

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

vote took place this afternoon that should have taken place yesterday, the matter that was being considered by the house yesterday before this incident intervened was referred to the house again and the house therefore was in possession of the discussion of that Bill No. 298 in committee.

Mr. Knowles: I suppose that makes today Thursday and tomorrow Friday, because of a majority vote.

Mr. Cannon: I have just explained to the hon. member that the result of the unanimous vote of the house was to put us in the same position as we would have been yesterday if the vote had taken place yesterday. That is clear. If the hon. member does not understand English or—I should say “if he does not understand this English,”—he can get a copy of the decision of the house or I can send this one over to him and he can read it. I say that is a most important point, Mr. Chairman, and that it was not covered by the hon. member for Eglinton in his argument. I draw the conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that on that point alone it is your duty to rule that the point of order of the hon. member for Eglinton is out of order and that you are properly in the chair and are presiding over the committee here today in a legal manner.

While I am on my feet I should like to say a few words about other matters that were referred to by the hon. member for Eglinton. First of all, I should like to refer to the way in which he made snide remarks and unpleasant insinuations about the way in which you have been carrying on your duties. I think that I will be expressing the opinion of all the well-meaning and clear-thinking members of this house when I say that the members of this house greatly appreciate the work that is done by Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker and chairman of committees and the deputy chairman.

An hon. Member: You should.

Mr. Cannon: We all know that it is difficult and unpleasant work to do. It is particularly unpleasant when systematic obstruction is engaged in by members of the opposition. As was said by somebody previously in this debate—I think it was by Mr. Speaker—it is not only the duty of the Speaker to protect the minority against the majority but also to protect the majority against organized obstruction by the minority. While I am talking about the way some of the members of this house have acted towards the officers of the house—

Mr. Nicholson: Is this a point of order?

Mr. Cannon: I am answering some arguments raised.

Mr. Nicholson: Is it a point of order, though?

Mr. Cannon: On a point of order I am answering arguments brought forward by the hon. member for Eglinton.

Mr. Churchill: On a point of order, may I ask whether this is on a point of order?

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre has raised a point of order that the hon. member who has the floor, namely the hon. member for Iles-de-la-Madeleine, is not speaking to the point of order.

Mr. Cannon: If I may say a word—

The Deputy Chairman: I would say that in these circumstances I do not approve the bringing into this debate of the conduct of the Speaker, the chairman of committees and the deputy chairman, even though the remarks might tend to be pleasing to me. However, I think I might point out that in bringing forward his point of order the hon. member for Eglinton made references to the duties of the presiding officers and I think a fair reference to his references is not out of order.

Mr. Castleden: Six o'clock.

Mr. Cannon: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Nicholson: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

The Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Iles-de-la-Madeleine has the floor on a point of order.

Mr. Cannon: To continue my remarks, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Nicholson: Six o'clock.

Mr. Cannon:—may I say that the hon. member made attacks on the chair that he should not have made. While I am talking about attacks on the chair I wish to say that the same hon. member for Eglinton did a dastardly, unpleasant and wrong thing when, after doing his best to be put out of this house the other day—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Cannon:—and provoking the chairman into putting him out of the house, having it organized so that he had newspaper photographers with flashlight cameras at the door to take pictures—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I realize, as perhaps no one else does, the heat of this