

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

I feel the chairman thinks it is slightly out of order. However, I still say to you, Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect, that you cannot get coal or gas out of the ground unless you have promotion and the proper kind of promotion established under free enterprise.

That is why I felt I should bring this to the attention of the house, because of the fact that these socialist planners talk about political cleanliness and one thing and another, and working for the average man. I said on one occasion that Mr. Fines had made \$1 million since he became provincial treasurer. I may have been in error, Mr. Chairman, because I now believe he made \$3 million. When we are talking about industry and the development of resources, I point out that there were some people in the Social Credit government of Alberta who did the same thing with the resources of that province. When we start looking at these great planners who want to take over we want to see who they are and what they might do with reference to some of our secondary industries.

To come back to the subject of coal, I trust that the government will continue to pay a subvention on the export of anthracite coal from Canada so we can continue to find a market for it in Japan and these miners can keep the employment they have had since 1957. I trust, too, that working together with the provincial government a vigorous plan will be set up by the federal government so that thermal plants can be developed throughout Alberta that will use coal with the result that the miners can live in their homes with their families in dignity.

I trust that some positive step will be taken in the future. It is long range planning that counts. If there had been some long range planning when the Liberals were in office many of the things we are concerned about, much of the unemployment about which they babble, would not be with us today. I trust that a system of pipe lines will be developed so that gas produced from this coal can be piped from the source of the coal, and so that the men in the coal mines will be certain they can continue to make a living.

I should like to close on this note. If I am convinced of anything in my constituency I am convinced that coal mining is unique. The farmers have their ups and downs, but when things pick up the value of their land goes up and the prices of what they produce go up. The coal miner dedicated his life to coal mining so that the development of the west can take place. All he is able to accumulate in life is his little home and the belongings he puts in that

[Mr. Woolliams.]

home. When the coal mines are closed he is forced to leave everything he has been able to accumulate.

That took place in Alberta under the Liberals. I have with me the facts and figures, I will take pleasure in placing them on the record. In 1940 we had 224 mines in Alberta. By 1956 that number had fallen to 91. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillington last evening criticized the government for lack of action in the mining industry. During the war men were taken into the mines at Drumheller and Canmore. Even men who had retired from the job were asked to mine coal for Canada's war effort. When the war was over they were left in those localities with their families to find alternative employment without assistance from the Liberal government.

I am fair enough to say that some of the problems of the coal mines are related to two factors, the competition of petroleum and natural gas and the fact that our railways are dieselized. To illustrate the effects of railway dieselization on coal consumption let me indicate that railway coal consumption in 1949 was 3,484,000 tons. In 1949 there were 754,000 man day—

The Chairman: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, before the hon. member for Port Arthur speaks I should like to take exception to a statement made by the hon. member for Bow River. I did not want to interrupt the hon. gentleman during the course of his remarks. The hon. member for Bow River suggested that he was replying to observations I had made about the decline in coal production in Alberta. I did not at any stage in my remarks yesterday mention the coal situation in Alberta. I was talking about the crisis in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman, we have been treated this morning by the hon. member for Bow River to a review of political morality in relation to the coal board, which review has touched upon the reputations of people who are reputedly Liberals, Social Crediters and C.C.F.'ers. I feel that since this opportunity has been given the hon. gentleman I should be given an opportunity to review the political morality of some people who bear the Conservative label.

Since the hon. member seemed to link energy with petroleum and by some means or other relate this to Saskatchewan, I thought the best place I could start would be with the Northern Ontario Natural Gas Corporation