

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

This statement is taken from the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* of May 3, 1957, and that is nearly five years ago. I am just wondering if the minister could indicate when that promise of the Prime Minister's is going to be carried out, and whether any part of the money to be voted in this fiscal year would be used to carry out that five year old promise, that what we want is coal subventions within the province.

Mr. MacEwan: I listened with interest to the remarks of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate and I noted he was back on the old story from the red book. The Prime Minister was in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, not long after that and he stated in the presence of myself and the new premier of Nova Scotia something to this effect: "You asked for subventions in the maritime provinces for power users, and you will have those subventions." Regardless of what the hon. member said, he mentioned the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act under which subventions are paid to industrial users who use power which is generated by coal. I would point out that this was brought forward by this government.

He may not think it means very much but I would tell him it means a great deal in my area. I put this on record in *Hansard* when a private member—I think it was the hon. member for Timiskaming—brought forward a private member's motion which suggested the national power grid. Certainly there are two mines in my area which are very much dependant on power produced in the Trenton thermo power plant, and subventions, are paid under the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act to industrial users. Also under the act various transmission lines were constructed within the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and power has been sent over them from the plant in my area. This indeed has helped very much to assist the production of coal in the three mines in my area, Greenwood, Drummond and part of the production in the McBean seam.

These are the only three mines left in my area after the manner in which the former government did not assist the other mines which closed up during the 1950's. I know that the hon. member in speaking on this provision has said the Prime Minister referred to coal subventions within the province of Nova Scotia, within the maritimes, but that is merely a play on words by him.

Indeed at the meeting which the delegation from Cape Breton attended not so long ago various things were brought forward which were projected by the hon. member for Cape Breton South, the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria, the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond, and others, including

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

myself. There are a lot of things that could come forward and I am sure the government will give consideration to the subventions that could be paid to certain industrial plants which perhaps use their own power or use other types of fuel at the present time. I know consideration is being given to that by the federal government. Coal subvention in the maritimes is merely a play on words by the hon. member.

Mr. Pickersgill: I thank the hon. member, whom I might describe as unpaid parliamentary secretary, for his intervention on behalf of the minister. I may say the last thing I want to do—

Mr. MacEwan: I am just looking after my constituency. I am not looking for any glamour at all.

Mr. Pickersgill: We have what the hon. member publicized in 1957 and we would be glad to exhibit it to the house.

Mr. MacEwan: I am waiting for you, don't worry.

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. gentleman does not boast about the manner—

Mr. MacEwan: I never boast about anything.

Mr. Pickersgill: I listened very attentively to what the hon. member had to say, and as he has always been a courteous member I am sure he will listen attentively to me. The last thing I want to do is disparage in any way the excellent program for the development of power in the maritime provinces, which was announced in Mr. Harris' budget speech in the spring of 1957 and was accepted in principle by the present premier of Nova Scotia and by the former premier of New Brunswick immediately after that budget was brought forward, and which was under discussion with these governments before the Diefenbaker government ever came into office.

We think that was a good program, although we do not think it was carried on as well as it might have been. We are glad it kept three mines open in the hon. gentleman's constituency, and he ought to be very grateful to Mr. Harris, Mr. Lesage and Mr. St. Laurent for what they did at that time. However I am talking about something else that the Prime Minister promised. The hon. gentleman said it was a play on words—

An hon. Member: On your part.

Mr. Pickersgill: It was a play on words no doubt on the part of the hon. gentleman's leader. He is a great one for playing on words as we all know. I have another quotation and I shall quote the Prime Minister's words as reported in the *Saint John Telegraph-Journal*