

shambles caused by government rulings. I just hope these rulings that have been given today are not used as precedents as time goes on. What could be worse than a House of Commons like this? Any opposition party would have three strikes against them to begin with, let alone two.

I have made many friends here in all parties and I hope to retain those friends, but I must say I have been greatly disturbed by the subservient bowing of whatever Liberal friends I may have had to the will of this government, as exemplified by what has happened here in the last few days and particularly today. I would like to pass on an admonition to the government, Mr. Chairman, in the words of Angelo—

**An hon. Member:** Michael?

**Mr. Monteith:**—in Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure": "O, it is excellent to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant."

In the short time I have been in the house I have found that the committee stage was a sort of round table conference, or at least I have always thought of it in that way. I considered it a period in which one asked questions and one had a right to have them answered. What have we found in these past few days? We have not had that opportunity at all.

**Mr. Hosking:** You have not taken it.

**Mr. Rowe:** You did not give it to us.

**Mr. Monteith:** We have not had an opportunity of asking questions. Let me tell you, Wellington South, that you could stand to have a few questions answered too. The hon. member for Peel the other night asked a great many questions. Has he had any answered?

**Mr. Hosking:** He also told the minister he could get 34-inch pipe within 14 miles of his riding, which is not true.

**Mr. Monteith:** Look, Wellington South, you could do a lot better than you have in this debate, too.

**Mr. Rowe:** Get up and make your speech.

**Mr. Monteith:** The hon. member for St. Paul's brought up an important item the other night. The Minister of Trade and Commerce was pleased to get to his feet and say he would look into it because if it existed as suggested it would be illegal. Are there not many other things which may be in the same boat? It is very reasonable to suppose so.

When any bill comes before this house we have an opportunity of sitting down and discussing it, much like the situation which I

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation* experienced when I sat on the municipal council. You sit around the table. In committee you discuss things, you thresh them out and you get to know what it is all about, despite the fact that you may not be the chairman of the committee or a member of the committee. You have an opportunity to find out what it is all about before you finally vote. We have not had that opportunity at all.

**Mr. Hosking:** You would not take it.

**Mr. Rowe:** What are you talking about? The government announced closure.

**Mr. Monteith:** Mr. Chairman, this is probably the most important bill that has come before this parliament in a great many years. I would like to have one question answered. On page 4428 of *Hansard* for Tuesday, May 29, the Minister of Trade and Commerce tabled some figures concerning the selling price of gas. I am going to use the 100 per cent load factor figures as set out on this page.

This table indicates that gas is to sell in Saskatchewan at 21.3 cents per thousand cubic feet; in Manitoba, at 26 cents. That is a difference of 4.7 cents. I am assuming that the difference arises because this is the delivery cost. That may be all right, and I have nothing to say about that at the moment and I will go on.

From Manitoba to western Ontario, up in the Nipigon district, it is now increased to 34.5 cents, an increase between Manitoba and the Nipigon district of 8.5 cents which is the delivery cost. Then we go on down the line until we come to the Cobalt-Whitby district, which I suppose is the line from Cobalt to Whitby. There it is to sell for 44.5 cents. The net difference between the selling price in Saskatchewan and in the Cobalt-Whitby district is 23.2 cents. I should like to read an item which appeared in *Canadian Business* of March, 1956, by H. G. Cochrane, who had this to say:

An interesting sidelight to the Westcoast-Pacific Northwest-El Paso deal is found in the economics of the plan. Pacific Northwest will buy Canadian gas at 22 cents per thousand c.f., at the border, will sell an equal volume down south in the San Juan area for 25 cents. Thus, in effect, gas will be transported some 1,500 miles down the continent at a cost of only 3 cents per thousand.

It is not logical on the face of it, and there may be an answer. If there is an answer I certainly think we should have it. I think we should be given the opportunity to ask for an explanation, and we have not had that opportunity.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Would you like that explanation now?

**Mr. Monteith:** Yes.