

Boundary Pipeline Corporation

the proceedings of the committee. Referring to the letter he had received he said:

This is a letter which I received this afternoon by air mail from Mr. A. H. Harris, manager, gas utility, Winnipeg Electric Company, in reply to an inquiry directed to him a few days ago; and the specific nature of our inquiry was to find out his views of the various estimates made of industrial and commercial loads in greater Winnipeg, more specifically on the figure of 10.95 billion cubic feet—roughly 11 billion cubic feet—given in the consumer load survey of the Boundary Company. That figure of 11 billion for industrial interruptible load represents over 65 per cent of the Boundary estimate of the total greater Winnipeg consumption and represents approximately 40 per cent of the total fifth year estimate of demand for the entire Boundary pipe line system.

Mr. Laing: Good reading.

Mr. Murphy: I continue:

In reply to this inquiry this is what the Winnipeg Electric Company says—and I point out that this is the company which distributes or will distribute the natural gas in Winnipeg for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes.

Mr. Laing: You read well.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Nickle continued as follows:

He has submitted a lengthy brief here which I think will be of interest to the committee.

I am going to quote a couple of paragraphs because I think it is very important.

An hon. Member: Let Howard take over.

Mr. Murphy: This is a part of the letter from the Winnipeg Electric Company, and it reads as follows:

In reply to your inquiry on the fuel situation in Winnipeg including coal consumption, natural gas sales, etc., we are unable to find anything approaching a 10 billion cubic foot natural gas interruptible load in this immediate territory.

Then Mr. Nickle read the final paragraph of the letter which is as follows:

Incidentally, we have had no recent inquiries from anyone concerning prospective natural gas consumption in this district, and we doubt if accurate figures could be determined without consultation with us. It would appear that the 10 billion cubic foot interruptible load referred to has been pulled out of the air.

In the face of all that evidence the committee recommended the bill for adoption.

Mr. Laing: Five Tories in the house.

Mr. Weir: Six now.

Mr. Laing: Now we have got six.

Mr. Murphy: I should like to say to some of these people who are more constipated in one end than they should be in the other that they should be still for a moment. This is not the type of evidence which would warrant the incorporation of any company. When we had such contradictory evidence before the committee I think we are entitled

to consider the measure for what it is worth, and I see no reason why we as members of the house should grant a charter to this particular company. I think it is an absurd thing to do when we only had evidence from one man who was a very capable witness for the Boundary Pipeline Corporation—

Mr. Laing: Seven now.

Mr. Murphy:—but who contradicted himself so much and whose evidence was certainly contradicted by the very people through whom he expected to distribute so much of his product. That fact should be weighed with grave consideration by those who were members of the committee as well as all other members of the house. We in Canada, whether we live in Alberta, Ontario or British Columbia, are interested in the development of the natural resources of the country. We do not feel that these pipe line companies should be incorporated for their nuisance value. It may be that is the policy of some people but I am inclined to take the attitude that we should oppose that sort of practice whether it comes from Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg or anywhere else. I am not in favour of granting a charter to anybody who applies for it for the sake, as the witness in this case said, of getting his toe into the gas fields of Alberta with the idea no doubt of selling his charter to someone at a later date who would probably obtain a franchise to export gas from the province of Alberta.

I think it is quite well understood that we are going to have two pipe lines from the Alberta gas fields, one to the east and one to the west. This particular company is endeavouring to obtain a charter to build a 16-inch line. Certainly that is no good for the province of Ontario or the province of Quebec. We in these two provinces want natural gas, and if it can be obtained we want to get it from the province of Alberta, or later from the province of Saskatchewan, the province of Manitoba, or wherever it can be obtained. We want to get it at the cheapest possible rate. We in southwestern Ontario are now getting some gas from the United States but as Canadians we would be very glad indeed to obtain all our gas from the western provinces if we could. I hope that circumstances will be such that we will be able to obtain natural gas from that region at a price competitive with that of gas imported from the United States. Neither now nor at any time in the past have we ever been assured of a definite amount of gas from the United States for a definite period.