Industrial Activity in Maritimes

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• (8:50 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the amendment lost.

## [Translation]

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment.

## [English]

Mr. Groos: I was paired with the hon. member for Edmonton East (Mr. Skoreyko). Had I voted I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is on the main motion.

## INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN THE MARITIMES

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): My grievance this evening concerns the lack of action—I might even say the lack of interest—on the part of this government in respect to the economic problems facing the maritime provinces and the Cape Breton industrial area particularly.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps before the hon, member continues we might have order in the chamber.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): My grievance, as I have said, has special reference to the industrial area of Cape Breton. In this area Dosco is the major employer both in steel and coal, and in each of these fields we are today looking to this government for action.

During the election campaign in Nova Scotia the people in that area, and possibly people throughout the country were subjected to a slogan—I imagine the Minister of National Health and welfare (Mr. MacEachen) will well recall it—"A Liberal government cares, acts and makes things happen". We might follow up that slogan by asking: "For whom, how, and when?"

Over the week end the minister apparently made an announcement to the effect that he, together with the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys will be going to Nova Scotia shortly to speak to the interested parties about the government's intention with respect to the opening of a new mine in Lingan and the provision of \$15 million to mechanize existing mines in the area. I might call the minister's attention to the fact that though last week he expressed the intention of meeting with the interested parties, including the union and the provincial government, I find on checking this matter that neither the Minister of National Health and Welfare nor the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Pepin) had made any approach whatsoever to the union or to the company with respect to this get-together meeting in Halifax.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare who will not accept responsibility in this house for questions concerning coal, nevertheless preached on this subject throughout the province and throughout the maritimes during the election campaign. He has sat silent in the house since his return, hiding behind a rule which says he can deal only with matters affecting his own department. Yet at the same time he combines with the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) in giving out press releases concerning matters which do not affect his department. It is time we had some answers from this minister who went along with another minister of the Crown to imply in Nova Scotia that his government had provided \$25 million—I repeat, "had provided"—to the coal industry to mechanize existing mines and open a new