

*Appropriation Act No. 8*

listened to the very forceful argument presented by the hon. member for Timiskaming. His remarks were commented upon but not answered in any degree by the "Liberal" member from Medicine Hat. What struck me in all of this was that the hon. member for Medicine Hat makes his best speeches when he is defending Liberal policy, his most forceful and dramatic speeches. As the former whip on the government side points out, he is a very intelligent member. He is prejudiced, however. The interesting aspect of this is that during the time the hon. member for Timmins was presenting the arguments surrounding the necessity to keep our resources in Canada for the use of Canada so that they would contribute to the development of northern Ontario, I noticed there was only one member from northern Ontario in the house. I noticed also that of the cabinet ministers who were here when the hon. member for Timiskaming was speaking none paid any attention. The Minister of National Revenue was in and out of the house during that time and he, at least on the surface, appeared not to be paying any attention at all to what the hon. member for Timiskaming was saying.

● (4:50 p.m.)

I noticed that when the member for Medicine Hat was speaking the Minister of National Revenue was all ears, smiles and applause, although the applause was of the silent variety. His colleague in the cabinet, the man affectionately referred to now as "the Côté of arms" also adopted a like position and ignored the remarks of the hon. member for Timiskaming when he made reference to the value of this line to the province of Quebec because of an extension into that province. The associate minister of defence, who was also here, was likewise silent and uninterested in the remarks of the hon. member for Timiskaming when he referred to the need for enhancing the potential development of northern Ontario. The Minister without Portfolio, who is attached to the Department of Transport in one way or another, was here for a short time but he paid practically no attention to what was being said.

It seems to me to be significant that not only did the cabinet ministers who were in the house pay little or no attention to the solid arguments of the hon. member for Timiskaming, but only one of the many Liberals from northern Ontario was in the house at the time that hon. gentleman made his remarks. At that time I asked myself who these members were from northern Ontario who have such a stake in the development of that part

[Mr. Howard.]

of the country. I checked the diagram which gives the seating arrangement of this house to find out who these members were and where they sat. Some of them I have never heard of before.

I came across the name of the hon. member for Algoma East and asked myself why he was not here. I, of course, discovered that he was the Prime Minister, yet neither he nor the hon. member for Algoma West were present to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Timiskaming. Neither of those hon. gentlemen said one word about the Trans-Canada pipe line during the debate on interim supply or during the debate on the bill now before us.

The hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River made a speech the other day on interim supply but he sat here silent while the hon. member for Timiskaming made his speech about the needs of northern Ontario. He is not here now, and presumably was not interested in staying to answer any of the cogent arguments of the hon. member for Timiskaming. Perhaps he felt that his colleague, the hon. member for Medicine Hat, did a sufficient job.

The hon. member for Cochrane is likewise absent and was absent when the hon. member for Timiskaming spoke. That member has not said a single, solitary word in this house about the Trans-Canada pipe line during the course of the debate on interim supply or on this bill. That fact in itself is a silent expression of non-interest.

We all know that the hon. member for Sudbury is in ill health, so I make no comment except to express my sympathy because of his physical condition. I hope that he fares better in the future.

The hon. member for Nipissing, another area directly affected by this proposal, was likewise not here and made no comment about the Trans-Canada pipe line. The member for Fort William, another prominent individual in the Liberal party, was also absent and said nothing during the course of the interim supply debate about the Trans-Canada pipe line. He expressed no interest or concern in this regard because of his absence. I understand the member for Port Arthur did make a speech during the course of the interim supply debate about this matter, but he was not present today to make any comment.

In my opinion, this is a matter of vital concern to that part of this province which relies upon natural resources for its basic economy. This is an area which could advance tremendously in the next two years as a result