

Alberta Natural Gas Company

Mr. Cruickshank: Well, there is one thing about it, Mr. Chairman, the more unintelligent interruptions there are the more time will be taken up. I was hoping for a vote on this question this afternoon, and as far as I am concerned we can have that vote. While I was in Windsor I had the privilege of meeting some very prominent businessmen who belong to the chamber of commerce.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Cruickshank: Go home and fill a sand-bag. That is all you are good for.

Mr. Sinnott: Tell us something intelligent about the pipe line.

Mr. Cruickshank: If I were to tell you anything intelligent you would not understand it.

Mr. Sinnott: We have listened to you talking in circles for a month.

Mr. Cruickshank: I am going in squares now. As I say, while I was in Windsor I spoke to several members of the chamber of commerce. They did not know who I was, but I asked them about their gas pipe line under the Detroit river. I heard of an old widow who was seriously ill, and who had a crippled daughter. They had a gas furnace in their house, but they could not get gas; it had been shut off in Texas. All those people I spoke to, who did not know I had any connection with gas pipe lines in this house at all, told me, "Whatever you do, make very sure you have a big valve on the line where it enters the United States, so you can turn it off if you have to." Perhaps the minister did not know that gas going to Windsor was cut off in Texas. Those members of the chamber of commerce told me that certain people from the United States, and I am only taking their word for it, were in the Dominion of Canada, even in the city of Ottawa, endeavouring to make a deal by which gas would come from the Texas Panhandle through to Ontario, in return for gas through Spokane from western Alberta. I do not know whether or not that is correct, but these prominent businessmen from Windsor made that statement, and I believe it is true. I do know the name of two American businessmen from the city of New York who have been in the city of Ottawa, but I do not know whom they saw. I am here to protect the interests of my own riding to the best of my ability, and I frankly admit it; next, the interests of my own province, and then the interests of Canada.

The member for Skeena made a very reasoned speech, as he always does, and one which was well delivered. I do not agree with his arguments, but I agree with the

[Mr. Goode.]

logical way in which he presented them. The member for Cariboo made a speech which I did not understand, and I do not think anyone else in the house did. I am sure the hon. member did not understand it himself. Then, the member for Yorkton made a speech, and all I can say about that is that he believes—that would not be parliamentary, so I shall say merely that I do not agree with him.

An hon. Member: You are afraid of having your ears pinned back.

Mr. Cruickshank: I am not afraid of having my ears pinned back, because as the leader of the opposition said we are trying to build a gas line to the province of British Columbia by an all-Canadian route, and not a high pressure grease route.

I want to point this out, Mr. Chairman, that not one telegram, not one letter, has come from the province of British Columbia opposing our stand in this house. If we wanted to take up the time, Mr. Chairman, we could produce articles favouring our stand. I hope the vote is taken tonight or this afternoon. As I say, there has not been a solitary letter, a solitary telegram, or a solitary organization that has endorsed the route through the United States.

Mr. Howe: If you want some telegrams, here are hundreds of them.

Mr. Cruickshank: The minister has given me four hundred and seventy-six letters and telegrams endorsing my stand. To the best of my knowledge, there have been only three members in the house who have spoken about pipe lines who know anything about them. The Minister of Trade and Commerce is a well known engineer, and he knows something about building a pipe line. The member for Coast-Capilano is, I understand, a mining engineer, and knows something about the terrain. The member for Calgary West knows the financial end of the oil business, and has acted as solicitor for various companies, as well as a speculator in the oil business of Alberta, for many years.

An hon. Member: What do you know about it?

Mr. Cruickshank: I know nothing about it, but I can tell you this, that I am the only member of the House of Commons who has a practical knowledge of pipe lines. I happen to be the only member of the House of Commons who owns one. It was presented to me by the most representative body in the Dominion of Canada, the parliamentary press gallery, at their annual dinner. I happen to have a pipe line of my own.