

Supply—Secretary of State

should be used and that some day, if this session goes on until Christmas, he may bring in a supplementary estimate. In the meantime these men who have no jobs can just wait, hope and pray that the government will provide something.

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Chairman, in order that we will have this matter straight, can the minister assure the house that the \$1.5 million will be provided from the federal treasury and that the provinces, especially the province of Nova Scotia, will not have to share in such projects?

Mr. MacInnis: The province of Nova Scotia wants to share.

Mr. Denis: You are not the minister and you never will be.

Mr. Comtois: I will have to check the statement. I believe the full amount will be paid by the federal government but arrangements might be made with the provincial government as to administration and so on. I think that administration would represent the contribution of the provincial government in that regard. The statement is very clear. It would seem these two members are fighting to have the last word. Who is going to have the last word, Bonavista-Twillingate or Gloucester?

Mr. Robichaud: I want to make it clear to the minister that we want this matter set straight. In the first place, two members from Nova Scotia have stated that this amount is to be voted annually.

Mr. Comtois: There is no reference to it being voted annually here and I never mentioned that. In my statement on May 30, as found on page 5567 of *Hansard*, I said:

Parliament will therefore be asked to provide an amount of \$1.5 million which will be set aside for approved projects to provide alternative employment this year in the Cape Breton area.

Mr. Pickersgill: This year only.

Mr. Comtois: I did not say "only". I insist on that. This is the third time that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate has said that. As the last word, does he want me to say "only"?

Mr. Pickersgill: No. I think you should take the help that the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond is offering you and say that you will do it annually.

Mr. Comtois: I hope it will be annually but right now it is \$1.5 million for this year.

Item agreed to.

231. Subventions in respect of eastern coal under agreements entered into pursuant to the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act, \$1,700,000.

Mr. Robichaud: Can the minister tell the house what amounts were paid last year to the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick under this item?

Mr. Comtois: Payments to the New Brunswick electric power commission to date under the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act amount to \$593,623.04 and in the case of the Nova Scotia power commission the amount is \$1,102,792.47. That is the final amount.

Mr. Pickersgill: For last year.

Mr. Comtois: As of April 30, 1961.

Mr. Robichaud: Can the minister inform the committee whether any payments have been made to any other public utilities in addition to the New Brunswick power commission?

Mr. Comtois: No, it is all paid to them by mutual agreement.

Mr. Robichaud: To the power commissions of the respective provinces?

Mr. Comtois: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Item agreed to.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown): That completes the estimates of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. We will now turn to the estimates of the Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Office of the chief electoral officer—

46. Salaries and expenses of office, \$83,685.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman, the first matter I should like to touch on in relation to this vote is a very up-to-date news story in the *Toronto Star* today, Friday, June 2. It is headed, "No Issues, No Election this Year". It reads as follows:

The national president of the Progressive Conservative party declared firmly last night there would be no general election this year. Senator Gunnar Thorvaldson, Prime Minister Diefenbaker's closest political associate, told the *Star* that only a major issue for which the Prime Minister felt he needed a mandate from the people might force an election. "I see no such issue on the horizon", he said.

Mr. Brunsdon: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, is the hon. member in order in quoting from today's issue of the *Star* with respect to elections? I submit that we are discussing the estimates of the Secretary of State, and may I respectfully suggest that the hon. member is out of order.