

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

dian people. This is not only a betrayal; this is an insult to the Canadian people, and it is our duty to protest against it with everything we have.

On March 15, the ides of March, the Minister of Trade and Commerce brought in a resolution to this house proposing only the setting up of the crown corporation to build the eastern portion of this line. It created such a storm of protest that the government dared not bring the matter back into the house. From March 15 until the other day, nothing was heard about the Trans-Canada Pipe Lines. Now they have bunched together a proposition under which we shall build the eastern portion of the line together with the western portion of the line and they say, "Boys, get it through by June 7", when the caucus was called last Tuesday, and the committees of this house were called off in order that it could meet. Then they came back into this house. Apparently the Minister of Trade and Commerce had sold the cabinet a bill of goods and the cabinet told the members what could be done and that they had to toe the line to a man. I appeal to those members to think over their responsibility to the Canadian people.

They have sat here for 20 years with some of the largest majorities that the Canadian people ever gave to a government of Canada. Did the people who elected them say, "You can govern as you wish and give away the natural resources of Canada to a United States pipe line company. If you cannot get the bill through, apply closure." Is this the way you are to treat a democracy? It is colossal nerve. That is the only way in which we can describe the attitude of a government that would ask parliament to pass such a bill in the face of all the facts, a bill to pay for 96 per cent of the Canadian pipe line. To hand over control of a great asset, when you know you can operate it as a crown corporation, is nothing but an affront to the parliament of Canada. We would be traitors to Canada if we were silent. We would be traitors to the cause of democracy if we did not raise our voices in protest. We shall continue to raise them in protest throughout this whole debate.

Canadians for generations are being sold out today. What about the people of tomorrow? What about these great resources of western Canada and their value to the whole Canadian economy? What about the industries along this line that will be called upon from this day on to compete with United States industries? How can Canadian industry compete? This is a sell-out of Canadian interests such as Canada has never seen before.

That would be bad enough but, when the Prime Minister and his cabinet lay their oil-soaked hands on the altar of democracy and defile it by closing off the opposition, the people of Canada will remember. For the second time in 89 years of confederation, the banner of liberalism has been dirtied with the stain of dictatorship. Today we are witnessing a portion of democracy dying. Today this government is betraying those who sent them here in trust with our resources and in trust with the sacred Canadian democracy.

The Chairman: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I am obliged to advise him that his time has expired.

Mr. Thomas: If the gas that has been spread around here by the Tories and the C.C.F. were volatile, we would not need any importation into Ontario for the next ten years. Unfortunately, it is empty, it has no effect and no power.

A short time ago, when speaking, the hon. member for Vegreville said that he could not understand why the official opposition should join with the C.C.F. in this union. I think I can tell him why. The Tories have been looking around for a good long time, because of their lack of any basic policy, for something with which to jump on the government, and they thought this was it. In their blind groping, they found themselves attached to the dusty pink shirt-tails of the C.C.F. party, and they are stuck with it.

The hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe was talking about marriages a few moments ago. I want to tell him that the results of this union at least are that it is going to bear fruit that will be for the benefit of all the people of Canada. I am glad that he admits we are young enough to have a honeymoon. At least we are not in the decrepit position of the official opposition. Whether they know it or not, they are in a rut, and the only difference between a rut and the grave is the dimensions.

The main reason why I am rising tonight arises out of a television broadcast seen on Monday night that was made by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan, in which he discussed this question. I have never seen a program more shot through with half-truths, misrepresentations and falsehoods. It is the type of thing that could produce disastrous results if the people of Canada were to pay any attention, and thank goodness they will not. In this broadcast, as well as on the floor of the house, the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan said that this \$80 million was a payment for the building of the trans-Canada pipe line section between