

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

of building a part which could become an orphan under certain circumstances in the future, let them build the whole pipe line and lease it for operation under Canadian control.

By one of these methods, Mr. Chairman, Canada's main gas pipe line can be returned to the control of Canadians as it should be. This is our chance here in the House of Commons to mark a turning point in the greater control by Canadians of their own resources. Let this be a declaration not only in relation to natural gas but in relation to our great resources generally, not in any spirit of selfishness, not in any narrow approach but rather with the idea that as trustees for future generations of Canadians, along with any export that may be carried out under wise and appropriate conservation and control, our main purpose will be the future welfare of Canadians themselves.

I repeat those words today. They are clear, they are understandable and they state our position. Trans-Canada Pipe Lines came into this with certain assurances. Let those assurances be carried out. They came into this whole venture with certain clear and explicit promises. Let those promises be carried out. In so far as that is concerned, if they cannot carry out those promises then let us have some alternative method.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce suggests now that there is dreadful urgency. We are waiting to hear from the Prime Minister. I hope that when the Minister of Trade and Commerce moves closure he will not shut off the Prime Minister. We have been waiting for four months to hear from the Prime Minister as to what are his views. We have a right to know his views. We have the right to know why it was he said last July that he did not like this third method, but he still is now going along with it and with an infinitely worse proposal that has been placed before us for consideration today.

After all, while we know that the real and effective head of this government on this occasion is the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Prime Minister is the nominal head. The Prime Minister is answerable to the representative of the crown and to parliament, and in that capacity he has a duty to tell this house, and to tell the country through the ordinary channels available in this house, why he has changed his mind since last July and why he is now prepared to approve this improper proposal.

This house met on January 10, four months and four days ago. In the speech from the throne read that day the government stated clearly that there was going to be placed before this house a provision that would carry out the incorporation of a crown company to build a northern Ontario section of the pipe line. Here we are on May 14, and here we have this motion before us for the very first time; yet the Minister of Trade and Commerce says, "You will not have any debate; we shall move closure right away".

Any delay there has been has been the delay of the government. The issue that is now raised is the authority of parliament itself. Any member who is prepared to support a closure motion tomorrow denies the authority and responsibility of parliament and accepts something in the form of dictatorship in this house. Nothing could better expose in all its ugly nakedness the real concept of parliament held by the Minister of Trade and Commerce than that threat uttered today when there had not been one single speech made in response to his own.

Mr. Rowe: The first time since confederation?

Mr. McCann: How about 1932?

Mr. Rowe: No, you debated for weeks.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, where does all this idea of haste arise? This government forced through the incorporation of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines, its chosen instrument, in 1951, over five years ago.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No, that is not true.

Mr. Drew: What is not true?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): We did not do it in 1951. It was done in 1953, or 1954.

Mr. Drew: It was certainly incorporated in 1951.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Trans-Canada was, but the amalgamation was not.

Mr. Drew: The Minister of Trade and Commerce is referring to something else. He is referring to the shotgun wedding that he performed between Trans-Canada Pipe Lines and Western Pipe Lines. As sometimes happens in those cases where the bridegroom carries out the undertaking with a gun at his head, the bride is called upon to accept the name of the bridegroom, and that was what happened in this case. It was a shotgun wedding, and in these unholy bonds of matrimony Trans-Canada Pipe Lines moved forward under the blessing of the Minister of Trade and Commerce as the sole and only chosen instrument of this government. The sign was up for everybody else to keep off the grass, just as it was up for Mr. McMahon last week. We are still waiting to hear what that conversation with Mr. McMahon was when he so suddenly decided to withdraw his offer. We know he was warned off. We know he was told that the chosen instrument was going to be the only organization that would be permitted to go ahead.

Mr. Dickey: How do you know that?

Mr. McCann: That is a guess.