

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

made a great many references in his speech yesterday to the question of public ownership. He kept insisting it had been looked at, but so far as he was concerned he could not recommend it to parliament. I noticed, Mr. Chairman, that the minister made it very clear to this house that he knows, he, the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce knows, and said so yesterday afternoon, that public ownership is a better way. Dealing with this proposition yesterday at page 3864 of *Hansard* for May 14, 1956, the minister said:

I repeat that, short of public ownership, it—

Referring to the plan he is trying to push through parliament.

—goes as far as could reasonably be asked to protect the Canadian interest.

What is that, Mr. Chairman, but an admission by the minister that public ownership goes farther than this present plan in protecting the public interest. The Minister of Trade and Commerce says he knows of many instances of public ownership. Yes, he is responsible for some of them. He is the proud father of some of them. In so far as gas is concerned, he does not know of any. Is the Minister of Trade and Commerce so old that he has lost his pioneering spirit? Is he so lacking in vision in so far as this Canada of ours is concerned that he is not prepared to make the venture into a gas pipe line under public ownership? Knowing some of the things he has done I call him, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, as the best witness in this house to the assertion that public ownership is a better way rather than bulldozing this parliament into voting for a proposition that is little more than placing Canadian gas and Canadian money as pawns in the hands of United States financiers.

I call upon him instead to withdraw this proposition. It is not too late yet to withdraw the order that is on the order paper today, No. 17, and to withdraw No. 12 as well. We will do our part in giving unanimous consent to do it. He could then bring in a new proposition to provide for public ownership of this tremendously important national project so the Canadian people may get real value from the gas we have and the labour power we could put into it, so our economy could reap full benefit from such a project. This is an extremely important issue. We are being led down the garden path by a minister who has it in his power to lead us to tremendous advances in our economy. I call upon him tonight to withdraw this motion and bring in one he himself knows would be infinitely better, a motion

[Mr. Knowles.]

putting this whole project under public ownership for the people of Canada.

Mr. Low: Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to take too much time of the house tonight on this subject because I feel it would be advisable to allow as much time and latitude as possible to the perpetrators of the filibuster to have their say, because if we should take a few minutes then they are going to go out in the country and say they were denied any right to speak on this.

Mr. Ellis: What filibuster?

Mr. Low: Of course, hon. members who are shouting "What filibuster" have just given us an example of the histrionics of which they are capable on such occasions as these.

To begin with, Mr. Chairman, may I say that I congratulate the Minister of Trade and Commerce on the statement he made yesterday. I thought it was straightforward and it was factual. I congratulate the government on bringing in this measure. I want to say right off that we in this corner support it. We will go along with it and we do not intend to contribute in any way to a filibuster on the matter at any stage.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Low: I would like to examine for just a few minutes the validity of the position that has been taken by the dog that attempts to wag its Conservative tail, and the tail as well, because I think it is important for us to see what is going on. It must be remembered that both the Conservatives and the C.C.F. served warning before this measure ever came on the floor of the house that they were going to filibuster and completely destroy it if they possibly could. Now, under those circumstances and in the light of the demonstrations which we have had in this house over the past three or four days, let nobody say the Conservatives and the C.C.F. did not bring what has happened upon themselves.

I think, Mr. Chairman, the Conservatives should know better because the Conservatives have not very much of a case. In tribute to the C.C.F. I will have to concede that I think they are quite honest in their proposal concerning nationalization of the pipe line, but the Conservatives are doing nothing but scraping the bottom of the barrel. They are like a cat on a tin roof trying to find some dirt and manufacture for themselves an election issue. They have been so utterly bankrupt of ideas and propositions that they have to grasp at straws. They are trying their level best to make an issue out of this. I am going to tell them this and I am saying it particularly for the benefit of my friend the hon. member for Calgary North who