

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

government has a perfect right—not only a right but a duty—to invoke closure at the right time—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** At the right time.

**Mr. Martin:** To continue:

—that is, when it has been demonstrated that the business of the house cannot be carried on in any other way but by closure.

**Mr. Rowe:** Oh, yes; but that was not demonstrated. Debate had not started.

**Mr. Martin:** Hon. gentlemen opposite have quoted Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

**Mr. Fulton:** Panicking in advance.

**Mr. Martin:** My hon. friend says I am panicky. May I say that I am not so panicky as my hon. friend is right at this minute.

**Mr. Fulton:** Oh, no?

**Mr. Martin:** And this debate is not through yet. Sir. Robert Borden, the great constitutionalist and prime minister of this country and leader of the Conservative party, was the first hon. gentleman in this house to propose closure, and we all recall the circumstances. Let us remind ourselves tonight of the words he used on that occasion.

**Mr. Fulton:** What did Sir Wilfrid say?

**Mr. Martin:** I am coming to him in a minute, if you will just be patient.

**Mr. Fulton:** What did your party say about it at that time?

**Mr. Martin:** I will come to that in a minute. This is what Sir Robert Borden said:

The resolution which I have the honour to move this afternoon touches a very important subject, because it must be apparent to all hon. gentlemen in this house that unless we have such rules as permit the reasonable transaction of public business, and prescribe the ordinary and proper conduct of debate, parliament must fail in its chief function, and the proceedings in this house are liable to be brought in to disrepute and contempt.

No one is more ready than I to acknowledge that liberty of speech and freedom of debate must be preserved, but I venture respectfully to suggest that these privileges must be observed and maintained under such conditions that they shall not be allowed to degenerate into licence and obstruction.

My hon. friends have quoted Mr. Mackenzie King in the debate of 1932, which saw a motion moved by the then prime minister, Mr. Bennett, for closure. Here is what Mackenzie King said. Hon. gentlemen opposite did not quote this when they were talking about him in the same debate:

If you strike at the foundation of parliamentary government, you cannot do anything at all in parliament, because everything done by parliament is based on the assumption that, by the common agreement and consent of all assembled

[Mr. Martin.]

together in a parliament, you have regard and respect for the conventional foundations of parliamentary government.

That was at page 1627 of *Hansard*, volume II, 1932. Then at page 1631 of volume II of *Hansard* of 1932 he went on to say:

Obstruction is, in reality, nothing less than a repudiation of the existing constitution of the country.

The hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe—

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Mackenzie King never said any such thing on page 1631.

**Mr. Martin:** I have sat in this house when the—

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Mackenzie King said no such thing on page 1631.

**Mr. Hees:** You are caught out.

**Mr. Pearson:** Freedom of speech.

**Mr. Martin:** Mr. Chairman, you have in your hands now—

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. In the last few moments of this limited debate I would ask the committee to hear the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

**Mr. Martin:** When the hon. gentleman was discussing the debate of 1932—

**Some hon. Members:** You have not read it right.

**Mr. Martin:** My hon. friend can holler. He has not the slightest appreciation of the value of free speech.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege.

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order.

**Mr. Fulton:** This committee is entitled to have the page reference from which the minister is quoting, and I am simply saying that Mr. Mackenzie King made no such reference on page 1631 of *Hansard*. We do not find a quotation from Mr. Mackenzie King on that page.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I think I must rule that even if the minister was misquoting, it is not a question of privilege. The Minister of National Health and Welfare.

**Mr. Martin:** When Mr. Bennett was introducing his resolution in 1932 this is what he said.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Martin:** He said, as reported at page 1404 of *Hansard*:

That statement, together with the statement I made a minute ago as to the fundamental principle—