

Trans-Canada Pipe Lines

An hon. Member: They would not be unemployed.

Mr. Green: I do not wonder that the hon. members in the C.C.F. party try to push their socialistic ideas under the rug when it is a little inconvenient to express them but nevertheless there they remain and that is one of the reasons why over the last 25 years they have never made any progress in Canada. Just last week they had, what was it—10 per cent of the popular vote across the country? So much for the first approach. I do not think there is any need for me to deal with it any further, but the second approach is a far more serious one.

This party down in the corner to your left, Mr. Speaker, time and time again have used a smear campaign as an approach. And we have seen that approach today in all its venom. We have heard charges that the members of the government are insincere, very suspicious and so on. We have heard the statement that their silence speaks louder than words and we have heard attacks on men like Henry Borden. The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart said he did not intend to attack anybody and that these men were all estimable men but he then went on to drop a few atom bombs on Henry Borden and Mr. Levesque and Frank McMahan. He tried to get the government all involved with Frank McMahan; he said this man was one whom the Conservatives, when in opposition, wanted to have take over the trans-Canada pipe lines.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Did you not?

Mr. Green: The hon. member knows or should know that what we said in this house to the government of the day was "Why do you not consider the plan that Mr. McMahan is proposing; why do you restrict your dealings to the one group?" There was not the slightest justification for his insinuation today that we were aiming to get McMahan into this trans-Canada pipe line affair. These are smears unworthy of the hon. gentleman and I am amazed that he would use them today.

Then he charged we were not true to the policies of Sir John A. Macdonald and that the present Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) and all his supporters were a type of renegade Conservative.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Green: Well, the hon. member's supporters laugh and jeer and bang their desks now when I make that statement and they have been doing that kind of thing on platforms all over Canada for many years past.

[Mr. Green.]

It is just the smear approach. It always reminds me of a hound dog baying at the moon—completely impractical. They forget anything that has to do with the working out of this policy; that is no concern of theirs. They just make one big jump from here to there and leave out all the details of how you are going to get from one place to another. I do not suppose there has ever been a more impractical group of politicians under one flag than Canada has in the C.C.F. party.

In 1956 when we were having the pipe line debate there was a situation existing at that time, but my hon. friend from Rosetown-Biggart just ignores that situation; he ignores everything that has happened in the meantime and comes right down to today and accuses us of breaking faith and changing our policy and all this sort of nonsense.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Have you not?

Mr. Green: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is a great deal worse than the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I express my thanks to the hon. minister. That is the finest compliment that has ever been paid to me in this house.

Mr. Green: We will hear plenty from the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre between now and the end of the session, just as we have between now and the start of the session.

Mr. Diefenbaker: He has more lines in *Hansard* than any other one member.

Mr. Green: When this question of pipe lines first came up way back in 1949, it was the Conservative party or the Conservative members in this house who, true to the policies of Sir John A. Macdonald and the founders of this nation, advocated in season and out of season "a Canada first" policy; that Canadians should have the first opportunity to use their own Canadian gas and oil. That was our stand from the beginning; it has been our stand all the way through and it is our stand today.

When the debate took place in 1956 we criticized the government primarily because of that belief. We have always thought that Canadians should have the first opportunity to use their resources. The C.C.F. group criticized the proposal primarily because they wanted state ownership.

The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart has on more than one occasion in this house quoted the last paragraph of a speech I made on May 15, 1956 and I believe he has also