

Trans-Canada Pipe Lines

first came before this parliament. We did it again and again when the pipe line bills came before this house. We are doing it again today. In 1956 when I made a speech like the one I made this afternoon there was thunderous applause not only from my own friends around me but from the hon. gentlemen who today sit opposite me. Today their silence speaks louder than their words.

I want to say that if the government fails to carry out in a practical way the sentiments which the Conservative party when in opposition expressed, that will be, in the words of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Green), the greatest betrayal of the Canadian people since confederation. What disturbs me even more is that the governments failure to act undermines once more the faith of the people of Canada in this parliamentary institution which, in my opinion, is the best instrument man has yet devised for expressing himself collectively and for governing himself. Every time a government takes office, having before they took office expressed an opinion along certain lines, and then when they get into office do quite the opposite of what they were expected to do from the prior sentiments they expressed, parliament is undermined.

This parliamentary institution has enough critics and enough enemies today. When I remember the words of the Prime Minister in this house and across the country, that the supremacy of parliament must be restored, that the Liberals have made this house a caricature of parliament, I tell him today that if he fails to do the things he should do, he will not only be making a caricature of this parliament, he will not only be denying the supremacy of this parliament, he will be undermining it in a manner in which no other prime minister or government has undermined this institution since confederation.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): The amendment before the house today, Mr. Speaker, and the remarks which have just been made by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell) illustrate clearly two of the methods of approach of the C.C.F. party which he leads in Canada today. The first is that this amendment advocates outright socialism.

Mr. Coldwell: No.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the minister but the other day I made an error which I do not want to repeat today in not reading the motion so that we had it properly before the house. I should now like to put the motion. The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell), seconded

by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), moves an amendment to the motion to go into committee of supply as follows:

That all of the words after the word "That" to the end of the question be struck out and that the following words be substituted therefor:

"this house is of the opinion that the government should consider the advisability of taking the necessary steps to bring the trans-Canada natural gas pipe-line under public ownership so as to preserve this important public utility for the benefit of the Canadian people and to make sure that the profits from this venture will accrue to the nation as a whole rather than to a few privileged individuals, and further this house is of the opinion that the government should take the responsibility for recommending policies to parliament regarding Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited instead of evading such responsibility by referring matters in relation thereto to a royal commission."

I am sorry to have had to interrupt the hon. minister.

Mr. Green: As I had begun to point out, Mr. Speaker, this amendment today before the house and the remarks of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart illustrate two of the basic approaches of the C.C.F. party to the problems which face the Canadian people. The first approach is socialism; this amendment calls for outright socialism.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Green: They may deny it, but they are socialist in one place, half socialist in another and quarter socialist in a third. I find that fundamentally—and the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch), confirmed this at one of these big celebrations last week end—the main policy of the C.C.F. party still remains socialism as it appears today in this amendment and in the remarks made by the leader of that party.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Was Mr. Drew a socialist?

Mr. Green: Well the cold hard fact is this: the Canadian people do not believe in socialism. This country of all countries is one which has been developed by the initiative of the individual. Canada would not be what she is today if she had had a system of socialism since the year 1867 with everything being directed by a group of politicians sitting here in Ottawa and with all the business undergoing state direction.

An hon. Member: It would be way ahead.

Mr. Green: This is a nation and the Canadians are people who believe in free enterprise and in the initiative of the individual and, above all groups in the country, the group to whom that means the most is organized labour. Where would they be under a system of state direction?