

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

people are taking this, then let it test it out in a general election. I am convinced that this is, as I said, a travesty on democratic procedure, an abomination, an outrageous thing, and I am surprised that the Prime Minister, for whom I have had, through the years he has been in the house, the very deepest of respect, would come here this afternoon with a proposal of this description and over the last two or three weeks would have allowed this kind of thing to happen that has been happening in this house. Mr. Chairman, I can hardly say any more so I will sit down.

Mr. Low: Mr. Chairman, during the time when the Leader of the Opposition was speaking and more recently while the leader of the C.C.F. was speaking the house gave them ample opportunity to say what they wanted to say with very little interruption.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Low: I am sincerely hoping—

Mr. Pallett: You are supposed to tell the truth there, you know.

Mr. Low: I am sincerely hoping that the two parties on this side of the house who feel so keenly about this situation will grant me the same privilege.

Mr. Coldwell: Hear, hear.

Mr. Low: It is not my intention at the moment to enter into any recriminations; but I do think it is necessary at this time to consider the Prime Minister's proposal calmly and sensibly and not attempt to generate a whole lot of heat and no light.

I know that the two opposition parties who have been fighting this thing right from the beginning feel very keenly. In fact, I have never in all my 25 years of experience in a provincial legislature and in the parliament of Canada seen so-called well-trained minds allow themselves to be whipped up into the kind of frenzy that I have seen here. For the life of me I cannot understand how grown men, so-called mature men, can possibly justify the attitude that has been taken.

The Prime Minister today started out by putting a proposition before the house and I thought I understood him to say—

Mr. Pallett: The word "proposition" is sometimes, as here, associated with evil deeds.

Mr. Low: If the brilliant young man over here who likes to say so much would just contain himself for one second he will have his chance to get up and speak.

Mr. Pallett: No, I will not.

Mr. Low: As his leader so eloquently said a moment ago, he likes to speak standing up; [Mr. Coldwell.]

so do I. If they have the courage of their convictions, let them stand up and speak instead of sniping and trying to stop someone else from speaking.

When the Prime Minister put his proposition before us it seemed to me that what he was saying to us was this,—and I believe he used these very words: the leaders of the parties might get together, or representatives of the parties, and discuss whether or not an arrangement could be made to extend the time of this debate by sitting tonight and by sitting on Saturday and on Saturday night. He said that if an arrangement of that kind could be made it might not be necessary to apply any unusual rules to the debate, and I looked at it in that way. I felt that here was an opportunity if the members of this house really want to get down and discuss the pipe line and get the details of all the questions that may be in their minds. Here is a chance for them to have ample opportunity. If they do not want the information and if they do not want to discuss the pipe line, then, of course, they will not accept it.

I am indicating my determination to give every member of this house every opportunity he desires to discuss this matter and to get the information that may be available and that he wishes, and I am certainly indicating right here the stand that our party will take. We would like to join in such an arrangement as this if for no other reason in the world than to make it abundantly clear to the people of this country that we are anxious to give these parties every chance they want to discuss the pipe line and not something else.

Mr. Pallett: Are you voting for or against closure?

Mr. Low: There again we have our brilliant young sniper over here who has not sense enough to keep his mouth shut. Mr. Chairman, it seems to me there is some good judgment that can be exercised in this committee by way of keeping quiet. I never saw anyone listen himself into trouble yet, but my young friend can easily talk himself into it if he keeps up his interruptions.

I was very much interested in listening to the Leader of the Opposition speak of things that he and his party were not able to get by way of answers to questions. There were so many things they wanted to get, and he said that if clause 1 had been before the house for discussion there was so much more that they would have had on which to base a judgment. I wonder whether the Leader of the Opposition can name one single thing relative to this pipe line bill that he and his colleagues have had no opportunity of discussing that they would have been able to