

*Importation of Fuel*

Mr. HACKETT: I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman is discussing the coal inquiry which it was pointed out by the Speaker when the resolution was presented could not be touched upon because the matter was sub judice.

Mr. LAPOINTE: He has a good excuse, because the hon. member for Berthier-Maskinongé (Mr. Barrette) asked him to talk about the coal inquiry.

Mr. GAGNON: No.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I agree that he should not discuss it.

Mr. HACKETT: I do not think my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) contends that the debate is in order as it is now being carried on?

Mr. LAPOINTE: No.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): The hon. member for St. Denis (Mr. Denis) has not entered into a discussion of the coal investigation. He simply mentioned it and then carefully kept away from it.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): I was explaining how it happened that an inquiry on coal was held. It was because there are, among the Liberal membership, men who understood their duty, but especially who understood—

Mr. HACKETT: Mr. Speaker, again I rise to a point of order. I take exception to any discussion of the coal inquiry which at present is before the courts. The hon. gentleman is proceeding to explain by whom it was initiated and by whom it was carried to a conclusion.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Mr. Speaker, in justice to the hon. member who is addressing the house, I must say that he has not referred at all to the trials. He simply referred to the inquiry instituted in the Senate, not at all to the case before the courts of Quebec. However, I would join with my hon. friend from Stanstead (Mr. Hackett) in asking the hon. member for St. Denis to try to avoid even a reference to that inquiry.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): I understand, Sir, that I may continue, being quite in order.

Mr. DORION (Translation): Not in order, but in the state of matrimony.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): I realize that hon. members opposite dislike that we should refer to this subject; however, when any step is taken in the interest of the people, it is always due to the Liberal party.

[Mr. Denis.]

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri) (Translation): Why not?

Mr. DENIS (Translation): Those who realize our situation, also realize that it is due to a few profiteers who met behind closed doors in order to speculate on the honesty and money—

Mr. DORION (Translation): Money is made to speculate.

Mr. DENIS (Translation):—of the consumer and also on fuel, such as it exists today. It is unquestionable that the Canadian people have been fleeced and will continue to be so, as long as this government remains in power.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri) (Translation): The fuel is becoming red hot.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): This government succeeded—

Mr. DORION (Translation): To defeat your party.

Mr. DENIS (Translation):—to hoist itself in office by means of alluring but false promises, and you have to admit that it has been unable to carry them out. It now requests the people to be very patient and trust in better days. I congratulate the Canadian people for their fortitude in putting up with a government so neglectful of the interests of the people. It contented itself with throwing a few millions—

Mr. LAFLECHE (Translation): Into the provincial treasury.

Mr. DENIS (Translation):—to the people, to relieve unemployment.

In my opinion, the primary cause of the crisis from which we are suffering is the spread existing between the cost of production and distribution. It is high time that the government should carry out its pledges and assume the responsibility of checking these public impostors who take advantage of this spread between the cost of production and distribution. Coal is not the only trade in which that happens—

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): Electric current.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): The hon. member for Berthier-Maskinongé (Mr. Barrette) is perfectly right, when he says electric current also.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri) (Translation): Present him with an electric iron.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): It happens in the milk, bread and even in the manufactured jam trade—