

Q. Well you have made contracts with oil companies?—A. Yes, to supply us with gas.

Mr. SMITH: If, as and when they have a line.

*By Mr. Noseworthy:*

Q. It would look as though that were done with some assurance that you were going to get a licence?—A. It took a lot of talking to get them to sign. They understand the situation perfectly, of course.

Q. You do not think your chances of getting a licence are any better than any other company's?—A. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: He hopes.

Mr. SMITH: There are no hole cards in this game.

The WITNESS: It is just all in the enterprise.

*By Mr. Noseworthy:*

Q. You have not had any outside assurance?—A. Not the slightest.

Q. You outlined the number of towns in British Columbia that are being served on the pipe line, and all those towns mentioned in your brief will be served regardless of which of the five routes you follow?—A. All those I mentioned, yes.

Q. All that are mentioned?—A. Yes.

Q. It makes no difference?—A. The only extra ones that would be served, which I did not mention, are Hope and Princeton. They would be served on the A route.

Q. I do not know whether you care to answer this question but let us suppose for a moment that you did not have to go before the Board of Transport Commissioners or before any government board in Alberta, and that you were entirely free to build a pipe line through to the coast by any route you thought was feasible. Which of those five routes, under those circumstances, would you choose?

Mr. LAFONTAINE: He would not be before the committee.

The WITNESS: That is a—

Mr. SMITH: —a tough one.

The WITNESS: It would depend upon many circumstances.

*By Mr. Noseworthy:*

Q. You have examined the situation and you know the relative costs and so on. You know which one will serve the markets and you must know which one of those five, if you were free, you would choose? I mean if you were free to build anywhere you liked?—A. One route will cost more than the other. It might be more advantageous to build the more expensive route—which has often been the case. The general principle in a regulated utility is that the more you spend the more you make.

Q. In so far as your present knowledge of these routes is concerned, if you were building a pipe line on the basis I mentioned which of the five would you take?—A. That is a supposition so contrary to fact; that happy condition has not been in existence for a good many years.

Q. I do not mind telling you that I did not expect to get an answer to the question.—A. That is a supposition I do not think that I should be required to answer because it is contrary to all the conditions and facts.

Q. In other words you are not prepared to indicate your preference for one of those five routes?—A. No, I do not certainly want to indicate any preference whatsoever.