

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

The newspaper said that the executive members not only expressed complete confidence in Mr. Nickle, but also endorsed his stand on the pipe line.

I think it is fair comment to say, Mr. Chairman, that the members of the executive of the Calgary South Conservative association and the many thousands of Calgarians who elected me to this house on two occasions did so in large measure because of two things. One was their feeling that over a good many years I had acquired quite an extensive knowledge of an industry which is rather vital to western Canada and I think increasingly vital to all of Canada. Second, I think these Calgarians, all Canadians, also had in mind their belief, which I hope has been substantiated, that I was quite prepared to call the shots as I saw them without fear or favour with regard to anyone.

My purpose in rising tonight, Mr. Chairman, is partly to state again why I support this particular government measure by speaking, with reservations, in favour of it. But the main reason I rise tonight is to state why I have voted for the measure on first and second readings and why I intend to vote for it on further occasions. I am doing so because my right to vote on this measure has been questioned on the ground that I am presumed to have a direct pecuniary interest. The mover and seconder of the motion to disallow my vote, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and the hon. member for Assiniboia, contended that I was barred by standing order No. 11.

This order is one which, so far as I can ascertain, has hitherto in its very rare application been applied only on private bills, for example, to bar a member from voting on a private bill for incorporation of a privately financed company in which that member may have a direct financial interest. It has never been applied to any public bill, whether for incorporation of a crown corporation such as Northern Ontario Pipe Line, or whether for authorization of use of public funds for payment to wheat farmers, old age pensions, family allowances and so on, for all members of parliament could be construed as having a direct pecuniary interest by reason of their being taxpayers, and many members of parliament could be construed as having a direct pecuniary interest by reason of being recipients of a portion of such public funds.

I will leave it to parliament itself to resolve the question as to how, if at all, standing order No. 11 can or should be applied to public bills in general. So far as this particular public bill is concerned, I intend to prove there is no direct pecuniary interest

Commerce. I would imagine too, from comments that were dropped by the hon. member for Peace River, that there may be other interests in the province of Alberta, perhaps closely linked with the government of Alberta, who not merely view with concern the necessity for exporting gas from Canada but also view with concern the possibility that they might make a deal with a government owned and operated pipe line. There was a suggestion made that the producers of gas and oil in Alberta were not prepared to deal with any organization in which a government body has a deciding vote. In fact, as I recall it, I think it was Mr. Clint Murchison who was reported as having made some such observation.

These are the obstacles which, I think, the Minister of Trade and Commerce faced when he first began to consider this new, vast project which he quite understandably wished to place alongside his other achievements of Trans-Canada, Polymer and Eldorado and alongside his achievements during the war as Minister of Defence Production. I suggest that it is tragic that, in order to realize that dream within a very short period of years—and understandably he wants to do it within a very short period of years—he has been driven to these shifts, to these devices, to these obviously cobbled-together schemes for building a pipe line from Alberta to eastern Canada. I noted when the Minister of Finance spoke on this issue—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Brown, Essex West): Order. I regret having to draw to the attention of the hon. member that his time has expired.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Nickle: Mr. Chairman—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Brown, Essex West): The hon. member for Calgary South.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Chairman, I was on my feet before the hon. member for Calgary South and I called "Mr. Chairman."

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Brown, Essex West): I regret very much that I did not see the hon. lady. However, I have seen the hon. member for Calgary South.

Mr. Nickle: Mr. Chairman, it was heart-warming to me tonight to read in the *Ottawa Journal* a Canadian Press dispatch from Calgary quoting a newspaper opinion poll by the *Calgary Albertan* made of the eleven executive members of the Calgary South Conservative association. The only paragraph I want to quote from that dispatch is this one: