

Interim Supply

such a thing happening between two ministers of the crown, taking it out on each other because they were not satisfied with the way the debate on interim supply was going. I am telling the truth. The minister opposite me to my left has just come into the house.

Mr. Sauv : Mr. Chairman, I have been here since 8.30 this evening.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I will put a question to the hon. gentleman I see on the government front bench over there. I say to the Solicitor General: You have just come into the house.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I would ask hon. members to deal with the subject before the committee, which is interim supply.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): With all due respect I had the impression that the question before us was the question of the truth, and it was raised by members on that side of the committee. The minister of health and welfare, and this is to his credit—he represents a riding in Cape Breton—has been sitting here all the evening along with the Minister of Industry. The Minister of Public Works was in a back seat. As I said before, he was present but not with us. The Minister of Forestry and Rural Development said he had been here since 8.30. I say that is not the truth.

Mr. Sauv : Mr. Chairman, I have been in this house since 8.30—not always sitting in my place but elsewhere in this house. Other members will testify to this. The hon. member should mind his own business.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I was talking about being in this chamber. There are probably another 50 or 100 members in the house. We were discussing those who were present in this chamber.

An hon. Member: Call in the members. Say something intelligent.

• (1:50 a.m.)

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): If there are many more interruptions my time will run out, but I shall have an opportunity to rise again. The Minister of Agriculture set that example tonight. He took two half hour periods, to the agitation of the Minister of Public Works, and I could use the same privilege if members opposite push me to it.

[Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South).]

There are only two ministers present on the government benches, and this is the government which said only last Thursday that this, this, and that must be passed by parliament, urgently. It said the unification debate had to be cut off in order to get on with the urgent business of the house. But once the unification bill was passed it was announced that we would be given a couple of days off, and those days off have now been extended despite the fact that the Prime Minister said he wanted to deal with urgent business.

Under the rules, if a member is not satisfied with the answers given him by a minister, the member has an opportunity to come on in the late show and discuss his question. I was given one such opportunity and I was provided with answers that were most ridiculous by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Following that I raised my question again during the question period, but again unsatisfied with the answer I referred it to the ten o'clock adjournment period. However, I was refused this despite the fact that the answers were unsatisfactory. Not only were they unsatisfactory but they were far from accurate, and so I now take this opportunity to mention the lay-offs at the Fortress of Louisbourg.

The minister responsible has indicated that 44 men were hired recently. This is a lot of nonsense because last November 58 men were laid off. Those men were returned to the job after a lot of pressure was brought to bear, and in fact the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development said it was because of the representations made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare about making further representations and to look at the statements made by the minister of Indian affairs and northern resources during the adjournment debate. That minister said that the funds were exhausted, but 13 lines further on in his speech he said they were staying within their budget.

It is important that every bit of help that can be given should be given to Cape Breton. I am surprised that the Minister of National Health and Welfare has not informed the government as to the facts. The facts are that a minister of the crown indicated to the people of this country that the government is paying subsidies to the coal industry to the extent of \$7,000 per year per man. That is a lot of