

The Address—Mr. MacInnis

Mr. Blackmore is making a fool of everyone in the House. Where in the legislation is authority given to Mr. Blackmore to take the UIC fund from the miners? There are distinct instructions in the legislation that the pre-retirement leave fund is to be put into coal division moneys, yet the Minister of Labour states there are hundreds of similar situations throughout the country.

I could make some remarks about the competence of Mr. Ord as well as many other statements about Mr. Blackmore. If it were not for the fact that a capable Nova Scotian has proven himself, this situation would still be running wild. These men spent the money of Cape Bretoners as if it were going out of style. They failed to realize that even with this government there is a bottom to the barrel. Why are these men receiving protection under the Civil Service Act, when it is being denied to the rank and file members of that Crown corporation? The legislation dealing with the situation was passed by this House.

Mr. Blackmore came to Canada and set himself up as a Caesar in Cape Breton Island. In defiance of legislation passed in this House he dictates to the government and to Cape Bretoners. When he appeared before our committee he made statements which are not in accord with the facts. If anyone questions this statement, I can show him the many contradictions of Mr. Blackmore which appear in the reports of the Standing Committee on Regional Development. If Mr. Blackmore appears before this committee again, I hope it is as a sworn witness. This man cannot be depended upon for anything unless he is under oath. I ask you gentlemen to examine the worth while legislation you passed.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I apologize to the hon. member, but I must remind him that he should not address himself to gentlemen but to the Chair.

Mr. MacInnis: I keep going wrong, Mr. Speaker. However, this matter has been bothering me for some time. It has been very difficult for me to get the point across to the minister responsible, despite the fact that we see eye-to-eye on many drawbacks and pitfalls these men place before the government through the incompetent handling of many situations in this area.

Mr. R. B. Cameron has now taken over this task. He has saved this government many millions of dollars. If Mr. Cameron had not taken over this task there would be no money left to provide for what the legislation originally intended. Hon. members should examine this legislation to see what they supported. Are they going to allow this man to continue to affect in a detrimental way, not only the miners but the communities involved? Can we allow him to deny the good legislation passed in this House and allow suffering in the communities affected?

If any member questions the accuracy of these statements, I can verify them by correspondence I have received from the minister and by the reports of the Standing Committee in which there are pages of contradictions. This is a very serious situation. The legis-

[Mr. MacInnis.]

lation was supposed to be beneficial, yet there are detrimental effects in the mining communities in and around Cape Breton. Because of this situation the legislation was passed. These communities have not received the benefits that were promised through the establishment of the Cape Breton Development Corporation.

I ask that the protection being given to the executives of the Cape Breton Development Corporation be extended to the working man so that any future lay-offs will come under the Civil Service Commission. I appeal to hon. members to examine the legislation with respect to the use of the UIC fund. Devco had no business touching this fund. In fact, they are instructed where the moneys for the pre-retirement leave will come from.

It is ironic, but I have witnessed Devco, with their bleeding hearts and pronouncements, "taking care" of the Cape Breton miners. I have seen a cheque in the amount of two cents which was paid to a retired miner for a two-week period. Unfortunately, the cheque is no longer available. It would have been a worth while document to table in this House. However, Mr. Speaker, there would be no problem in obtaining many cheques with a value under \$10 which are paid every second week, cheques to the Cape Breton miners on pre-retirement leave.

• (4:20 p.m.)

This is not what our legislation intended, and I hope gentlemen, that among you, along with Liberals elected to Halifax who were given blanket approval by the President of the Privy Council, means can be found to impress upon this government the need to do the right thing by the miners of Cape Breton who are suffering because of this import who is pushing his weight around.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It being the end of the debate, pursuant to the Special Order made on Thursday, October 22, it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings forthwith and to put any question necessary to dispose of the main motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Motion (Mr. Trudel) agreed to.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence) moved:

That an Address be engrossed and presented to His Excellency the Governor General by Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

* * *

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 58 I move, seconded by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin):

That this House at its next sitting consider the business of supply.

Motion agreed to.