

Alberta Natural Gas Company

and unparliamentary. On the other hand, if he was not acting for the government, then the Prime Minister should call for his resignation.

Mr. St. Laurent: The Prime Minister will do no such thing, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Green: The Prime Minister has done exactly what I expected him to do, just the same as he lost his temper ten days ago when this question was before the house.

Mr. St. Laurent: There are occasions when the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra does things over which almost anyone would lose his temper if he took him at all seriously.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Drew: The trained seals again.

Mr. Green: Before this is over, I expect the Prime Minister will be challenging me to another duel as he did the other day.

Mr. St. Laurent: The hon. member is as serious as usual. He knows that this is absolutely farcical.

Mr. Green: That is the whole point; this issue is deadly serious for the people of British Columbia, and it is too bad that the Prime Minister continues to evade his responsibility with regard to the issue.

Mr. St. Laurent: I have already told the hon. member I will not evade anything he can suggest, unless he does make the ridiculous suggestion of the duel; but if there is anything else he can suggest, any other form of contest, I shall be quite prepared to meet him at any time.

Mr. Green: Some day we may be able to arrange this contest, Mr. Chairman. I repeat, whether or not the Prime Minister takes it seriously, the actions of this parliamentary assistant were such that the Prime Minister should call for his resignation. There is no reason why, in this parliament, the opposition should be subjected to petty tyranny of the kind that was practised in that committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines. This is just another illustration of the frame of mind into which this government has fallen, the frame of mind that Canada is now a one-party state.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I should like to ask the hon. member to speak to clause 1 of the bill.

Mr. Pouliot: You are the contrary evidence.

Mr. Green: I should like to say one word about another member, Mr. Chairman. While he was not a member of the committee, the member for Vancouver Centre was a busy beaver in the sittings of that committee. I

think his position is open to question. A year ago he was one of the applicants for incorporation of the Alberta Natural Gas Company, and his name appeared on the bill. He and the parliamentary assistant were the two men trying to force this bill through the committee. Personally, I do not see how his actions in this regard can be squared with his responsibility as the member for Vancouver Centre. However, that is his responsibility. The feeling in his riding is entirely the other way, but he must decide what his attitude is to be. I particularly draw it to the attention of the house, because I do not think it is a proper attitude, under these conditions, for a member of this house to take.

The actions of one other supporter of the government should be kept in mind in connection with the consideration of this bill, and they are the actions of the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce. Less than a month ago the minister wrote a letter to the Vancouver city council about this pipe line. The council had unanimously passed a resolution—there are Liberals as well as Conservatives on that council, in fact, more Liberals than Conservatives—on March 27 which read as follows:

That the city council advise the federal government of its opinion that the routing of a gas pipe line through British Columbia is imperative for the industrial development of the regional area through Vancouver.

In reply to a letter containing that resolution, the Minister of Trade and Commerce wrote a letter containing this paragraph:

While it is alleged that the Alberta Natural Gas Company, if incorporated, proposes to build a pipe line through the United States, this is not the information that the company has given to me.

Hon. members will notice that he refers only to the Alberta Natural Gas Company, which obviously has been his favourite throughout this row. I continue quoting from the letter:

My information is that the new company is proposing to build this line through all-Canadian territory and to serve all Vancouver points before taking the line into the United States.

Now, that is a startling statement, and if the Minister of Trade and Commerce would rise in his place and say that is government policy, or if the Prime Minister would do that, then there would be no further opposition to either this bill or the one to incorporate Prairie Transmission Lines Limited.

Mr. Knowles: What was the date of that letter?

Mr. Green: This letter was dated April 4, 1950. In the committee we had the opportunity, or I had the opportunity, of cross-examining Mr. Dixon who, as I said before,