

Alberta Natural Gas Company

debate started. We know that these pipe lines, whether they be gas or oil, will be under the control of companies with dominion charters, and therefore will not come under the control of the public utilities commission of the province of British Columbia so far as tolls and tariffs are concerned. The debate has also brought to the attention of members of the house and the people of the country generally the necessity for some legislation in that respect to protect consumers. While we are first of all anxious for a Canadian route, members on this side of the house, and I am sure some hon. members on the other side, are anxious to see the Canadian consumer protected. In view of the rather loose evidence presented by Mr. Dixon on behalf of the Alberta Natural Gas Company, we consider that we must, while insisting on an all-Canadian route, protect the Canadian consumer. Therefore I am going to propose an amendment to the amendment moved by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra. I move:

The amendment be amended by adding thereto, immediately after the last word thereof, the following words:

"and also so as to provide for the regulation of the tolls and tariffs of the proposed company for the protection of Canadian consumers."

In conclusion I trust, Mr. Speaker, that when the vote is taken on the amendment to the amendment, and on the amendment, members of the house will accept their responsibility and protect the interests of the Canadian people so far as route and tolls and tariffs are concerned.

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the amendment and the amendment to the amendment, but also for another purpose, to answer the contemptible and entirely unwarranted suggestions advanced this afternoon by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) with respect to certain of the matters that have been brought to his attention. I refer particularly to his suggestions with regard to some of the telegrams which reached him from the ordinary consumer, the ordinary man in the communities of British Columbia which are so vitally concerned in this matter.

It will have been noted that in his remarks this afternoon the Minister of Trade and Commerce did not refer to our suggestion that the main Pipe Lines Act be amended to make the same provision for all companies, namely, that any company incorporated should be required to build its route to the Pacific coast through Canadian territory. He obviously and deliberately avoided referring to that contention but he did deliberately, and from the outset, suggest that the efforts to provide a Canadian route were made as a result of approaches to members

[Mr. Herridge.]

of the house and to the individuals from whom he received telegrams by agents of one company in particular. I can only conclude from the totally unwarranted suggestions put forward by the minister this afternoon, and the malevolence of the motives he imputed to members of the house as well as to the individuals who had sent him telegrams, that he is so steeped in the methods of big business that he cannot conceive of any small man acting independently. It seems to me that the conclusion to be drawn from his remarks is that he is so accustomed to the power plays of power politics that he cannot credit that the small man would rise up and act, although independently nevertheless in unison, to protect the interests that he conceives to be vital to himself and his community.

Because I had some part—and I am proud of it—in the suggestion that these telegrams be forwarded to the minister I believe that I must rise in defence and explanation of the motives of those who sent him at least some of the telegrams to which he has referred. I have no hesitation in saying again what I said to the minister this afternoon, that during the week immediately preceding last week I was home in my constituency, and I suggested to as many as I could reach personally and over the radio that they should wire individually and collectively to the Minister of Trade and Commerce while he was in Vancouver. I have here a letter from the president of the Blue River board of trade of my constituency which indicates the spirit in which these telegrams were sent. It is a complete answer to the suggestion of the minister that they were sent as a result of approaches, and in fact as a result of some sort of payment by an official of one or other of the companies concerned in this matter. The letter is dated at Blue River, British Columbia, on May 8, 1950, and is addressed to myself. It reads:

I have been going to write you for some time to thank you and some of the other members, who have been putting up such a valiant fight for our all-Canadian pipe line route.

The next paragraph has a complimentary word for me and one or two other hon. members, and then the letter goes on:

As you may know, the Kamloops board of trade and junior chamber of commerce have called a joint meeting for tonight in Clearwater, with another meeting in Kamloops tomorrow night.

The object of these meetings is to stir up interest and to have the individuals and organizations flood Hon. C. D. Howe with hundreds of telegrams, while he is in Vancouver. Our committee handling this canvass have met with great success, and have handed me fifty-five telegrams already, with still more to come. These will be dispatched to Mr. Howe, spread over the three days, namely 9th and 10th and 11th of this week. While they may not have