

Private Bills

I might also add that the company has issued and sold to Canadian investors three debt issues which in total amounted to \$28,600,000.

If any final evidence of the good faith of this company is needed I do not know what we can offer. Everything that has been controversial about the bill or has been questioned has been dealt with by the hon. member for Bow River and others. Hence I can see no reason for delaying the passage of the bill any more than I could see any reason for delay in the passage of the Northern Pipe Line Company bill or the Matador Pipe Line Company bill, which I happened to sponsor, which was wholly American owned and went through the house with no resistance whatever.

My suggestion and challenge to those who oppose the bill now before us is to put it to a vote and let their position be well and truly known from one end of the country to the other. I will be one of those who will go out and defend the government; defend my sponsorship of the bill, together with the hon. member for Bow River, in any part of the country.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a word or two with respect to what the hon. member for Winnipeg South has just said. He said that he would be one who would be prepared to go out and defend the government on this measure.

An hon. Member: He corrected that.

Mr. Howard: Let me finish. Don't be impatient. Those are the words he used and then he corrected himself by saying that he would be prepared to defend his position on the bill. I submit it is this type of slip of the tongue that really tells the true story, and while the hon. member did correct himself I submit there was more truth in his initial statement about defending the government with regard to this measure than in his corrected statement about his own position and the position of the sponsor of the bill.

Be that as it may, there were also some interesting comments by the hon. member for Wetaskiwin which I think should be explored further. I understood him to say, and if I misunderstood I am sure he will correct me immediately, that under the bill the company proposes to build a 41-mile pipe line. There is no contrary indication by the hon. member so I assume that I understood him correctly. Yet we know full well that this is not the purpose of the bill. Its purpose is to establish a company to build half a mile of pipe line, not 41 miles. There are some other miles of pipe line involved in the same way that there are other miles of pipe

line connected with the Hudson's Bay Company in other parts of Alberta and in the same way as there are other miles of pipe line in the case of Continental Oil in the United States.

But the purpose of the bill is not to build 41 miles of pipe line. It is to build half a mile of pipe line and this was made very clear by the sponsor of the bill himself on the occasion when there was some doubt as to exactly what the hon. member for Vancouver South was getting at when he said that the contract had already been let.

The hon. member for Wetaskiwin also dragged out the question of providing employment. We know that the Minister of Justice did the same thing last session when he tried to connect employment with the Combines Investigation Act but the Speaker hauled up short at that time and pointed out that the legislation had nothing to do with employment.

While some employment may develop from the passage of the bill now before us, to attempt to make out that this is part of the policy of the government to provide employment is to stretch things quite a bit, especially when the hon. member for Wetaskiwin said so emphatically that employment would start immediately. That is just not so.

Mr. Speakman: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I said "immediately approval had been given".

Mr. Regier: Employment in the stock exchange.

Mr. Howard: Employment may start in the stock exchange. Perhaps it is taking place there at the moment. The statement that employment will start immediately upon approval leads to the question, approval by whom? Approval by the house? This sort of implication means that the Senate need not have anything to do with this matter nor does the governor general need to give royal assent to the bill. It also assumes that this company which is seeking incorporation already has the approval of the Alberta oil and gas conservation board as well as the approval of the national energy board because apparently they have to go to these agencies in order to place themselves in a position finally to start construction.

If the hon. member for Wetaskiwin meant that work on the pipe line could start immediately after approval by these other public bodies had been obtained, that is a different question, but I did not understand him to say that even in his later clarifying statement. It may also be true that some measure of employment will be provided in the construction of half a mile of pipe line—