

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

matter which now is under consideration by the Canada Labour Relations Board. I understand that hearings have been held before the board through the system of simultaneous translation which is employed by the board and that all interested parties have had an opportunity to be heard. The Canada Labour Relations Board I understand will be handing down its decision in respect of this particular case in the very near future.

NATURAL GAS—SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO—  
DAMAGE CAUSED BY PIPE LINE  
CONSTRUCTION

**Mr. J. G. Lind (Middlesex East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to discuss with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources an order MO-11-67 by the National Energy Board on May 30 last, which gave Interprovincial Pipe Line Company the right to loop certain portions of their pipe line in southwestern Ontario, namely where it affects the lands and rights of farmers in Middlesex county.

The company has given an undertaking to the National Energy Board that the company will take the necessary steps to ensure that its pipe line does not interfere with any existing future or unplanned municipal drainage systems. They have also given an undertaking that they will not interfere with any future private drainage systems. If this pipe line should interfere with any of these systems, they would, at their own expense, lower their pipe line at the request of the municipality or the farmer, so that the pipe line would not interfere with the drainage system.

● (10:10 p.m.)

As you must realize, the machines engaged in laying this pipe line do a great deal of damage to the surface of the land over which they operate. I should like the minister's assurance that the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company will preserve the top soil, by removing it first and, after the pipe line is laid, replace it so that the farmer will be able to reseed the area traversed by the pipe line and obtain satisfactory production from this land. After land has been compacted by the traversing over it of heavy equipment, bulldozers, trucks, and heavy industrial equipment which are necessary to lay this pipe line, the farmer must be assured that the surface soil and general conditions of the rights-of-way will be such that these crossings will in no way interfere with the crop production on the property.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

The farmer must also be assured that the pipe line companies, if their lines should traverse other than on their rights-of-way, are prepared to settle, giving full compensation for all damages to existing crops. The reason I am raising this point is because the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company, when the last pipe line was constructed across the farms in southwestern Ontario, did so with little regard for the rights of these farmers. The company failed in the past to make complete and adequate compensation to the farmers for damage to crops and existing drainage systems and have refused to compensate the individual farmers for their losses. These losses were due to surface damage to existing crops, compaction of the soil and leaving the right-of-way in a condition that caused the farmer additional expense to return the surface to normal production. Then, the pipe line interfered with existing farm drains. The damage to farm drains does not always appear immediately, but might develop after a year or two.

I maintain it is the Interprovincial Pipe Line's responsibility to repair these farm drains immediately when trouble develops and for five years after the laying of the pipe line along this right-of-way. You may say that the company has given an undertaking to do all these things, but our farmers want the assurance that all past damage and future damage due to the crossing of their farms by this pipe line, will be settled without loss to the individual farmer.

It was my understanding that the right-of-way which crosses the farmer's fields would be distinctly marked, but that it is not fenced. The farmer still has the right to crop this land. As the pipe line crosses from field to field, often the construction companies damage the existing fence lines. The farmer has every right to expect, and the National Energy Board has a right to insist, that these fences be replaced in as good condition as they were when the construction was begun by the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company.

I should also like to point out to the minister that farmers, having to provide pasture for their herds in other locations during the construction, should be given consideration. As you realize, farm fences are erected to keep livestock within confined areas, and any interference with these confined areas costs the farmer time and money. Therefore I should like the assurance of the minister that he will bring these points to the attention of the National Energy Board so that the farmers of Middlesex county and southwestern