

Trans-Canada Pipe Lines

quoted it over the air. I told the government of that day and I repeat it now: I believe that this measure now proposed by the government is the greatest betrayal of the Canadian people since confederation. If the hon. member had taken the trouble to read my speech—

Mr. Coldwell: I did.

Mr. Green:—then he should in fairness have given the basis for that remark, and the basis was this: in the spring of 1956 the Liberal government came to parliament and asked for authority to lend \$80 million to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited to enable them to build a line from Alberta to Winnipeg, or it may have been to the Ontario border. I think it was to Winnipeg. At that time we believed—and I still believe this was the case—that the whole plan was a plan of the Tennessee Gas Transmission Company. What they wanted was to get a pipe line from Alberta down to the United States, down into Minneapolis and St. Paul and into Chicago, and then they had another branch coming into Canada at Niagara. The plan was not designed for Canada first; it was designed for the benefit of the Tennessee Gas Transmission Company first. I went on to point that out in my speech, and it was on this basis that I made the charge contained in the last paragraph of my remarks. Similar attacks were made by other members of this party based fundamentally on the same complaint.

What has happened in the meantime? The company has not yet got permission to export gas to the United States. Work went on last year—and the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart completely ignores these facts—work went on last summer, but at the time this debate took place in May, 1956, the pipe line had not been started. It started last summer and now I believe it is being laid from Winnipeg to the Ontario border.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): With explosions every day or so.

Mr. Green: Well, we have explosions here every day or so from some hon. members in that quarter of the house. Here in the east the project is now drawing near completion, and that is the situation today; that was the situation which the new government faced when it took over in June. Furthermore, there had been a crown corporation set up by the statute which was passed in June of 1946. The province of Ontario was a partner of the federal government in that crown corporation, and the crown corporation was actually at work laying the pipe line in northern Ontario.

Now it is all very well for the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart to say he would at once

have taken over the whole pipe line. He may or may not be wrong in adopting a policy of that kind, but surely he cannot accuse the present government of insincerity, or of bad faith, or of all those crimes of which he thinks we have been guilty. Surely he is going much too far in making accusations of that kind in the circumstances.

Once we took over we began a study of the situation, and the picture is a very complicated one. There are many different questions to be settled. The hon. member says very lightly today: you should have moved at once. He says in this amendment that instead of evading responsibility by referring these matters to a royal commission we should have taken more immediate action. But it would be interesting to see the C.C.F. group in power here just to see how quickly they would have changed their tune, just as they have changed a lot of tunes since they took power in Saskatchewan. The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart should give some consideration to the duties placed on this commission. I am going to read them to the house this afternoon. These are the things into which the commission is to look and upon which it is to make recommendations:

(a) The policies which will best serve the national interest in relation to the export of energy and sources of energy from Canada.

Within the last few years this whole question of Canada's energy sources and what is to be done with them has become one of the most important problems before the country, and it is also one of the most difficult. It involves not only gas and oil but also power and uranium; all of those energy sources. No government is in position to adopt a long-range policy without having made a thorough investigation of the whole situation. I submit with all deference to the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart that we had a perfectly good and honest reason for setting up a commission of investigation with regard to this particular matter.

Mr. Coldwell: I do not want to be misunderstood. I actually said that there were some things which should be referred to a royal commission, but I added that Trans-Canada Pipe Lines was not one of them.

Mr. Green: Well, the hon. member apparently admits that clause (a) of the instructions to the royal commission is all right. Now I will ask him to listen to clause (b) and see what he thinks of that.

(b) the problems involved in, and the policies which ought to be applied to, the regulation of the transmission of oil and natural gas between provinces or from Canada to another country, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the regulation of prices or rates to be charged or paid, the financial structure and control of pipe