

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Ontario will be fully compensated for their losses due to the crossing of their lands by the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company.

Further, Mr. Minister, all crossings of township or county roads should be carried out to the satisfaction of the township road superintendent or the county engineer. Where a pumping station is located near existing dwellings, I would urge the minister to request the board to insist that the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company take all necessary precautions to reduce the noise factor so that our residents will be assured that they will not be disturbed by the continual thumping of their pumps.

I would appreciate it if the minister would give the farmers of Middlesex county his assurance that the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company will be fair, and not take advantage of them. These people are the backbone of our society and they have every right to demand fair and equitable treatment from the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company when the lines cross their properties. Mr. Minister, all I am asking is that you insist that the National Energy Board see to it that these farmers are justly and honestly compensated for the inconvenience caused by the laying of the pipe line.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is often said that ministers should not be technicians. Tonight I wish I knew more about law, about farming and about pipe lines in order adequately to answer my friend the hon. member for Middlesex East (Mr. Lind).

I could of course answer simply by saying that I will bring his representations to the attention of the National Energy Board, but I presume this would not be entirely satisfactory to him. Legally, the farmers, in this instance are protected by section 64 of the National Energy Board Act, which provides as follows:

A company shall, in the exercise of the powers granted by this act or a special act, do as little damage as possible, and shall make full compensation in the manner provided in this act and in a special act, to all persons interested, for all damage sustained by them by reason of the exercise of such powers.

So when damage occurs, there is recourse to the courts of this land. I understand, however, that the legal procedure may be time consuming and expensive, and consequently I think my hon. friend is right in attaching a great deal of importance to the conduct of the pipe line company. The hon. member has said

that the company has accepted recently more responsibility than perhaps it had in the past in this respect. In the National Energy Board's recent decision some of these assumed responsibilities are clearly stated by the company, and I think this will be quite advantageous to the farmers concerned because they can now refer to these undertakings as coming from the company itself. It seems that the company is very eager to maintain good relations with the farming communities.

With respect to past damages in particular, the National Energy Board has no jurisdiction to re-open cases, but it considers that it can act as an intermediary between the farmers concerned and the company. The board has been doing this in the past and is doing it now in cases such as my hon. friend has in mind.

I will bring the representations of the hon. member to the attention of the board. There is no doubt that the hearing which took place in London at the beginning of May has been enlightening to everybody; and at the proper time, if minor amendments are needed to the National Energy Board Act we will give it our full attention.

NATIONAL HARBOURS BOARD—HALIFAX—
PRACTICE FOLLOWED IN MAKING
PROMOTIONS

Mr. J. M. Forrestal (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I am here at this hour of the evening to try to bring about some correction of a situation that exists in the port of Halifax. I will start by reading this telegram because I think it at least sets the tone of urgency; then I will state the background of the matter. This telegram says:

The national harbours board hourly paid employees off work protesting national harbours board decision to promote a junior man ignoring a provision in the existing agreement that the senior man be given a thirty day trial period and also that salaried men now being used to do hourly paid work.

● (10:20 p.m.)

This the men feel strongly about. Request every effort be made by you to help correct this situation.

John J. Campbell
ILA Vice President

The I.L.A. referred to is the International Longshoremen's Association.

There is little if any need for me to remind anyone in this house or in the minister's office of the very serious and grievous situation that has come to pass in the port of Halifax in the past shipping season. If it has not been the