

before the first inquiry, relying on the fact that they would be able to appear before the second stage inquiry. Hon. members opposite are in trouble because of that.

Mr. Milne: Where does the hon. member stand?

Mr. Nielsen: There should have been a second stage inquiry. With proper direction, it can be embodied in the agency process, but it cannot be part and parcel of the over-all responsibilities of that agency. It has to be directed toward hearing the views and opinions of the people of the Yukon, who were promised that they would be heard on the second stage inquiry.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-25 seeks to give effect to the Canada-United States agreement, which was signed in Ottawa on September 20 by the Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) on behalf of Canada, and by Mr. James Schlesinger, President Carter's energy aide, on behalf of the United States. Despite the fact that it has taken the government four and a half months to formulate legislation which the United States Congress has ratified already, the Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council is now urging us to expedite this legislation as quickly as possible. I can understand the minister being very anxious to hurry this legislation through the House. What I cannot understand was the vehement attack which was made on the New Democratic Party by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), who started out by saying that he had spent a great deal of time with representatives of the oil and gas companies. Also he indicated that they had informed him and educated him on this subject. I suggest a refresher course might be in order.

Then he went on to say that he was absolutely certain that hon. members of the New Democratic Party had not met with any of the officials of these companies which, like so many statements he makes, is entirely unfounded. As a matter of fact, members of my party met with all the groups concerned. They met with Arctic Gas when they were promoting the Mackenzie Valley pipeline; with Foothills when they were pushing the Maple Leaf line; and during the last year with Foothills (Yukon) Limited, both before the decision of the National Energy Board and since. As a matter of fact, we have met with them two or three times in the last two or three weeks. Just as much as the Progressive Conservative party, we have sought to familiarize ourselves with all points of view.

When the hon. member for Yukon accuses both the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) and myself of attempting to filibuster the legislation, he is talking absolute nonsense. As a matter of fact, if he visited this place more frequently, he would know differently.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): He would know that under our system of parliamentary procedure there is no way in which a party of our size can filibuster legislation. I have great difficulty attempting to decide on which side the

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hon. member for Yukon is on this question, as well as on which side the Progressive Conservative party is.

It seems to me the hon. member for Yukon, like the people of a very old profession, was playing both sides of the street. He started out by attacking the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby because the latter had said, on the items which we had been promised with respect to the proposed pipeline, that most of them had gone down the tube. Then the hon. member for Yukon proceeded, item by item, to show that they had gone down the tube. He read the list of the conditions which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) had propounded on August 4 as being the conditions to which the government should subscribe if it wanted the support of the Progressive Conservative party. Then he proceeded, clause by clause, to show that none of those conditions has been met. He wants to be in a position where he can say that his party voted for the pipeline because it will have some benefit to the Yukon, at the same time as being able to say that his party criticized the government for all its failures and deficiencies in this project.

Let me put the position of the New Democratic Party very clearly. In the first place, we suggest that this is the biggest and costliest project which has ever been undertaken by Canada in its long history. We are being asked to embark upon this project without knowing what the exact route is going to be. It has not been fully surveyed. It has had none of the environmental study which went into the Mackenzie Valley pipeline route. The Dempster spur has not even been studied, let alone surveyed. There are no gas contracts yet formulated and no prices yet set for the gas.

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Most seriously, today when we are at the second reading stage of the bill we do not even know what the specifications for the pipe will be. I was appalled when the President of Privy Council stood in his place and suggested that, as long as we have that information before we take a vote, it is not necessary to have it while we are debating. The specifications will decide the cost of the line, for one thing. It will cost, by the government's own figures, \$545 million more if high pressure pipe is used. The specifications will determine what the Canadian content will be and how much of the steel pipe will be processed in Canada, because we have very limited capacity to process high pressure pipe. These specifications will determine what orders will go to Canadian companies and what jobs will go to Canadian workers, but the President of Privy Council says that is not important and that we ought to be able to carry on an intelligent discussion about a project of this magnitude without having this information. That is also the position of the hon. member for Yukon, who says, "Hurry this thing through, you don't have to have this information."

Mr. Nielsen: I didn't say that.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Is he suggesting, like the President of Privy Council, that we should buy a pig in a poke? All the vituperations of the hon. member for Yukon and all the urgings of the President of Privy Council