

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Mr. Drew: And that Your Honour on a point of order should hear the hon. member for Kamloops state exactly what did happen.

Mr. Knowles: I rise on a point of order. My point of order is based on standing order 6(3) which deals with the time of adjournment. It is now well after ten o'clock, and this house under your speakership cannot continue to sit without unanimous consent. You have no option but to adjourn the house.

Mr. Speaker: I can see that hon. members have had a very good day, and so did I. Now the hon. member claims that I cannot even resume the chair.

Mr. Fulton: That is correct.

Mr. Knowles: Having resumed the chair you must adjourn the house.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has cited a standing order but I would have preferred to have him cite standing order 6(4) which reads:

(4) When it is provided in any standing order that the business under consideration at the ordinary time of adjournment be forthwith disposed of or concluded, Mr. Speaker shall not adjourn the house until the specified proceedings be completed.

Mr. Knowles: Is there any standing order that specifies that the matter raised by the report from the chairman—

Mr. Speaker: At this moment I am not going to be called upon to decide a matter which must be dealt with in committee of the whole. Standing order 59(4) says:

The chairman shall maintain order in the committees of the whole house, deciding all questions of order subject to an appeal to the house; but disorder in a committee can only be censured by the house, on receiving a report thereof.

Now this is the situation in which I appear in the chair at the moment. I have received a report from the chairman of the committee of the whole in which he said:

In committee of the whole, when considering the resolution with respect to the Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation, Mr. Fulton attempted to raise a point of order.

The chairman ruled that in accordance with the provisions of standing order 33 no member shall rise after one o'clock a.m. and directed the hon. member to resume his seat. Mr. Fulton declined to do so.

That is the end of the statement that I received from the chairman.

Mr. Fulton: Now, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I know that the hon. member does not accept the report as being an accurate one, but I have no knowledge of what goes on in committee. I have no control over the committee of the whole. The house in committee of the whole controls its own affairs. The chairman directs order according to standing order 59. By virtue of standing order 59(4) he reports that this disorder

[Mr. Drew.]

has happened in committee, and that can only be dealt with by the house. I am only the pipe line through which this report is presented to the house. It is up to the house to deal with it.

An hon. Member: What are you going to do about it?

Mr. Speaker: What am I going to do about it? If the hon. member looked at the authorities he would see that once a report has been submitted to the house it is up to the house itself to do whatever it pleases with the report. In these instances may I suggest that the leader of the house has a part to play?

Mr. Fulton: I rise on a point of order. I know that although this matter has been raised before, it has not been dealt with before and it has not been disposed of. I have read the debates on closure and the proceedings thereunder since 1913, and though the point has been raised before—

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I know. The hon. member now is trying to debate before me the matter which he attempted to debate before the chairman of the committee of the whole.

Mr. Fulton: No, I am dealing with the question of an inaccurate report, and what I am saying here is that so far as I am aware at this stage of the proceedings there has been no decision on the question of what happens when a report alleged to have been inaccurate is presented from the chair under circumstances such as this. My point of order now is that Your Honour, before you say, "The house has received the report", should give the member who is the subject of the report, an opportunity to state the facts as they actually occurred when an allegation is made, as has been made in this case, that a report is inaccurate, and I request the right to state to the house what the facts were—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member says there were instances of a report having been corrected. Would he be good enough to give me the citation of whatever authority he has for that statement?

Mr. Fulton: I do not say that, but I refer to the debates of 1913—I think it is. It was one of the occasions when closure was moved in committee, and a point of order having been raised, members of the committee objected and said to the Speaker, "You are receiving an inaccurate report", and the Speaker did not deal with the question.

Mr. Speaker: What is the instance? I am quite prepared to do the very best that can be done in the circumstances.