

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

that these same policies he had put into effect in the United States were immoral and dishonest. They never thought about that, yet they referred to my statement as immoral and dishonest.

There is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, as I have said, that a lot of these statements are going to be repeated. I hope they are, because I think it is about time the air was cleared in so far as the activities of the executive officers of the union in Cape Breton are concerned. I have been accused in the press of many things since the January 10 meeting. They have accused me of being immoral and dishonest. One executive member, the vice president, has taken it upon himself to refer to me as a non-thinker. He said I had often called him a thief and a liar publicly. For the benefit of this committee I am saying that I have never called this man a thief and a liar. I am only repeating here what I have said at local union meetings; I have never called him a thief and a liar. I did, however, on a number of occasions refer to him as a scab and a liar. I have repeated this publicly before union meetings, and I can substantiate that by written evidence.

There is no doubt that the opposition think I am digging a grave. This may be so. However, in digging that grave I hope to bring to the attention of the miners in Cape Breton that their executive have let them down and it is time the miners cleared them out. I thought we were going to hear from the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate tonight.

An hon. Member: He is a fisherman.

Mr. MacInnis: Somebody says he is a fisherman. That may be true because all he spoke about down there was the tides that are running. They are running. Regardless of how he sees it, the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate knows that they are not running strong enough. His party will possibly come to the same grief as did his ship not too many years ago.

Before I resume my seat, Mr. Chairman, I should like once again to express my appreciation of the fact that at least this larger operation in Cape Breton has been salvaged for another year. It is my hope that developments will be such that in this year or possibly within a shorter time something may occur not only to save No. 16 colliery but Florence. Every effort on my part will continue, although the hon. member for Assiniboia seems to take objection to the fact that I have put forward certain efforts. He has denied the existence of certain correspondence. I invited other members of his party to rise in their places and deny that they had received this correspondence but they did not answer. After all, their preachments about

and their interest in the coal mine situation is for one reason only and we are fully aware of what it is.

Mr. Pickersgill: I have no desire to enter into the private quarrel between the hon. member for Cape Breton South and the officers of the U.M.W. in his riding. I will leave that matter to them. Nor have I any particular interest in traversing the history from the years 1946 to 1956—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. MacInnis: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, I will not permit a question until—

An hon. Member: You cannot answer it.

Mr. Pickersgill: I will not permit a question until I have finished my sentence. I say I have no particular interest in traversing the period from 1946 to 1956. However, if the hon. gentleman wishes it, I shall be very happy to do so before these estimates are passed. The situation with which we are faced today in Cape Breton ought to be talked about, not the situation existing between 1946 and 1956.

Mr. MacInnis: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes; if the hon. gentleman wishes to ask one.

Mr. MacInnis: Will the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate not agree that it was not I who started to traverse history but rather the hon. member for Gloucester?

Mr. Pickersgill: I am not interested in arguing about that matter. What I am interested in is the fact that yesterday when I was in Sydney and Glace Bay a mine was closed. On August 1 another mine is going to be closed and hundreds of men are going to be thrown out of work with no alternative jobs. That is the situation in 1961.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pickersgill: We in this committee cannot do anything about 1946 or 1956.

An hon. Member: You could have done something at one time.

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes; and in 1946 and in 1956 a miner, if he lost a job in Cape Breton, could get a job in another mine, either in Cape Breton or somewhere else, and he did so because we had full employment in those days.