

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

for the deliberate purpose of preventing us from obtaining the kind of information which might have brought out some of the facts the public in this country have a right to know about this strange procedure which has not yet been explained to us in any way.

This, Mr. Chairman, is adding insult to injury. Parliament has been denied its ordinary rights. Parliament has been injured by the course followed by the government on this occasion, and now to add insult to injury we are told, if we will meekly submit to the terms now imposed by this arrogant government you will be permitted to debate this to the end of the week. Then, what happens? We are going to have one day next week for the discussion of third reading. Mr. Chairman, this government cannot stop us discussing this until the end of the week. We are going to discuss it until the end of the week. They must accept full responsibility for whatever course is followed. Any pretence that we had it in our power at any time to guide the course of this debate through our actions is misleading.

What does the Prime Minister mean when he says it would have been possible for members opposite to have let the sections pass so that we could have got back to section 1? How much control have we been permitted over these proceedings? We asked the Prime Minister to give us an opportunity to get back to section 1. I asked that immediately when I pointed out the other day that his gesture meant nothing unless he was prepared to say immediately he would take the appropriate steps to return us to a discussion of section 1. When the Prime Minister's willingness to see a real discussion of this bill was tested by a vote, he voted against our opportunity to discuss section 1. What utter pretence it is for the Prime Minister to come here this afternoon and in this way suggest that we, in some way, could have obtained a discussion of section 1. We made one proposal that would have made that possible. We offered a vote on the subject which the Prime Minister might have supported and we could have been discussing section 1 for the last two days and perhaps actually getting the rights in that way to which we are now entitled. No, it was not within our power at any time to escape the shackles placed on this parliament by this arrogant government in the course that has followed.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there may be a number of hon. members opposite who have forgotten that they are members of a party which still describes itself as Liberal. They may be willing to submit to arrogant terms of this kind but we are not. There will be

no consent to any arrogant proposal of the nature that has been put before us.

Mr. Coldwell: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Sinclair: What you mean concisely is that you do not want to talk about the pipe line bill.

Mr. Coldwell: If the Minister of Fisheries wishes to speak, I will sit down and give him my place.

Mr. Sinclair: I do not want to filibuster on the bill. I would rather vote for the bill than filibuster on it.

Mr. Coldwell: Would the hon. gentleman care to stand up and say what he has to say? I will sit down while he does it. I am going to support the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Chairman, in his approach to this proposal which has been placed before us by the Prime Minister. I do not think in the 21 years I have been in the House of Commons I have felt quite as keenly about this parliament as I have during the last week or 10 days. As I said the other evening, I am one of those who have always respected this institution, because I believed it to be the very best kind of institution that was yet devised for our self-government. But when, on the initial stages of this bill, at the very first opportunity, the Minister of Trade and Commerce when speaking on the resolution introduced closure, and then on the various clauses of the bill made a motion to postpone further discussion, I felt we had come almost to the end of this institution as a democratic parliamentary institution. I today am saying that we will not consent to sitting tonight nor, under the threat of closure, will we consent to sitting on Saturday.

The tension in this house has been severe on all of us. Already three members on this side of the house have broken down.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Coldwell: Hon. gentlemen opposite laugh. That shows the extent not only of their democracy but of their human feelings. That is the kind of thing that you would expect to see, as I said the other day, in the old German Reichstag when they rejoiced as men broke under the persecution of Hitler in Germany.

I say this debate has got to the stage where I hope the people of Canada are taking some notice of it. This government has been in power so long that it has become arrogant, and the time has come when the people of this country should have an opportunity of exercising some judgment over what has been done in this house over the last while. If the government believes that the Canadian