

Atlantic Provinces Power Development

is the clause providing for subventions. It is perfectly clear that subventions for coal produced in the Atlantic provinces are one thing; subventions on coal produced in more distant provinces to be moved into the Atlantic provinces for consumption there present a different problem and obviously would be a much more costly matter. If the amendment has any meaning at all for the purposes of this bill, therefore, its effect is to increase the charges upon the crown and it is for that reason out of order when introduced by a private member.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): It seems to me that one of the main purposes which the member for Macleod had in moving his amendment was to do away with any discriminatory effect of the bill which might affect any province in Canada. The Minister of Finance was saying a moment ago that he did not think anything should be done which would permit a province in any other part of Canada to ship coal into the maritimes—

Mr. Fleming: I did not say that at all.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): I am not advocating that at the moment. What I am saying is that if the minister really believes what he says and I am sure he does not—

Mr. Fleming: I did not say what you said I did.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): —because if he did he would not stand for legislation in this country such as is now on the statute books and which permits the very thing he is talking against. I say this because we have a subsidy in this country which does the very thing I mentioned and the subsidy I am speaking of is the preferential treatment which the railways are getting in shipping Ontario manufactured goods into other provinces.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, a point of order has been raised with respect to this amendment. I have submitted to you, sir, that the amendment is not in order and, I submit, until that point of order is resolved it is not in order for my hon. friend to go on discussing what he considers to be the merits of the amendment. He is not discussing the point of order at all.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): I understood, Mr. Chairman, that you had disregarded the point of order and were willing to allow the discussion to go on.

Mr. Fleming: How absurd!

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The Acting Chairman (Mr. Rea): Does the hon. member for Bow River wish to discuss anything further with respect to the amendment?

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): I understood you to ask me previously, sir, if I was going to continue to talk on the amendment—I am not speaking on the point of order.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I just say a brief word on the point of order. I do not think we need to take any time on it. I have already indicated that I do not agree with the amendment as to its substance, but I think the Minister of Finance is stretching a point in trying to say it is not in order. When he contends that if this amendment were passed it would be meaningless unless something else were done, all he is saying is that if this amendment were passed some other consequential amendment, would have to be dealt with later.

I think therefore, Mr. Chairman, you should allow the amendment and let the committee vote on it and get it over with.

Mr. Thompson (Edmonton-Strathcona): If I may speak on the point of order, Mr. Chairman, I do not believe the amendment would have any of the consequences stated by the Minister of Finance. If the word "Canada" is employed throughout the bill it will have a certain moral effect, shall we say, in that any Canadian coal could theoretically be used but as far as the subvention is concerned, from the understanding which I have, a subvention is something that is paid to bring Canadian coal into price competition with United States coal coming from south of the border. Obviously we do not include a subvention on Canadian coal coming from the west in competition with coal from the maritimes.

Therefore it seems to me that in both the amendment and in the point of order there would be no such effect on the government purse.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Rea): The amendment as it is moved excludes the word "eastern" and also excludes the word "Atlantic". The chair feels that that would involve a financial commitment of the government and I therefore rule the amendment out of order.

Mr. Hansell: I cannot of course come back to my amendment now because it does not exist, having been ruled out of order—

An hon. Member: That was a mean thing to do.

Mr. Hansell: —and after listening to the reply given to me by the minister I feel that I am meaner than I ever was before