

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

The pipe line may be an important issue and speed may be essential in implementing it. But the preservation of parliament and its rights to investigate is much more important.

May I conclude with the words of a great Canadian, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. When he was in a situation such as we have had here in the past short time, he said:

We introduced the reciprocity measure on January 26, and on July 29 we had not yet been able to obtain even a preliminary vote upon it. We had been met at every step by obstruction from the Conservatives, then in opposition; dilatory motions of every kind were made, speech after speech was delivered day in and day out, even in the dog days of summer. I did not complain. I did not whine. Two courses were open to me. I could have done as is done today by the prime minister, I could have introduced the closure and said that we must carry on the business of the government and that consistently with our dignity, we could not allow obstruction. But there was another course open to me and that was an appeal to the people; and I advised my colleagues to give the hon. gentlemen of the opposition the opportunity of appealing to the people. We appealed to the people and we were defeated. Heaven is my witness that I would rather stand here today, defeated and in opposition by that appeal to the people, than stand over there in office by the power of the gag . . .

I challenge the Prime Minister of Canada to prove himself to be worthy of a great Canadian and take this issue to the people of Canada.

Mr. Bell: As is usual in such serious matters, there is a bit of humour or satire in certain things that have taken place. I am reminded of that said humour when I pick up a newspaper I received today and see the headlines, "Howe Says Sabre Best for Interception." There may be some argument as to whether it was a sabre or a guillotine, but I think we all agree that the interception was very good. I also notice that the same newspaper has a headline saying that we are watching Russian tactics. I do not think any comment is necessary on that headline.

An hon. Member: Perhaps they should be watching ours.

Mr. Bell: Seriously, I want to say at the beginning of my remarks in this serious debate that I appreciate, as a younger member of parliament, the opportunity to witness these historic days in our Canadian history. I have been fortunate or unfortunate to come from a political family and for that reason, perhaps more than any other, it has been a great privilege to have been here and to have witnessed what has gone on. I appreciate also that there are two sides to every argument, and I appreciate that probably decisions will be made during these great days; but I say without any fear of contradiction that it has been an honour for me and they are days that I shall never forget.

[Mr. Nicholson.]

Coming from the maritimes, I want to begin by considering the maritimes aspect of this so-called all-Canadian issue. Many references have been made to British Columbia and the maritimes, and to the fact that they will not benefit from this pipe line. Probably the most important was the reference the Minister of Finance made in his very good speech the other night. I think he will probably agree that the weakest part of it was the part when he came to the maritimes—

Mr. Harris: Are you speaking of me?

Mr. Bell: Yes; I said it was a good speech.

Mr. Harris: Thank you.

Mr. Bell: I do not know whether it was good in comparison with the other speeches made by members on your side who have spoken, or the fact that you do not speak very much; but it was a good speech. However, the weak part of it—and the minister knows this, because when the hon. member for Royal and I interrupted him he knew we were on a strong point—is that the maritimes are going to get absolutely nothing out of this so-called all-Canadian pipe line.

The question I would like to ask is. How much have the maritimes been considered in the investigations that have taken place with respect to the said pipe line? Was it the same as the St. Lawrence seaway, this all-Canadian seaway that will never help us one bit, this seaway for central Canada? We were not considered for one minute. There are no figures available. There are no records of investigations or all the various inquiries that might have been made into the economy of the maritimes.

Are we going to get a pipe line down there some day, in 1960 or 1970? Is it going to end at Montreal? How about some statements on that? I have some natural gas in my constituency right now. I think Albert county has about 177,000 MCF. I should like to know whether the government at some time is going to assist with a pipe line. Those are the questions we should like to ask with respect to the maritimes.

Now I come to my second point, and it is a point that means a great deal to us in the east. That is the issue of United States interests. I shall try not to be too emotional, though it is very hard after a day like this; but I shall say this, and the hon. member for Charlotte can take note of it. We have a tradition and a loyalty in the east, and I mean the far east, not the east that stops at Montreal. We have a tradition and a loyalty that is first in Canada, and I am not ashamed of it. We have the Loyalists, we have the Acadians, we have the Scotch and Irish immigrants who came out to Canada because