

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

Mr. MacInnis: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate has just made a statement which is so far removed from the truth—

An hon. Member: Sit down.

Another hon. Member: There is no point of order.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown): Order. If the hon. member for Cape Breton South alleges that there has been misrepresentation of his own remarks he may rise on a point of order and correct it. However, I do not see any point of order. It sounded more like a speech.

Mr. Pickersgill: As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, as I say, I am interested in talking about a situation that ought to be regarded by the government of this country as a national emergency because here is an industry—I refer to the historic and basic industry of Nova Scotia—that is dying.

An hon. Member: You have killed it.

Another hon. Member: The Liberal party is dying, too.

Mr. Pickersgill: Hon. gentlemen are determined to have the history. May I say that I will give them the history. I will give it to them in two words. In 1957, the present Prime Minister of this country went about the province of Nova Scotia, led by the hand by the present premier of Nova Scotia—I refer to Mr. Stanfield—and promised the people of that province that he would increase coal production. He went all over the province and did that. He deceived those people and got their votes by his deception. That is the history. Because the then prime minister, Mr. St. Laurent, was honest and truthful enough to say that he would not seek to increase coal production but that he would maintain it, he was misrepresented all over that area.

Mr. Pallett: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown): Will the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate take his seat?

Mr. Pickersgill: I thought I had the floor.

Mr. Pallett: I rose on a point of order.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown): The parliamentary secretary has risen on a point of order.

Mr. Pallett: The hon. member is so full of his own verbosity that he cannot hear. I rose on a point of order. It has been a long-established rule of the House of Commons that no allegation of deception shall be made

against any hon. member. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate should have enough experience to know that. I call upon him to withdraw that allegation.

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not regard that as being a point of order and I intend to continue. It does not seem to me that these interruptions we are getting from the other side are called for. Of course, hon. gentlemen opposite do not want their conduct in the last four years to be exposed. They do not want their lack of policy to be exposed. They do not want their deception to be exposed.

Mr. Pallett: Speaking to the point of order, Mr. Chairman, may I say that this point of order has not been disposed of.

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not even understand what the hon. gentleman is alleging.

An hon. Member: We did not expect you to do so.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Denis: Withdraw the point of order.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown): Order. I think perhaps the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate went a little bit further than he would normally go, judging by my knowledge of him as a member of this House of Commons. Perhaps he could modify his language in that regard in his remarks now and withdraw the rather pointed use of the words "deception" and "deceive".

Mr. Pickersgill: If the hon. member—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown): May I continue? It appears that these other members think it was done with malice aforethought, so to speak, at the time. That imputation is not one that I should like to take from it. Possibly I misunderstood the hon. member. I know that he would want to withdraw the remarks if that is what he had in mind.

Mr. Pickersgill: If you, Mr. Chairman, think that I was suggesting that when the Prime Minister went about Nova Scotia promising to increase coal production, he deliberately did not intend to do it, may I say that I did not mean any such thing.

An hon. Member: You meant he had good intentions?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes; we know the place that is paved with good intentions.

An hon. Member: And visions.

Mr. Pickersgill: I say that the Prime Minister, led about the province of Nova Scotia by the present premier, promised to increase coal production. He did that. I have dozens of references to those promises all