

*Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation*

are no more rules; we have Speaker's propositions; and with four members of the opposition standing in their place raising points of privilege and points of order,—

**An hon. Member:** Read rule 7.

**Mr. Castleden:**—the Speaker says, "Those in favour of my proposition" and "Those against" and you steamroller the thing, you set aside this rule book and you destroy parliament.

**An hon. Member:** Have you read rule 7?

**Mr. Castleden:** You read it. Look at what is happening in this house. Democracy is being destroyed in this house.

**An hon. Member:** What do you know about democracy?

**Mr. Castleden:** I have not heard you try to protect it very much.

**Mr. Ellis:** Why not get up and make a speech instead of interrupting?

**Mr. Castleden:** The issue in this house tonight is not the pipe line.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Castleden:** The issue in this house tonight is democracy and the democratic rights of the people of Canada. Pipe lines will come and go. One hundred years from today the pipe line will probably be forgotten. But the rules and precedents which you have set down today will be the rules whereby this house will be misgoverned. You are taking away the rights of parliament, the rights of members to speak. You are destroying the opposition.

You might as well say to the opposition that they can go home because now, under the precedents set in this house today, the opposition from here on is to be wiped out because they can say, "This was the precedent of June 1, 1956". Built on what? Built on the precedent of 1932, only made much more drastic, completely wiping out the opposition. The government says, "The deadline which we set of June 7 shall be met, irrespective of what happens in parliament."

Where is the seed of it? Where did this come from? I lay the blame on the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I respect his ability as an administrator and as a builder. If I wanted a job done in Canada, a big job in engineering, I believe he would be the man to do it. But I say in the same breath that the man has no right to be within a thousand miles of the House of Commons. Here is his own statement, and I give it to him exactly. I am quoting from page 4405 of *Hansard* of May 28:

Now, why are we pressing on; why are we pressing this? Well, I do not know; perhaps I

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get over-enthusiastic about a project. I have been working on sizeable projects all my life, and somehow I reach a point in the development when I think a project is important; and if it is a serious enough project I begin to think it is the most important thing in the world . . .

Yes, it is the most important thing in the world. To him it is more important than parliament. I tell him in this house there is something more important than the project of the pipe line, and that is democracy and the rights of the people, the rules under which democracy operates. They are being destroyed today, and that is why we had the exhibition that we had today.

I want to say it will be a sad day for Canada when people in this House of Commons will not stand up and protect those rights when they see them being violated. I want to say that the rights and the freedom of this parliament can be pushed back 100 years tomorrow unless someone stands here and says "Stop".

As far as we in the opposition are concerned, we refuse to submit to the violation of those rights. Those rights were bought after hundreds of years of fighting, war, struggle, years of imprisonment of men who refused to knuckle down, men who said "this is wrong" and stood up against it.

When I see the docile Liberal backbenchers to a man standing up and condoning what has happened in this house, endorsing it, supporting it, without one word of protest, I say this can happen. I say it is a sad day for Canada, not only to have the opposition wiped out but all the rules and all the symbols of this house and what this house means. That mace should be placed on the desks of the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Prime Minister of Canada as a symbol of government. It should rest between the opposition and the government as a sign of what is right, of the rights of the minority, of the rights of individuals to speak in Canada's parliament. Otherwise this House of Commons becomes the home of subservient slaves who bow to the will of a person who becomes overly enthusiastic and thinks his project is the most important thing in the world. Under such conditions there is one important matter, and that is freedom.

The disgraceful conduct of the Chair in doing the apparent bidding of the cabinet was the final act of shame. By riding rough-shod over the rules we have destroyed a part of Canadian democracy. The most important words that I could find were from the letters of Junius. I shall read those words:

We can never be really in danger until the forms of parliament are made use of to destroy the substance of our civil and political liberties—