

If action had been taken at that time the crisis with which we are faced today would never have come about.

I recall quite vividly the remarks made by the former prime minister in his speech in Fredericton. This is a quotation that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill) takes exception to whenever it is used. At that time the former prime minister suggested that we leave the coal in the ground for future generations in order that they would be in a position to manufacture synthetic products. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate takes strong exception to the use of this quotation; but I have often reminded him that because of the exception he has taken to this quotation a front-page editorial was written in the Fredericton *Gleaner*. The hon. member keeps questioning whether this editorial was ever written. I hope he reads *Hansard* tomorrow because for his benefit I say that this editorial which called upon him to make an apology for his denial was printed on January 23, 1958. Of course, we do not agree with all editorials, but this one, which strongly suggests that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate has been untruthful in his statement is one with which I have to fully agree.

I often wonder, Mr. Speaker, just what the position of the hon. member for Essex East would be if he were on the government side of the house today and were faced with the questions which he himself likes to direct to the front benches. In all likelihood, as the Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr) reminded him not too long ago, he would be catching a train. During a discussion on unemployment he did not have the patience to sit and listen to it because, as he said, he had to catch a train.

There is also not much doubt that the members of the C.C.F. party were delighted at receiving within the last few days comments clipped from the Cape Breton paper which severely criticized me. I might say that those comments have been forwarded to members of the opposition without any accompanying note, letter or signature, just the clipping taken from the paper, which severely criticized me for remarks I made with respect to the actions of the union executive in regard to the mines situation. I do not hesitate to repeat at this time—and I will do it at every opportunity—the remarks that I made at Sydney, Nova Scotia, in answer to a question from the floor, which was to the effect that 800 miners at the Caledonia colliery were not getting the support from the executive officers which they could rightfully expect. This is a statement which I make no apologies for and one which I can substantiate by remarks and conversations

held with miners themselves involved in this particular closure. I also remarked on the question of fewer contented rather than a larger number of discontented miners, a policy advocated and practised by J. L. Lewis.

I also find it hard to understand the representations that the C.C.F. would like to make on behalf of the miners, and this applies also to the hon. member for Essex East. Not too long ago I took it upon myself to correspond with members from Quebec and Ontario. As an indication of the degree of sincerity behind the effort of the hon. member for Essex East to help the miners I might point out that he did not take the trouble to reply to my letter. I might also say that not one C.C.F. member replied to my letter. Not one of the C.C.F. members to whom I directed the letter took it on himself to reply with respect to this very vital problem facing the Nova Scotia miners.

I noted that at the Liberal rally the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate seemed to think he had the answer for the coal problem. His idea was to provide free power for ten years and this was going to solve the problem of the mines. He also implied that we should not be reaching into the captive market of Quebec and Ontario and that our efforts should be directed toward secondary industries in the Atlantic provinces. Does the hon. member believe for a moment that our coal supply is so short that we are only able to supply secondary industries that might be established in the maritimes and are not able to supply Quebec and Ontario at least partially? It is no surprise to me to find that when this proposal was put forward by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate and supported by the former member for Inverness-Richmond and also by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) their feet were cut from under them by none other than Walter Gordon, the author of the Gordon commission report and, as far as the maritime provinces are concerned, in just mentioning his name I cover a multitude of sins.

There is an answer, Mr. Speaker, to the problem of the Cape Breton coal miners and I indicated that answer in the letters I circulated to members from Quebec and Ontario. Members from Ontario will excuse my reference to their province. I will explain why I am doing so later. If 10 per cent of the market in Ontario now supplied by United States production was supplied by our coal this would solve the problem in Cape Breton. In the correspondence I have received from members of parliament and from provincial representatives in Ontario and Quebec it is pointed out that this market would be available to Cape Breton coal if