

Mr. Wylie: We will put it down in writing for them.

Mr. Blackmore: And hire a teacher for them.

Mr. Thomas: Having said that, apparently I have made some enemies on this side of the house but I am not finished because the government itself is not without blame.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Thomas: It is as a result of their fumbling, bumbling and lack of decision that the present step was made necessary.

Mr. Ellis: No applause now.

An hon. Member: We can take it as well as hand it out.

Mr. Thomas: If we had allowed Trans-Canada Pipe Lines to go ahead without any interference during the last four years we would have had the pipe line built now, built by private capital all the way through and without any trouble at all for the government. We have to realize that because of this fumbling and indecision the government have taken the only action they could have taken under the circumstances. I would not be surprised but what one of the greatest causes of indecision within the government was the attitude of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. I say that because he has attempted all through the years to squash anything that would bring any credit to the Social Credit government of Alberta. It is quite possible that by his arguments he led some of the junior members of the cabinet to go along with him.

We also know that over the years it has been the expressed policy of the Liberal party in the province of Alberta that there will be no export of natural resources. They have opposed the export of coal, the export of oil, the export of gas. Now the whole thing has come down to the present situation. The government has made a mess of things. They have made it impossible for the company to get private financing. Now the government is in a hurry and it is imperative that this project should be commenced immediately. I want to point out to hon. members that for every week the line is being held up 1 billion cubic feet of gas are going to waste in the province of Alberta.

Mr. Nesbitt: Why do you not build it with rubber money?

Mr. Thomas: This is gas that should be used for the welfare of the Canadian people. I can assure hon. members of the Tory and C.C.F. parties that the holding up of the legislation will result in the loss of millions

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

of dollars to the province of Alberta and the people of Alberta, is going to result in the loss of the availability of millions of cubic feet of gas to the people of Ontario and Quebec and is going to mean irreparable damage to the entire economy of this country.

An hon. Member: Who held it up for the last five years?

The Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Greenwood.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Be calm now.

Mr. Macdonnell: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Do not lose your temper.

Mr. Macdonnell: Mr. Chairman, I think this must be one of the strangest enterprises on which this parliament has ever been asked to embark. We are asked to bail out an American controlled company which has among its shareholders some of the richest oil companies in the country. We are asked to bail them out because they have failed repeatedly in carrying out what they proposed to be able to carry out and we are asked to allow them to use the money of the Canadian people with which to speculate. It is a question of heads I win, tails you lose. They can use this money and if things turn out well for them, then they can go ahead and make further money with it. But if things do not turn out well for them, they hand it back to us. That is one feature of this strange proceeding.

The second one is this. In order to carry it out, this democratic assembly is faced with a situation with which it has never been faced before, that is to say closure applied in the way which has been discussed. It is another instance—with which we are becoming all too familiar—of the disregard of parliament. As I watched yesterday, I noted some of the people who were applauding closure. I think some of them were people whom, not so long ago, I would have regarded as real liberals. I do not mean Liberals with a capital "L". I mean real liberals. Yet yesterday they were vigorously applauding closure. It made me realize what I have often realized before, but perhaps never more than tonight, namely what happens when we go on as we have been going on, year after year and when the rights of parliament are disregarded.

The situation is similar to that which confronted us a year ago. A year ago we had a situation where the Minister of Defence Production at that time was determined to have his way, his whole way and nothing but his way. That is what kept us here for nearly a month last summer. We now have