

*The Budget—Mr. MacInnis*

Dosco. I feel their attitude is not the answer. I do not believe the effort has been put forward that should have been put forward to sell this coal. I believe Dosco has been lax in its sales promotion and its investigation of possible markets. I am not in a position now to mention some confidential information I have received which would have a bearing upon this problem. However, I believe there is every reason why the Cape Breton mines should be kept operating. In fact, the information I have even goes so far as to indicate the possibility of reopening closed mines and the further possibility of new openings. I do not believe that by mentioning this I have betrayed any confidence.

As I say, this confidential information would indicate that a large market for coal is about to open in the near future. However, the immediate answer would seem to be making a percentage of the Ontario and Quebec markets available. I believe that if it could be brought to the attention of the people of these provinces that with a slight expenditure they could help the Cape Breton miners they would be agreeable.

I do take exception to the fact also that Dosco has adopted the attitude that they do not want further federal aid to keep the mines operating. We all realize that the assistance given by the federal government in the last three or four years has been tremendous, in fact far beyond anything done by the Liberal opposition who today, in order to try to promote the idea they are supporters of the miners, pose what they consider to be embarrassing questions. I cannot understand the attitude of Dosco because they are already leaning on the federal government in so far as many of their operations are concerned. They are receiving considerable assistance in connection with steel. They receive considerable assistance, too, in connection with their shipyards. Dosco has maintained they lost \$2 million last year and, because of this, the mines have to be closed.

During the last coal conference I put forward the idea that the coal from the Caledonia colliery, the one which is to be closed on May 30, could be treated as separate commodity and sold at 57 cents a ton cheaper. This would be an incentive to the buyers in Nova Scotia and eastern Ontario to purchase this coal. These consumers have put forward the idea that they would take coal of a lesser quality providing the conditions were right. When they speak of "lesser quality" of conditions it adds up to one thing only, and that is price. If it is possible to keep No. 4 colliery operation by setting up this coal as a separate commodity and selling it at 57 cents a ton cheaper I believe this would provide an incentive to the consumer and also further

the development of the west side of this colliery. This side of the colliery will provide quality coal to which they will have no objection.

In making his representations on behalf of this company, Mr. Fairley maintained there had never been any excessive development work on the west side. The miners in that colliery inform me that the development of the west side has reached a stage where it is 85 per cent completed, and with very little effort they could be into this very good coal. The mine could be operated on a single shift basis. I appeal to Ontario and Quebec for this help, and I think it is not too late yet to bring about some solution to the problem. While Mr. Fairley indicates there has been no development work going on in this colliery the *Cape Breton Post* carried a release from Dosco which seemed to be an ultimatum—perhaps that is too strong a word—a directive to the management of this colliery to complete this development work within nine months.

I am in a unique position because the leaders of the union at home do not see eye to eye with me politically. At times they take advantage of this situation to provoke political discussion and get political propaganda directed against me. As I say, my position is unique because I must do everything I can, to the best of my ability, on behalf of these miners. At the same time I am faced with the problem of denying some of the company's claims when they are advocating closure. In addition, I have to appear with the representatives of the company and the union when they appeal to the government for further aid.

I am placed in an even more embarrassing position when one leader of the union, namely the vice president, Steve Dolhanty—I do not want any mistakes about the spelling this time—praises the government at every opportunity when federal or provincial members are present. In fact, in answer to a criticism of me in a newspaper following a statement I had made he said he hoped I was not voicing government policy because the union got along very well with both federal and provincial governments. "They have been very good to us." Yet this very man when he appears before a local union will take it upon himself to tear apart the provincial government and the federal government. He will make statements to the effect that the million dollar hand-outs by the federal government are no answer to the problem. On the other hand, this very man will come to Ottawa, appear before the government and ask for this very thing in order to continue mine operations. What is my position? Do these