

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

agreed to permit export the responsibility has been shared by the dominion government and the Trans-Canada Pipe Lines company. The latter failed to live up to the assurances it gave when it received its charter, and did not succeed in its financing. For a long time the government could not make up its mind what to do. Finally the Minister of Trade and Commerce performed this shotgun marriage of the original Trans-Canada Pipe Lines company and another company.

The new company failed to finance once more, and the government did not know what to do. There was another long delay and a lengthy period of indecision while the government was trying to make up its mind. Then it brought forward the proposal for the northern Ontario bridge to help the company. The latter still failed to get going. And now in the past few weeks we have the government labouring mightily to try to reach a decision as to what is to be done. Finally the present scheme is put before us and after all these weeks, months and years of delay and indecision on the part of the government, we are asked here in the House of Commons to rush the thing through immediately. It is suddenly urgent and must go through without any delay whatever. The Minister of Trade and Commerce moved closure even before anyone else had a chance to speak on the matter.

It is quite apparent, Mr. Chairman, that the real urgency in this matter is political. I have not time to go into that, though I had hoped to do so to some extent. That is the real urgency as was stated in another editorial in the *Calgary Herald* of May 4 which says:

There will almost surely be a general election next year. And the Liberal government has no stomach for that fight if it has to go in to the ring with a half-dead pipe line project around its neck.

It is plain that the urgency is political, not urgency to do the proper thing in the national interest. It's important to remember that.

I think Canadians will remember that. I am sorry I cannot go into what is the actual emergency in regard to this matter from the economic point of view. There is some real urgency as far as Alberta is concerned to get a market for its gas; there is no question about that—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Harkness: I hope you will not deduct this outburst from my time, Mr. Chairman. That is the only real economic urgency there is, to assist in the development and exploration of Alberta gas and oil resources but—

Some hon. Members: Order.

[Mr. Harkness.]

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I am sorry to have to inform the hon. member that he has exceeded his time.

Mr. Beaudry: Mr. Chairman, it is a great pity—

Mr. Hees: Well, this is strictly for laughs.

Mr. Beaudry: Is it not a great pity, Mr. Chairman, that the Leader of the Opposition has selected this occasion and the topic of pipe lines to play Don Quixote and joust with windmills, especially with windmills of his own fabrication?

Mr. Hees: It did not go over; no laughs on that one so far.

An hon. Member: That was a dud.

Mr. Beaudry: The time, the place, and the subject hardly call for the levity of mountebanks—

Mr. Hees: There is nothing flatter than a joke that does not go over.

Mr. Bell: Who wrote that one?

Mr. Beaudry: Mr. Chairman, did I hear "once upon a time" Hees?

Mr. Hees: Still very weak laughter.

An hon. Member: You mean "once too often" Hees.

Mr. Beaudry:—or the petulant, puerile and often pompous plea for procrastination.

Mr. Hees: No laughs at all on that one.

Mr. Beaudry: We are talking about a fairly serious matter, at least on this side of the house. I would like to believe that the concern of the Leader of the Opposition for the ownership of natural gas pipe lines by Canadian majority interests stems from both a sense of realism and a sense of public duty. Having failed to convince one, at least, of his followers—and that one the most likely to best assess the situation and the weight of his leader's views—I fear he will also fail to convince this house and the country. The country will not forget that if at this time in our political history it is possible for anyone to even suggest that a billion dollar project should be undertaken or could be undertaken with Canadian capital only, it is precisely because Canada has made such tremendous economic strides in recent years, and this under the very aegis of the sponsor of this resolution and of this government. As between the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister of Trade and Commerce this country has good and sufficient reasons for believing in the deeds of the one rather than