

Prairie Transmission Lines

and west and overseas policy in connection with our natural resources, to develop our own country, first, last and always.

Mr. Sinclair: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. When I spoke a few moments ago the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Smith) challenged the statement I made that the Westcoast Transmission Company Limited which was incorporated last year intended to follow the same route proposed to be followed by the company now seeking incorporation. I have in my hand a copy of the application made by the Westcoast Transmission Company Limited to the Board of Transport Commissioners of Canada on May 11, 1949, setting out a new route identical with the one requested by the present bill, that is, through the United States.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): The hon. member for Coast-Capilano (Mr. Sinclair) was good enough to see me in the interval and I assured him that if I was wrong in my statement I would take the first public opportunity to apologize to him and to the house. I suggest to him that I still think that he was wrong and I would like an opportunity of looking into it.

Hon. R. W. Mayhew (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I have not taken part in this debate although I have felt like doing so many times. Every evening when this matter came up I thought that we would have a vote, but on each occasion someone would talk out the bill and prevent it from being sent to the committee where it would get the study it deserves. I have noticed there are very few hon. members who have spoken who seem to know very much about this.

Mr. Green: It was studied in the Senate.

Mr. Sinclair: We are not guided by the Senate; this is the House of Commons. The hon. member would like to go over there.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): I shall apologize only once to the hon. member so I ask him to be careful.

Mr. Mayhew: In talking out this bill hon. members are doing—

An hon. Member: What are you doing?

Mr. Mayhew: What am I doing? One hon. member spoke for over forty minutes and no one called him to order. I am not going to talk it out. I simply want an opportunity to say what I have to say. In talking out these bills hon. members are bringing about one of two results. We are either going to have one company operating a pipe line in Canada under a monopoly or we are going to have no pipe line at all. You can take your choice between the two. In my opinion

hon. members who have been following the tactics that have been started are simply obstructing the development of oil in Alberta.

Mr. Drew: This is gas.

Mr. Mayhew: And the getting of that gas to British Columbia. I have great respect for the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Smith) but the other evening he said that we should remember that there is going to be only one pipe line. Then he went on to say that this pipe line should be built on Canadian soil. I think he should be asked to give us his authority for making such a definite statement to the house.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): There is only market enough for what can be carried by one pipe line. If the minister will read my speech he will find that statement in it.

Mr. Mayhew: There is a great difference of opinion as to where the market is, and that is the reason why I wanted to speak tonight. Several other statements were made by the hon. member for Calgary West and I think he should read his own speech over again. As I say, he said that there was room only for one pipe line from Alberta to British Columbia. A statement such as that shows an entire lack of the size and importance of British Columbia.

That province can be developed if we get the necessary gas, but it will take more than one pipe line to carry that necessary gas. The hon. member said that it would require from 1,500 to 2,000 gas wells to supply the gas. On what size well does he base that statement? Two wells came in recently in British Columbia, one producing about 20,000 cubic feet and another 500,000 cubic feet. Which well would he take as his measurement?

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): How much do you take out of a well? You cannot take all of it out. I have consulted more engineers about this than the minister ever knew.

Mr. Mayhew: I maintain that it will take more than one pipe line to take care of the needs of British Columbia. Nature has provided routes for two pipe lines from Alberta to British Columbia, one through the Yellowhead pass and the other through the Crow's nest pass. Gas is to be found at the gateways to both of those passes. A great volume of gas is available in the Leduc field and the northern area of Alberta, with some in British Columbia. This could be carried by a pipe line into British Columbia following the route taken by the Canadian National Railways and the Great Northern railway.