

*Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys*

regardless of political affiliation. In the re-organization of the board and replacement of officials, I hope the time has come when western Canada will have at least 50 per cent of the representation. The chairman of the board should be from western Canada. He has always been from the east and the reason for that is that more vocal people, like the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillin-gate, are always talking about the eastern situation. There are only myself, the hon. member for Bow River and one or two others that stand up and speak for the coal industry of western Canada. Yet we have far more coal in the west than there is in the east.

I am saying that the coal in the west is going to be developed some day and we want proper guidance in its development. We want proper consideration by the coal board given in respect of that guidance. When consideration is being given to the development of our natural resources—coal being one of the most important sources of energy—we want proper consideration given to western Canada. Let there be no mistake about it. As the member for MacLeod I shall not remain silent if that consideration is not given to western Canada.

Finally, I wish to compliment the minister and the government. In my view the government has done more for the coal industry in the three years it has been in office than the former government did during all the time it was in office. So far as the west is concerned, and my remarks in this regard apply only to the west, the Liberals did nothing in the Crowsnest pass area. As I have already indicated, they simply let one mine after another close and left the miners to sink or swim. As a result there is now a cankerous problem in that area so far as labour is concerned. I have made certain suggestions to the department and I know that every effort will be made to try to solve the problem. I want to thank the minister and the government for the efforts they are making, and if there is any way I can assist to improve the position of the coal industry of the west I shall always be ready to do so.

**Mr. Herridge:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Kindt:** Yes, indeed.

**Mr. Herridge:** If I heard the hon. member correctly, he referred to the late Mr. Uren. Are we to understand that Mr. Uren has passed away?

**Mr. Kindt:** I understand he has retired.

**Mr. Herridge:** You used the phrase "the late Mr. Uren".

**Mr. Kindt:** I am sorry. I intended to say the former chairman of the coal board.

**Mr. MacInnis:** There are two sides to every coin. Last evening I presented one side and I should like, this afternoon, to give the committee a picture of the other side. Before doing so I wish to refer to some of the observations made by members of the opposition. I do not for a moment think that anything I have to say this afternoon can be very beneficial to the miners of Cape Breton, and certainly not to the colliery where I used to work, which was closed on Wednesday. However, it surprised me that such a great interest has been aroused among opposition members, who in the past, when representations have been made here by delegations and committees coming from the areas concerned, have, whether Liberal or C.C.F., never shown any concern about these meetings and never attended any of these conferences. Indeed, I gave the hon. member for Gloucester, the last time I spoke in this chamber, what amounted to a formal invitation to attend one of these meetings, an invitation which he saw fit to by-pass. In spite of this lack of concern in the past, the members on the other side have suddenly developed a great interest in the plight of the coal miners.

Yesterday the hon. member for Timiskaming found it necessary to make representations on behalf of Elliot Lake. I am sure he must have ingratiated himself with the Leader of the Opposition by doing so although not intentionally, because that hon. gentleman, who represents the town in question, has failed to say one word on the subject during this discussion on the estimates of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. The hon. member for Timiskaming said he did not think political football should be played in the situation which now exists with respect to mines. I have long ago given up any idea that I could go on a public platform anywhere without becoming involved in politics on this question. The hon. member's reference to this subject yesterday confirmed me in his belief. Indeed, I am convinced that this is the case as far as the opposition is concerned. They are making a political football out of this issue. This was clearly illustrated by the question which his own leader addressed to the Minister of National Revenue on March 21 last with regard to a meeting being held with miners' representatives from Cape Breton. The true nature and purpose of the question was revealed when the minister had to inform the hon. gentleman that the meeting with which he was apparently so concerned had taken place the day before the question was asked. That shows where