

*Alberta Natural Gas Company*

recanted tonight, that if it had not been for that same holding up of this legislation in the house and in the committee by the members of the various opposition groups the thing would have slipped through before now without any opposition from the particular members who have spoken tonight.

Again may I say I am delighted at the turn that events have taken at this last minute.

When I take part in proceedings of the committee of the whole dealing with a bill sponsored by the government I expect to see someone over there on the government benches who is prepared to answer questions concerning the clauses of the bill. There is a minister of the crown who assumes that responsibility. I wonder where the sponsor of this present bill is tonight? Did he perchance have advance notice of the turn that events were going to take and leave the chamber in disgust? I did not intend to take part in the general debate, but I did intend to ask the sponsor of the bill a question or two with respect to one of the clauses. I see he is not in the house. Under the circumstances if I were in his position perhaps I should not be in the house either.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** Mr. Chairman, I am not going to take very much time tonight. I think I should say a word or two as I have been accused, particularly by one or two of my young colleagues to the right, of having had something to do with a filibuster in connection with this measure. I dispute that. I think if you will check the time taken tonight as indicated by the speeches recorded in *Hansard*, the time taken generally throughout debate on this measure, and also the time taken in the committee, you will see that is not so. I will not go so far as to designate as a committee the meeting held the other day in the railway committee room.

I have only been a member of the house since 1940, a short time, but it is the first time during that period of years that five members from my province who were definitely on one side of a question were put on a committee when the only member from this side of the house who had declared himself as opposed to the measure was most emphatic-

ally left off the committee. I never saw a committee like that before. Unlike yourself, Mr. Chairman, in your official civilian capacity I never attend court if I can help it because if I should happen to do so I would most likely be on the wrong side of the bench. I have attended court a few times. I like to go and hear brilliant lawyers, like many of those in this house, expound cases before juries. I have yet to see a defence lawyer whisper continually in the ears of the jurors. Nor have I ever in my limited experience in the courts of Canada seen a defence lawyer whisper time after time in the ear of the judge presiding over a case with a jury. I did not go very much for that jury the other day.

I do not intend to say a great deal tonight. As I said, I have been accused of having a small part in a so-called filibuster. If I have I am proud of that fact inasmuch as I come from the province of British Columbia because tonight we had the experience of one of the most brilliant speakers and minds in my opinion from my province or any other part of Canada making the speech that I have been waiting for him to make. It will be enjoyed by every Canadian in my province.

Section stands.

Progress reported.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will move to go into supply and call two departments, national health and welfare and post office. The item called in the Department of National Health and Welfare will stand. The item called in the Post Office Department will be discussed so that questions put by members concerning the denial of the use of the mail service to certain people may be aired. Then we will move to go into ways and means with the hope of a vote on the amendment of the leader of the opposition so that we may continue consideration of the budget resolutions.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.