

Northern Pipeline

anyone from the government side tell us that? Not on your life.

It goes on to say that there will be an appreciation of 2.35 cents in the Canadian dollar. The Canadian dollar has gone down to 90 cents. If it appreciates 2.35 cents this would virtually wipe out the employment generated in the peak year of construction. In other words, because the government is borrowing money outside Canada it has to borrow billions. If it is done too hurriedly and at the same time it may cause the Canadian dollar to rise 2.35 cents, Canada will lose more jobs in industries such as textiles, pulp and paper, etc., which are affected by the exchange value of the Canadian dollar, than it will gain in the whole construction. That is what this report from the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce says. But do we hear about that in the House? Not on your life, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: Not from Crowfoot.

Mr. Crosbie: Not from Crowfoot nor from Cape Breton or anywhere over there. I do not mind not hearing about it from the Deputy Prime Minister because he obviously knows nothing about this project. What else does the report say? It says that concessional financing could endanger Canadian content objectives and should not be a determining factor in awarding bids. It is suggested that Canada and the U.S.A. could agree there because no concessional financing would be offered for this joint transit pipeline. In other words, the government should forbid tied financing. They should not be allowed to approach the United Kingdom or here or there outside the country and receive financing tied to our using foreign goods and services. That should be forbidden. That is what the report says, but we have not heard that from the government.

Then the report says that the Canadian content actually achieved can vary substantially from estimates because of competitive pricing conditions, tied and concessional financing, government monitoring, corporate attitudes, and other factors. We did not hear that from the government.

Then it has tables which show that the best we can expect in Canadian manufacturing content is 81.3 per cent. Table 12 shows estimates of Canadian content. There is a percentage of total expenditures for the construction of Alcan-Dempster; it is 81.3 per cent Canadian. Not 90 per cent, not 85 per cent, not 88 per cent, not 84 per cent, not 82 per cent, but 81.3 per cent. We go on through the table and the figure is \$2,299 million. If we add on the construction side of the table, there is a total of \$3,367 million Canadian out of \$3,940 million which is 85.4 per cent. That is the maximum, and that is if everything goes perfectly; and everything is administered to the utmost perfection. So is the most we can have is 85 per cent with absolute perfection.

What does the Deputy Prime Minister tell us in his speech of yesterday at page 2790 of *Hansard*? He said this:

During the hearings before the National Energy Board, Foothills stated its objective—and I stress the word objective because it was not and could not be a flat guarantee—

The Deputy Prime Minister is cagey; he is the cagiest cage in the government. He goes on:

—was to achieve Canadian input into the system in Canada of more than 90 per cent.

We have been warned it is only an objective. You cannot catch the Deputy Prime Minister when he says that. Then he goes on to say:

During the intervening months Foothills has repeatedly restated that objective. On the basis of past performance of the sponsoring companies, and our own assessment of Canadian supply capabilities, there is every reason to believe that this target will be achieved.

The Deputy Prime Minister went a bit further than he thought he was going when he said that there is every reason to believe that we can achieve over 90 per cent. Because the report of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce states the most we can achieve is 85 per cent—if we are perfect. God knows this is not a perfect government. We have to be harsh and say there are a few imperfections here. The Deputy Prime Minister is not properly briefed. He is saying we can achieve 90 per cent, but the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, headed by our late comrade, has said the best that can be done is 85 per cent. Our manufacturers will achieve only 82 per cent.

I hope, therefore, that the Deputy Prime Minister will retract his statement at the first opportunity, that he will come before this House in sackcloth and ashes to retract that statement. The government is so secretive. It is governed by stealth and secrecy. It is government by the unknowing doing the unknowable. They do not know what reports they have prepared. Some ministers are in the federal-provincial conference and some are here. They give this “boffle” to the House. It is government in the dark. It reminds me of the old Cole Porter tune “Dancing in the dark”. I hope that when government members have their little drinking session here they will sing “Government in the Dark”.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: As I understand it, of this \$10 billion there is about \$3.8 billion to be spent on the Alaska part of the project and \$2 billion in the United States. Since our leader on this matter is not shaking his head, I assume that is right.

Does anyone think Canada is going to get much business in the United States? What a joke! What a laugh! Does anyone think we will get much business in Alaska? The Americans are not shy sticking up for their own rights or shy about gaining their own national objectives. They are not scared of Canada. They are not the “good old neighbours”. They have “buy American” legislation. Protectionist pressures during 1977 resulted in the emergence of new “buy American” proposals at all levels of government.

Our government is covering here in Ottawa, afraid to have a buy Canadian policy. Our own pipeline, which we do not need in the first place, we are building as good neighbours. The U.S. public works employment act amendments of May, 1977, tied a “buy American” requirement to state and local government public works projects to be funded with the \$4