

*Trans-Canada Pipe Lines*TRANS-CANADA PIPE LINES—MOTION
FOR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Mr. Green: It was my understanding that if an amendment is moved it would be voted on at 8.15, and that then we would go on with any individual grievances, and the motion to go into supply would be voted on at ten o'clock.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): I want to repeat something about the attitude of the official opposition which I said when the first motion to go into committee of supply was made on November 18. I stated then what would be the attitude of the official opposition on that and the succeeding similar motions that are provided for by the rules of the house. I said we felt that the time of the house, under the rules of the house on motions to go into committee of supply, might in this short session be more profitably used in discussing the individual items in supply than in a general discussion on the motion to go into committee and supply.

For that reason and others which I gave when I spoke on the address in reply to the speech from the throne I said the official opposition did not intend to move any amendment nor to support any amendment that may come from any other quarter of the house. That, of course, was a statement I made for all these motions that might be submitted. At that time I reserved until a later date the right to have one of these motions stand, with one or two departments still to go into committee of supply, so that if anything out of the ordinary required debate on that kind of motion there would be one that would have to be made.

We noted with satisfaction that in announcing last night the business for today and tomorrow the leader of the house mentioned as the item to follow immediately the disposition of this one would be that having to do with the resolution preceding the introduction of the bill to establish a system of guaranteed prices for certain agricultural commodities, which all parties of the house have been pressing to have brought forward at the earliest possible moment.

We feel that at this session it would be difficult, in spite of the arrangement that has been made for the Christmas recess, to dispose after satisfactory consideration of all the important matters that are of interest to the Canadian public. Because of that fact we are prepared to forgo some of the opportunities for general debate on more or less academic questions that might be available to private members, and to give such co-operation as is within our power to bring about consideration of the estimates themselves and these items of legislation which are of interest to the general public.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, there are some time-honoured customs in parliament which I think we should very carefully preserve. We have forgone a number of opportunities during this session when hon. members of this house might have raised matters which they consider to be of vital interest, either to their constituents or to the country. I offer no apologies this afternoon, therefore, for moving an amendment to the motion to go into supply. I want to say immediately that it is not an academic problem with which I am going to deal, but a problem which I believe to be of very vital concern to the entire Canadian people and one upon which this house should express its opinion.

Consequently, at the beginning of my remarks I move the following amendment, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

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.

That is the amendment I wish to move this afternoon and it is one, of course, which implies that the people of Canada expect the government to fulfil the obligations concerning the Trans-Canada pipe line which it definitely undertook when in opposition.

The Conservatives at that time did not suggest that this matter be referred to a royal commission which, so far as I know, has not even yet begun to sit. It may take months to investigate and still more months to make a report, not only on Trans-Canada Pipe Lines, which should be separated from its report of inquiry on the development of—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder if the house would try to give the hon. member who has the floor an opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Coldwell: I can imagine that my hon. friends in the Liberal party are disturbed at this matter being raised once again—

Mr. McIlraith: You need not blame it on us.