

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Mr. Dickey: It is on *Hansard* three or four times. Where have you been? Either be here or read *Hansard*.

Mr. Pallett: There are a few magpies here, Mr. Chairman. I heard an expression about people who speak from such a position as theirs and it is this, namely that they have more brains in their seats than on their feet. Since we know the corporation we are dealing with by those statements made by the minister, what staff will be employed to ensure that the money advanced to this company will go into the pipe line? There is nothing I have seen that will ensure that. Here is another thing. They represent that they are going to build this pipe line. What have we before this house to show that they have options for rights of way or own rights of way? We may be giving money to a company that have no possibility of carrying out their contract. How much did they pay for those rights of way? What is their route? There may be something filed before other bodies in this country showing the route, but what does this house know about the route that this gas pipe line is supposed to take?

An hon. Member: We do not know.

Mr. Pallett: What localities will this gas line serve in each province? I think that is a matter of vital importance. What localities are going to be served? You say northern Ontario? I know for a fact that the present plan does not include the great city of Sault Ste. Marie, one of the big possible industrial users. I immediately accept the premise that gas going into northern Ontario will be of great benefit to that part of the country. But I say this to those hon. members who applaud that statement. In this system of democracy the end never justifies the means. What prices are to be paid for this gas at wellhead, at the gathering area? What price is the gas to be sold for at the various stages along the line? We heard some figures today but let us get them in a form that the average Canadian taxpayer can understand. Let us get them down to the consumer level, indicating how much the man who is going to heat his house is going to have to pay for this gas.

Is the gas going to be put in a competitive position with other fuels? Are we subsidizing one enterprise against other free enterprise industries? That is an answer we should have. If it is not in a competitive position, then is the fuel going to be used by consumers and what consumers are actually prepared to buy gas? We have heard vague references in this house about contracts and so forth. Let us have names. Let us have the quantities they are going to buy. Never mind these

[Mr. Pallett.]

vague statements. We are asked to spend the money of the people of Canada in this house and we should know all the facts; we should not have just vague irrelevancies.

The Prime Minister was asked the other day what he knows about the hearings before the federal power commission. He did not even know whether we had a representative down there keeping an eye on things. We have not had that question answered. When does the government expect those hearings will be concluded down there? We do not know and they do not know. Hon. members across the floor of the house do not know. This is a gamble. It is worse than shooting crap with the dice loaded against you. Are there any guarantees obtained by the government considering the sale price of this gas? One company may own the gas, one company may own the pipe line. What assurance does the consumer have? When you have set up this monopoly, what assurance is there that the consumer is not going to be squeezed? Certainly the price may be favourable at this stage of the game. Let them into the market. When they get a monopolistic control, what assurance do the consumers of this country have that that gas made possible by the Canadian people's own money is going to be used for their benefit? No assurance has ever been given in this house by anybody that the consumer is not going to be squeezed in the price.

Mr. Hellyer: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pallett: The hon. member for Davenport has just chirped up. He had better look at the petition signed by the members of Olde Davenport United Church.

An hon. Member: Aren't you funny?

Mr. Pallett: There are other matters to be taken into consideration. Have the railways been approached with a view to running the pipe line along their rights of way? There you have a ready-made right of way that we should take advantage of where the toughest construction is going to take place. Have they been approached? If they have been approached, we have not heard about it. If not, why not? They are the two biggest companies in Canada and they are capable of doing almost anything. Have they been approached? We have not been told that they have been approached. We have not been given any answers if they have been approached. I suggest that the government explore that angle.

What assurance have we in this house that this pipe line is going to be constructed all-Canadian? What assurance have we that