

## REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

**Hon. Mr. Lambert** moved that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.

The motion was agreed to.

## PRIVATE BILL

## SECOND READING

**Hon. J. G. Turgeon** moved the second reading of Bill C-8, an Act to incorporate Alberta Natural Gas Company.

He said: Honourable senators, because of the excellent discussion which has already taken place on two more or less similar bills which have just received second reading, I shall occupy very little of your time. If the Senate, in the interests of the people of Canada, kindly accepts the motion for second reading and permits the bill to go to committee, there will be present at the meeting of that committee directors and others interested in this company, who will do everything they can to answer questions and to supply all possible information. I am not a member of the Committee on Transport and Communications, but I intend to suggest to that committee that it hear two members of the Government of Alberta who happen to be in Ottawa at this time. I refer to Mr. Tanner, Minister of Lands and Mines, and Mr. Maynard, the Attorney General of Alberta. I think these gentlemen could shed considerable light upon this subject.

As to the general principle of the legislation, I was glad to hear what was said about coal, and particularly the suggestion of the honourable senator from Lethbridge (Hon. Mr. Buchanan) that the National Research Council study methods of using coal other than those that have come down to us through the ages. This same suggestion was made some years ago in the House of Commons Committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment, of which I was chairman. I think the proposal is very appropriate at this time.

I am not worried about the coal situation from the standpoint of what will take place in Alberta and other parts of Canada because of the development of gas and oil and their by-products. It is definitely known that in the Cariboo district of northern and central British Columbia there are literally hundreds of millions of tons of coal waiting to be taken from the ground. However, lack of transportation has made it practically impossible to mine this coal with any success. One of the greatest natural water powers in all of Western Canada is to be found in the canyon of the Peace River, and I am certain that the entire Peace River country of British Columbia and Alberta is underlined with gas and oil.

By providing general pipe line legislation, I think the Canadian parliament is taking the steps necessary to the proper development of that western and northern country. Through the passage of these private bills, authorization is being given to certain groups of people who are willing to invest millions of dollars in order to bring about development in that country; and this is the best possible thing that could be done for the people of Canada.

**Hon. Mr. Dupuis:** Does my honourable friend wish to have recorded the evidence of the witnesses he has mentioned?

**Hon. Mr. Turgeon:** I should like very much to have the evidence recorded, but that is for the committee to decide.

**Hon. A. W. Roebuck:** Honourable senators, the comments I made about the last bill also apply to this one. This bill is to incorporate the Alberta Natural Gas Company. I suppose there are several natural gas companies in Alberta, and if there are not now, there may be in the future. I doubt the wisdom of allowing a company to appropriate the name of a province in such a way as to suggest that it is the only company of its kind in that province. It ought to be called the Brown, Smith, or Robertson Alberta Natural Gas Company, or the No. 1, No. 2 or No. 3, or could be lettered A, B, or C; but it should bear some title which would distinguish it from other natural gas companies in the province.

There is another matter about which I am a little foggy. I refer to the last section of the bill, which reads as follows:

The company may pay a commission to any person in consideration of his subscribing or agreeing to subscribe, whether absolute or conditional, for any shares, bonds, debentures, debenture stock or other securities of the company, or procuring . . .

I think it is usually left to the bylaws of a company to provide for the payment of commissions. I wonder what significance there is in defining in a Dominion Act the power to pay commissions, which apparently are under provincial jurisdiction. I am not very clear about this matter, but it seems to me that this is a little unusual and should be studied in committee.

**Hon. John T. Haig:** I want to agree with my honourable friend from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) in his suggestion about the name of the company. He is absolutely right. We have had trouble with that sort of thing in the province of Manitoba.

I presume that the Parliamentary Counsel for the Senate will make reports on all of these bills, and place them before our committee when the bills are considered by it. In the past I have usually received copies of such reports, and I am just wondering if