

the member from Skeena. Since his name is Fulton, I can only presume that he wanted to let off some steam. I also presume that he was speaking for his party, although which part I do not know.

In a question to the Honourable Jake Epp, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. Fulton stated:

As he knows, Nova Scotia Power Corporation plans to proceed with the Point Aconi coal-fired electrical power plant. The project will produce acid rain as well as 1.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year and \$500 million in long-term debt.

He goes on to ask the federal government to evaluate that project before any further contracts or considerations are made. There is no way the socialists want this plant to proceed on Cape Breton Island.

Mr. Epp answered him, following which Mr. Fulton complained about these projects proceeding, thereby creating pollution. We all know about that. He asks:

Why is the minister not encouraging the province of Nova Scotia which could in fact have billions of dollars in net energy savings rather than \$500 million plus in long-term debt? What is going on?

I am quoting from pages 9082 and 9083 of the *House of Commons Debates*.

In reply Mr. Epp stated:

I say very directly to the hon member that I have heard his party and others—and that is valid—ask time after time what we are going to do about jobs, for instance in Cape Breton, and what we are going to do about the displacements we have in those economically depressed areas.

● (1510)

Mr. Epp goes on to say:

I am not going to accept a policy simply because some task force or some study rejected by the task force has said we can do it, before looking at what happens economically to those areas and to those Canadians as well. I do not think Canadians should expect any less from an energy minister than to do exactly that.

With these words I concur. Oftentimes we have these hypocritical socialists who come to Cape Breton Island and Nova Scotia and cry their crocodile tears on behalf of the poor and the oppressed. But, honourable senators, they say one thing in British Columbia, something else in Ottawa, and something else on Cape Breton Island. I would love to have him go down and speak to the local union of the mine. I think the coal miners would really give him some steam.

To my left we have the Honourable Senator John Michael Macdonald who served in the provincial legislature in Nova Scotia and who fought on behalf of coal miners, as did his father before him, the Honourable Joe Macdonald, who was a minister in the provincial government in Nova Scotia. The Honourable Al Graham, who sits up in the corner there, is from Dominion. He worked with the Cape Breton Develop-

ment Corporation and always did what he could for the coal mining industry and the coal miners themselves. Senator Marshall was born in Glace Bay, which is the heart of the coal mining area. Senator Murray was born in the New Waterford area. His dad worked his way up to inspector of mines. He spent his lifetime in the coal mines.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Buckwold:** He should have stayed there.

**Senator Muir:** The Honourable Senator MacEachen has done a lot for the coal mining industry in Nova Scotia.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Muir:** His father worked in the coal mines.

**Senator MacEachen:** For 45 years!

**Senator Muir:** For 45 years, and you know all about coal mining. You grew up in a family of coal miners. Then we have the Honourable Finlay MacDonald, whose father, Finlay Sr., represented Cape Breton Island for a period of years as the federal member in the other place, and worked on behalf of the coal miners.

Honourable senators, we do not need to take any lessons from these phonies who are in the socialist party anywhere in Canada. I do not care whether they are from Cape Breton or where they are from. No one in the Conservative or Liberal Parties has to take any lessons from these characters. They are a bunch of hypocrits and I say it now, loud and clear. I ask the Honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate not to consider the comments of these people during any cabinet meeting or any session—he is shaking his head at me across the way; I am with you when you are with me, but I will criticize you when you are against me.

**Senator Denis:** Is there any question at the end?

**Senator Muir:** The question is for him to raise his voice at any cabinet meeting and not to listen to any of this crackpot stuff from either the new leader of the NDP or any other member of that party.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Barootes:** What was the question?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations):** Honourable senators, I think Senator Muir has said it all.

**Senator Argue:** And then some!

**Senator Murray:** And then some. I would only add that the new power plant is an important market for Cape Breton coal, mined as it is by miners working for the federal crown corporation, the Cape Breton Development Corporation. It is up to the Nova Scotia Power Commission to abide by the environmental regulations of that province. I took considerable satisfaction in reading within the past few days that the Point Aconi project had received a clean bill of health from the environment authority in Nova Scotia. It can go ahead with happy results for the Cape Breton Development Corporation