

*Supply—Transport*

bill has been passed in the Senate incorporating a company, and is to come up for consideration in this house presumably tomorrow.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** It will not get very far.

**Mr. Green:** If that bill should get through this house, the next step is for that company to apply to the board of transport commissioners for permission to build a line. In that hearing can the board of transport commissioners take into consideration whether or not the gas should be used in Canada? Are they the body which has the power to decide whether it is in the interest of Canada that a pipe line must go through Canada, or do they merely rule on the application as going through so much land? In other words, do they have merely a regulatory power rather than the power to make a decision as to whether or not this product should be used in Canada?

**Mr. Chevrier:** My hon. friend is right. After the bill passes this house the procedure will be as follows: An application will be made by that company to the board of transport commissioners, and the board will or will not grant the application, depending upon the circumstances. As I said a moment ago, they can deal with the movement from the source to the international boundary line, but they cannot consider a movement beyond that. I think they would take into account the availability of oil or, in this case, gas. I think, too, they should have some regard for the wishes or the policy of the province from which the gas or oil comes. For instance, I believe that the attitude of the government of Alberta, if it cares to make known its views to the board, will be given consideration. I do not see any difference between an application such as this and any other application to the board in so far as representations are concerned.

**Mr. Green:** That would mean that the board cannot decide whether the gas should be used in Canada or in the United States. Personally I do not think it is their job to decide that. It is the duty of the government to decide as a matter of policy whether these Canadian products should be exported at a time when we still need them in Canada. Certainly that question has not been dealt with by any responsible authority. I suggest to the minister that it must be handled by the government. The government must decide whether or not, as a matter of policy, this Canadian product is to go into the United States rather than be used in Canada.

**Mr. Chevrier:** On the question of policy, the position is exactly the same as it is with

[Mr. Green.]

reference to the export of fluid and electricity. The Minister of Trade and Commerce decides whether or not he will grant a licence and what conditions he applies to that licence. That took place with reference to the application of the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company. What will happen in connection with the application of the gas line that my hon. friend has in mind I do not know. It would be premature on my part to attempt to discuss it at this stage.

**Mr. Green:** Once these companies have spent millions of dollars to put in the line it is most unlikely that any governmental authority will refuse to give them a licence to export. The damage is done. Once they start spending their money it is too late to make a change.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** May I ask the minister one question? Perhaps he will not answer it. He may say that it is a matter of government policy. But I shall ask it. I do not want to go into details because I intend to speak two or three hours on this subject at the appropriate time. Is it the policy of the government to encourage an all-Canadian route for gas and oil and eventually export the surplus to the United States? That is a fair question, and the minister should answer it.

**Mr. Chevrier:** The Minister of Trade and Commerce dealt with that specifically the other evening. In so far as government policy is concerned, my hon. friend has provided the answer himself. That is announced from time to time in individual cases, and on its merits, and I am not going to renew the debate that we had the other evening.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** In individual cases?

**Mr. Knight:** May I ask the minister how hon. members can be expected to vote intelligently on the granting of these applications unless they know to what extent the board of transport commissioners is to regulate these companies and what some of these regulations may mean? The minister says that if things do not run satisfactorily after the pipe line has been in operation, if injustices develop, we can go to the courts for redress.

**Mr. Chevrier:** What case is my hon. friend talking about? He says we cannot expect to vote intelligently, and I am wondering what case he is referring to.

**Mr. Knight:** No case in particular. I am talking about applications in general for permission to build pipe lines through this country, when applications are granted by parliament. How can members of the House of Commons be expected to vote intelligently