

*Alberta Natural Gas Company*

ings at a public hearing before the board of transport commissioners dealing with the route in question.

**Mr. Green:** That was not the case with the Interprovincial company.

**Mr. Howe:** Oh, yes, it was. A public hearing was held and all the evidence was put in. After the evidence was in the Department of Trade and Commerce were asked if they were prepared to issue a permit under that act. The matter was considered and presented to council, and the board of transport commissioners were advised that a permit would issue if the decision of the board was as they then proposed.

My hon. friends are asking me to prejudice the issue on the evidence they have given. We have been told that the Yellowhead route is a wonderful route, the best route, the all-Canadian route. Certain facts were brought out in committee, at least so it has been reported to me. No detailed survey of any route has been made. All speakers rely on ex parte statements, and not on the sort of evidence on which a decision should be based. I ask hon. members to suppose this, though I do not say there is any possibility of its coming to pass. Suppose I made a commitment to the house that a pipe line would not be built unless it went through Canada exclusively, and then it was found that it could not be so built without tunneling through the Rocky mountains. Should I be bound by a statement of that kind? I will advise the government at the proper time, after the evidence has been brought out before the board of transport commissioners at public hearings, and after that board has given its opinion as to the proper route. That is the situation.

I could perhaps give a good deal more of the information that I gathered in Vancouver, which might be new to hon. members, but I hope I have cleared the minds of some on the point at issue. This dispute is over the question of whether two pipe line companies shall be incorporated by act of parliament in order that there may be competition for building the service. I read in the Vancouver newspapers that a company had been incorporated in the state of Washington for the purpose of building branch lines from the pipe line coming from Canada. I do not suppose those branch lines would be built in the Yellowhead pass; I would assume they would be built somewhere down in the state of Washington, or further south. I was also interested in the statement that Canadians had better understand now that the people in the state of Washington were not going to pay any more for their gas than is paid by those who are getting gas from

Texas. I thought it very interesting that already they are trading in Canadian gas down in the state of Washington.

There is another interest that has not been mentioned in this house; that is the interest of the consumer. He is the man who will pay for the pipe line this House of Commons is building in conversation here. He is going to pay what it costs to build the pipe line and what it costs to operate it. The man at the other end of the line is going to get what the consumer can afford to pay, less what it costs to build and operate the pipe line. In other words there is both a producer interest and a consumer interest, and both interests are greatly affected by the cost of the pipe line.

I can tell hon. members right now that I would not like to function as Minister of Trade and Commerce and make a recommendation to the government as to the export of gas on the strength of only one proposal. If there are not going to be any competitive proposals we may have to consider that position. If that is the situation, however, and it continues, I am afraid it will be a long time before the consumers in Vancouver get their natural gas from Alberta.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** May I say a word on this? I have not taken up much time in this connection.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, no?

**Mr. Cruickshank:** I just moved down to the front row because my opposition moved down, and I see no reason why he should have a front seat and I should not have one as well. I do not see why we should get into a heated argument on this subject. I believe those who advocate the United States route are sincere in their belief, while those of us, particularly from the province of British Columbia, who believe in the all-Canadian route are equally sincere. I give them credit for their sincerity, and I do not see why they should not give us the same credit. An hon. member from Manitoba, whose district is flooded today, keeps advising me from the rear. When my district was flooded I was home in my riding.

**Mr. Goode:** To bad you didn't stay there.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** The hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond says it is too bad I did not stay there. After his attitude toward these pipe lines I can assure him that as far as the people of British Columbia are concerned he will not be back in this house for another parliament. I just came from Windsor, where I had a very enjoyable visit.

**Mr. Goode:** After you walked over the Yellowhead pass route?