

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

power commission say that gas can be delivered. Estimates are given by those close to the federal power commission in Washington which are very definite, that it will be a long time before that permission is granted. In fact, this has shaped up into one of the biggest fights between conflicting interests in the United States that has occurred in years, and we are left by this proposal in a helpless position, unable to guide the course of events. If the sale of gas in the United States is necessary, then why put ourselves in this position? Why not deal with that as one problem and deal with the supply of gas into Canada as another?

The minister in his remarks repeated a statement to which reference has been made on other occasions. He said that control of this company is open to Canadians. That statement is a shallow pretence. That statement has no meaning and is not borne out by the facts. That statement, no matter what the intention may be, will have the effect of deceiving people unless it is pointed out that the very opposite is the situation. The minister repeated today that there is an agreement that the Canadian public will be offered 51 per cent of the voting stock. That is not so. He said on earlier occasions that Canadians would be offered 51 per cent of the voting stock. That is not so. What is provided in the agreement is that there will be an offering in Canada of 51 per cent of the total amount that will be outstanding, including what is now issued.

Mr. Rowe: Quite a difference.

Mr. Drew: That is a single issue. It does not mean at all 51 per cent of the control. It means simply that, in order to comply with that provision in the agreement, it is only necessary for the company to take the amount now issued, which is just under two million shares, and then issue an amount which would bear the relationship of 51 per cent to 49 per cent, which would be an amount slightly over two million shares, and they would have complied with the provision in the agreement.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): That is not true.

Mr. Drew: That is true, and section 6 of that agreement makes that clear. The minister is in the habit of making such inaccurate statements that this is not surprising coming from the same minister. That is, however, the correct interpretation of that section, no matter what was intended—

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): You think.

[**Mr. Drew.**]

Mr. Drew: If the minister will just forbear; after having made so many inaccurate remarks here, he might remain silent for a while and listen to a discussion of this subject. I repeat that this agreement does not assure any opportunity to Canadians to have control, and there is not the slightest chance in this world that these powerful United States interests who have control today are going to let that control pass out of their hands; none whatever. This venture is controlled by powerful United States interests, and they will hold that control—we cannot blame them for doing so—if they are permitted to proceed with an arrangement of this kind. But do not let the minister pretend to the Canadian public that he has any undertaking of any kind. He has no undertaking at all, that is, if he was correct in his answer in this house a few days ago when I asked him if there was an undertaking, and he said there was not. All that exists is an agreement between the parties interested. Section 6 of that agreement to which I have referred contains the reference to 51 per cent, but this is not 51 per cent of the voting control.

I am just dealing now with statements made by the minister which have some relation to the motion before us. The minister said, and these are the words he used:

If there is some uneasiness in this country about the extent and nature of United States investment in Canada, this is the wrong place to focus it.

This is the place to focus our concern about United States control of our great resources. This is the opportunity right now—

Mr. Rowe: And the only one.

Mr. Drew: —and the only opportunity we have to express that concern. It is appropriate that we should express it, particularly in view of the fact that the minister held directly opposite views, until last year at any rate. We do not know when his opinion changed.

He spoke about the fact that there had not been criticism in other cases where there was control by United States financial interests of certain developments. Well, there is no public money being put up in those cases to assist them in their finance. There is, for instance, the case of the Westcoast Transmission Company, which is to carry gas from the Peace river through the mountains to the Pacific coast and to that part of the United States. They are doing that by private financing. Does the minister suggest that the Rocky mountains constitute an easy and populous area between the Peace river and the Pacific coast? I am inclined to think that the Rocky mountains are a more formidable barrier than the section of northern Ontario through