

*Economic Rehabilitation*

this problem from the economic, social and business standpoints. The machinery is there to be used for that purpose. You always know that a problem is going to develop five or six years ahead and the machinery could be developed to deal with the problem before people are thrown out on the streets and chaos exists. The purpose of my resolution is to remind the government that this is not a developing problem, as indicated by that white paper. We have the machinery to deal with any industry which may be depending on wasting resources, such as gold mining, coal mining, metal mining and so on. We find ghost towns all over Canada, mining communities which were once prosperous. There has been lost investment and disillusionment on the part of people who have put their lifetime savings into these communities.

This would not mean any change in the mechanics of our society; it merely means the carrying out of government policy. As far as the members of this group are concerned, we are prepared to assist in that. Many people think that the C.C.F. want to take over every farm and little store, but the C.C.F. program and policy ever since I have been in it is to support private industry when it can do the job in the interests of the community. That is the way it should be done. But anything that dominates the life of the community in the way that our natural resources do should be handled in a way that would give the community a say in the management. We believe in co-operative development. We do not want to take over everything. That is the point I want to make. If private industry will do the job in the interests of the community, that is the way it should be done. But they are not doing the job in the maritimes. Considering the resources we have from coast to coast, the maritime provinces stand as an example of the failure to develop our resources on a national scale on the basis of service to our people and providing a balanced economy and equality across Canada.

If this resolution does nothing else but provoke discussion, I think it will have been worth while. I trust that hon. members from other parts of Canada who have some knowledge of this subject will say a few words. We talk about British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Ontario, but what the people residing in those provinces fail to remember is that while they still have frontiers to push back, while they still have hinterlands, while they still have new wealth to develop, the maritime provinces are fenced around by oceans. We have no hinterland, we have no frontiers to push back, we have

to make the best use that we can of the resources that we have in that restricted area.

I trust that when hon. members from Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia are speaking on this resolution they will remember that we live in a restricted area far from the main markets and our problem is mainly a transportation problem. I hope that they will be considerate and generous in their discussion of the resolution.

**Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I realize that after the broad picture my hon. friend has painted this afternoon the activities for which the Minister of Labour is responsible do not fill the needs that the hon. member has indicated exist. However, I do want to say something on this resolution. I am always interested in what the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) says, because he says it so forcefully.

The hon. member has always shown a keen interest in this matter in a general way, and in his conversations with me as minister. I appreciate the way in which he has brought this resolution before the house. He has stated that he has done this to provoke discussion of what is now a serious problem, but which was in the not so distant past a more serious problem. Of course, in the future it may be as serious as it was two years ago.

The hon. member has said that today there are across Canada a great many of what might be classified as depressed areas or depressed industries. I cannot agree with him entirely there. I think I would have agreed with him one and a half years ago that there were a few places that could be put in that category. However, we shall not argue about that for the moment.

I think his resolution divides itself into three parts. The first part is as follows:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give consideration to the advisability of providing for the economic rehabilitation of people living in communities and areas in Canada where extreme hardships are resulting from the closing down of the principal industries,

I am going to call that the first part, which is the foundation upon which he has made his remarks. In regard to the closing down of the principal industries, he has not put in his resolution, although he mentioned it in his speech, the great importance of co-operation among the municipality, the province and the federal government. In matters coming within the scope of this resolution, we always have to realize that that co-operation must be forthcoming at all times. I know my hon. friend sometimes takes as his motto direct federal action. He has mentioned it on a number of occasions, and it has been very clear that he would like