

Natural Resources—Development

the first possible practicable point, through the state of Washington to serve Spokane, Seattle, Tacoma and Portland, and then have a little stub line up to Vancouver. We would get Canadian gas after the people of the United States had had all they wanted, if there was any left.

There was another proposal that gas should be piped from the Peace river district of British Columbia down through the centre of our province to serve practically every community on the mainland. You remember, Mr. Speaker, what a row there was in the house. The Liberal members with the exception of George Cruickshank, who was then member for Fraser Valley, Jack Gibson, the member for Comox-Alberni and one or two others, were all for this plan of getting gas from southern Alberta down into the United States. My good friend the hon. member for Kootenay East was one of the main advocates of such a course. I do not blame him, because he represents that part of British Columbia. The Prime Minister flew into a rage on two or three occasions, and the Minister of Trade and Commerce got very excited. They were obviously in favour of getting these charters through which would enable the promoters to pipe gas from southern Alberta down into the United States. The Conservatives and our C.C.F. friends, on the other hand, stood firm from the start for a Canada-first policy. As a result of that stand—

Mr. Pickersgill: You nearly lost the pipeline.

Mr. Byrne: Does the hon. member know that because of the decision to pipe gas down from central British Columbia it is going to cost the people of the southern mainland about one-third more than it would have by the route proposed by the other people?

Mr. Green: If my friend's policy had been followed they would not be getting any gas, because it would have gone to Portland and Seattle.

Mr. Byrne: Would the hon. member permit another question?

Mr. Green: As a result of the stand taken at that time the pipe line is being laid now from the Peace river right down through the province of British Columbia, with great benefit to all that part of Canada.

Then there was the case of gas to eastern Canada. Who was it advocated a Canada-first policy in bringing gas to eastern Canada? It was not anybody on the Liberal side of the house.

Some hon. Members: Of course it was.

Mr. Green: No; again it was the Conservative and C.C.F. members who advocated

[Mr. Green.]

that policy. The Liberals were late converts, Mr. Speaker. I have here the report of a speech by Hon. George Drew dated March 10, 1953, in which he is reported as saying:

"Let the government declare that the first interest to be served will be the interests of the Canadian people—a Canada-first policy in the use of these resources."

This was after we had advocated that course many times before that date. Finally, three days later the Minister of Trade and Commerce made an announcement that he, too, was in favour of a Canada-first policy. But even after he had changed his mind there was great worry about what he would do. In 1955, two years later, the mayors and reeves from the lakehead and from northern Ontario were worried to death for fear he was going to change the policy again and have gas go down into the United States instead of through their area. They wired for an appointment and they were turned down. They were told the minister represented the lakehead and he did not need any help from the mayors in that part of the country. Then apparently the Prime Minister intervened, and we have this dispatch dated July 19, 1955, saying they can come along and meet the Prime Minister and the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Then the dispatch continues:

Agreement by Mr. Howe to the meeting was a sharp about-face.

However, now he is apparently a convert to the Canada-first policy for natural gas to eastern Canada. We are very glad that he has seen the light on this particular question. Mind you, Mr. Speaker, we are still watching to see to what extent the Tennessee Gas Transmission Company is going to control this Trans-Canada pipe line to eastern Canada. We are glad some steps have been taken to give Canadians a chance to buy into the company. Those steps never would have been taken if it had not been for the protests made in this house by the opposition.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Green: I do suggest the Canadian people would be well advised to keep their eye on Trans-Canada pipe lines to see what the Tennessee Gas Company does.

Mr. Marler: I notice the hon. gentleman cannot help laughing when he says what he has just said.

Mr. Nowlan: It is the discomfiture on the other side of the house that makes him laugh.

Mr. Green: I notice I am getting a lot of interruptions from the other side of the house, and I have not said anything I do not sincerely mean.