should at all times be the first consideration.

When we come to the attitude of Alberta, may I say that this subject was first discussed in Alberta in a comprehensive manner by the Dinning commission which made its report in March of 1949. After pointing out that all representations made to that commission had emphasized the desire that Canadian development should receive first consideration, the report then made this positive declaration on that subject:

The commission therefore supports the application of the principle of priority to Canadian users.

That was the declaration by a commission set up in Alberta, in a comprehensive report which covers this whole subject. If this