

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

communities and needs had been fully served. No mention was made at that time of any need of financial aid from the government of Canada.

Today we have a resolution before us which differs in its entirety from the original considerations upon which parliament approved the Trans-Canada pipe-line proposal on March 9, 1951. Today the company demands substantial public funds and the export of gas for United States companies at which I believe, when investigated, will prove to be distress prices. Contrary to the expert opinions supporting the company's proposals in 1951, we are told that the project cannot be undertaken unless substantial quantities of natural gas are exported to the United States and unless the Canadian and Ontario governments finance the 675 miles of the spur line, for such it is, across northern Ontario.

I say to hon. members of this house that we should not approve this proposal at this time, that the government should reconsider the proposition in its entirety and should build this line as a public utility. The provinces should distribute the gas throughout the provinces by any means they might suggest. I take it that most of them would do so through a public corporation, just as is done with electric power in the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Quebec to a large extent at the present time.

We want to see a public utility. If the federal government does not feel inclined to undertake it by itself, then let it do what was suggested by the premier of Ontario on one occasion. That is to say, let a joint undertaking be established between the governments which are interested in this project, including the federal government. Let us not think it would be wise or sound to allow this to slip through our hands today and fall under the control of these powerful interests which have been under fire in the United States for years, and one of whose latest attempts was vetoed by the President of the United States in recent weeks.

I believe we have no right as a parliament to alienate this great resource to the control of a corporation over which we have no real control. The minister said this afternoon that 51 per cent of the stock would be sold in Canada. We have no guarantee that Canadians would own it, and he admitted this today. We have no guarantee that the Canadian people will own that stock. When it is placed on the market it might be bought by anyone. In any event the real control, the real power, is in the hands of these three great United States gas and oil companies

which somehow or other have persuaded our government to bring into this house what I believe to be an improvident deal.

Last year we had before the external affairs committee and before parliament a suggestion from the province of British Columbia for the alienation of a great water resource, the Kaiser deal, which proposal was turned down because it was believed to be improvident and that the government of British Columbia was making a deal not in the best interests of all Canada. If that was true of the Kaiser project on the Columbia river, and I believe it was, it is equally true in connection with this great resource which can be used in another country to a large extent to process the raw materials which I think we are sending there in too great quantities at the present time.

**Mr. Hansell:** Mr. Chairman, while I am going to be somewhat critical of government policy in respect to this bill and related matters, I want to state at the outset that we in this corner of the house will support the resolution. We may be critical of some parts of the bill, but I cannot say in what way until the bill comes down.

I listened with interest to the policy speeches by the representatives of the other two opposition groups who have preceded me. When the Leader of the Opposition spoke this afternoon I picked up my pen to take some notes, thus indicating that I intended to comment upon what he was saying, perhaps at times critically and at other times in commendation. However, I found that I could not quite focus my attention in order to make my criticisms or commendations logical in form, because it seemed to me that the Leader of the Opposition, like a jack rabbit, jumped from one corner to the other and I could not quite keep up with him. I felt that I wanted to sing that old familiar chorus, "Around and around and around she goes, and where she stops nobody knows."

However, I do want to say that with respect to his view and that of the leader of the C.C.F. party as to foreign investment, I find myself in at least some agreement with them in their criticism of government policy. Before entering into that, if I might refer to my scratched notes, I do not think we should let go by the statement made by the leader of the C.C.F., when referring to what the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce said this afternoon, that Mr. Manning indicated that they would not agree to the setting up of an all-Canadian pipe line except with a proviso. The leader of the C.C.F. seemed to seize upon that. He said he was quite surprised that any proviso should have been insisted upon by the premier of the