

Supply—Mines—Coal

what extent that has operated to affect Alberta coal shipments I cannot say at the moment.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Will the minister give some assurance that he will take into consideration the advisability of establishing a national coal policy?

Mr. CRERAR: Right here, may I ask my hon. friend what he means by a national coal policy? I asked the hon. member for Cape Breton South what his idea was, and it was to place an embargo on, that is absolutely prohibit, the entry of a certain amount of outside coal into Canada. Is that the attitude of the hon. member for Bow River?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): If it is the desire of the committee to go into the details of a national coal policy I shall be glad to do so.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. gentleman put a question to the minister, and the minister asks him to clarify his question.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I am just asking if it is the wish that we go into details of a national coal policy.

The CHAIRMAN: If the hon. gentleman desires an answer to his question he must make his question clear, not by a speech on national policy but by stating what he has in mind in putting the question.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That is the reason I asked for a committee to be set up when we come back to consider thoroughly this question of a national coal policy. That should be very satisfactory to the minister because he apparently does not know what that means. In the meantime would the minister give consideration to the desirability of advertising more extensively the further use of Canadian coal in areas in which it is now being used?

Mr. CRERAR: The latter question is now receiving the consideration of the officials of the department and is a matter I propose to take up with them as soon as we finish here. In regard to the other question, I shall be glad to take his representations into consideration.

Mr. GILLIS: The minister stated that my idea of a national fuel policy was an embargo on United States coal. It was not as flat-footed as that. What I recommended to the minister was that he should call in someone who has sufficient knowledge of the industry and the marketing of coal to frame a national fuel policy. I said the markets of Canada should be zoned so that the coal industry—

[Mr. Crerar.]

An hon. MEMBER: Cut it short.

Mr. GILLIS: If we wanted to go into that question I could keep the committee here until five o'clock, but I am not going to have the minister make statements which the press, which is very ready to write them up, can use to hold me up to ridicule. We are trying to make a contribution to the discussion, which is something the hon. member is not doing. What the hon. member for Bow River and myself are trying to do is to assist the minister to avoid the difficulty that he is running into, whether he knows it or not, a difficulty which may call for a great deal of assistance in the coal industry if he is to be extricated from it. The policy that is being carried out at the present time is certainly not going to do it. I could sit down and write a national fuel policy for the minister and go into details if he wants me to do it.

Mr. CRERAR: I should be very happy if my hon. friend would give me the benefit of his experience and judgment on that point.

Mr. GILLIS: I shall certainly do it, but I do not want the impression created that I imagine that all the government has to do is to declare an embargo on United States coal and the problem would be solved.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That emphasizes my statement of a few minutes ago that when the house reconvenes the minister should set up a committee to go into the whole question of a national fuel policy.

Item agreed to.

177. Lands, parks and forests branch—National parks bureau. National parks, \$299,500.

Mr. FAIR: What is being done in connection with the Wainwright buffalo park?

Mr. CRERAR: The Wainwright national park has been placed at the disposal of the Department of National Defence.

Mr. FAIR: Is any use being made of it, or is it just idle?

Mr. CRERAR: I understand that up to the present they have not used it. I have not made inquiry as to when they are going to use it or what use they propose to make of it, but it is at their disposal for training purposes.

Mr. McNIVEN: At the top of page 23 of the estimates, Mines and Geology Branch, it says: "Appropriation not required for 1941-42." My only reason for referring to this matter is that in the May issue of the *Pre-*