

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

and point out to hon. members of the committee in general and to the hon. member for Bow River in particular that there are certain gentlemen attached to his political party, which I think can be said to be a national party, who were very much involved in purchases, to such an extent that they were removed from positions they held in the cabinet in the government of the province of Ontario.

With respect to public morality we had several years ago in northern Ontario an absolute scandal—

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member for Bow River perhaps did for a moment stray from the subject of coal. At that time Your Honour brought him to order. He related his remarks to coal and quickly returned to that subject. The hon. member for Port Arthur is now not even going through the formality of making any effort to relate his comments to coal. He rose and stated that he intended to talk about public morality in connection with the province of Ontario. I suggest that Ontario is not a coal province in any full sense of the word, and that the hon. gentleman could not possibly relate his present remarks to the item under consideration.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, if I may say a word on the point of order, in view of the fact that Your Honour made a ruling which was completely disregarded by the hon. member for Bow River who went on, uninterrupted by anyone on this side of the chamber, with his attacks upon public men on matters not even remotely related to coal, the minority in this house should be accorded the same hearing that has been given the majority.

Mr. Graffey: Why did the hon. member not raise a point of order at the time?

Mr. Walker: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order—

Mr. Hellyer: The minister is loquacious this morning, perhaps because he got his canoe back. The hon. member had better be careful.

Mr. Walker: If little boy blue from Trinity would remain quietly in his seat on occasion, we would have more respect for him. Let me tell the hon. member for Trinity that he will have an opportunity to reply if he has the audacity to rise to his feet and speak.

Mr. Pickersgill: Who is chairman of this committee?

Mr. Walker: Mr. Chairman, the point of order that has been raised attempts to correct the situation. If the hon. member for

Bow River was out of order, is that any reason why another hon. gentleman should be allowed to be out of order? If the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate wanted to make a criticism at the time, I am sure Your Honour would have stopped the hon. member for Bow River and invited him to return to the subject. How can the remarks of the hon. member for Port Arthur, if he is to continue in the fashion in which he started, be related to the subject before the committee at this time? With the greatest respect, Mr. Chairman, let me say we are trying to end this session, but we are not going to succeed in our objective if the hon. member for Port Arthur is going to attempt to rise in his place and engage in his favourite pastime of mud-slinging or mudraking or whatever you wish to call it.

Mr. Pickersgill: Competition in muck-raking.

Mr. Walker: The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate is a circus performer at any time.

The Chairman: When I rose during the course of the remarks of the hon. member for Bow River I must say I had difficulty relating his remarks to the item before the committee, but I did not know anything of the background of the contracts of which he was speaking. I had some doubts about the relevancy of his remarks. Hon. members of the committee generally appeared to think I was in error. That is why I did not intervene, afterward. In order to be fair I think I should allow the hon. member for Port Arthur to deal briefly with the comments made by the hon. member for Bow River. I do not think it would be in order for the hon. gentleman to make a speech solely on the subject with which he opened his remarks. I shall allow the hon. gentleman some latitude, especially if he can relate his remarks to the subject dealt with by the hon. member for Bow River. On the other hand, the hon. gentleman must not go too far. I would not wish to have started a debate within this debate.

Mr. Walker: Mr. Chairman, do I understand your ruling to be that the hon. member for Port Arthur should confine his remarks to the subject of the bill before the committee?

Mr. Pickersgill: We are not debating a bill. The hon. member does not even know what business is before the committee.

Mr. Robichaud: We are on estimates.

Mr. Walker: I appreciate that we are in committee on estimates.

Mr. Pickersgill: The chairman has made his ruling.