

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

as the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act and provisions such as the Minister of Finance made earlier this year for double depreciation allowance. We plead guilty to that.

As far as the future is concerned, there are two matters I should like to bring to the attention of the minister and the government. First of all, with respect to the fund set up to provide assistance for the Cape Breton area I suggest that a further amount be allocated and used in the Pictou county area to help our own provincial crown company in its efforts to attract industry to the area. Second, I would ask the minister to give consideration to making available subventions for our independent mines. I do not intend to go into this subject very fully, because the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria has already discussed it at some length. During his remarks he outlined the necessity for granting subventions to independent mines, of which there are two in my area, besides a number in the Cape Breton area, which are in need of such subventions. I should like to ask, further, that the government decline to follow the suggestion or proposal in the Rand report that subventions should only be allowed to mines producing 50,000 tons of coal or more.

I notice that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate was lately in the constituency of the hon. member for Cape Breton North. I am sure my hon. friend is now even more secure in his seat than he was before. We are not saying that everything which needs to be done in connection with the coal industry has been done. We do not say the problem is not a tough one. It is indeed a tough problem, and we have grown up with it. But I believe this government is making every effort to assist not only in the Cape Breton area but in other areas, and I strongly urge the government to continue these endeavours and, in particular, to take every step to assist the establishment of new industry in the Pictou area so that additional work opportunities may be available for miners and others who find themselves unemployed through no fault of their own.

Mr. Pickersgill: I had not concluded last evening the things I wanted to say about the situation in Cape Breton. The hon. member for Pictou who has just resumed his seat has made reference to certain things I said last night. I shall say a little more about that later. But I did undertake last night to produce concrete evidence in support of a statement I made, and I think I should begin what I have to say now by putting on the record an advertisement which appeared in the *Halifax Mail-Star* of Saturday, June 8, 1957. I shall

[Mr. MacEwan.]

read it exactly as it appeared. It is headed "The Coal Industry: Action Today or Regret Tomorrow!"

"If coal production is not increased, the services of some four thousand of the eleven thousand mine workers presently employed in the Nova Scotia coal industry will not be required."

That is a quotation from the Gordon report on Canada's economic prospects, section 16, page 103. Another quotation follows:

"...as far as I am concerned, and as far as my opinion may carry weight in the decisions that are taken, we are not going to encourage a substantial increase in the production of coal because I don't think that that would be fair to future generations."

(Prime Minister St. Laurent, Fredericton, May 23, 1957.)

I shall comment on that later. Then in the middle of the advertisement is the quotation, in large print:

"The Prime Minister, as a matter of policy, has set his face against the expansion of the coal industry in Nova Scotia... And on no issue is there greater disagreement than our stand on coal policy and the position taken by the Liberal party".

(Premier R. L. Stanfield, Inverness, June 5)

The advertisement continues:

In these statements above, the people of Nova Scotia may read for themselves and judge for themselves who has the best interests of Nova Scotia at heart.

The question of the federal thermal power proposals is not an issue! Premier Stanfield has insisted only that Nova Scotia coal be used as the fuel and that the cost of power be made cheaper as a result of the thermal program.

But the statements of Prime Minister St. Laurent on the subject of coal production are an issue!

This is the part to which I want to draw particular attention:

Your Progressive Conservative candidates are in favour of a coal policy that will increase coal production!

The word "increase" is underlined. Then it says:

Do a good turn for Nova Scotia—turn out and vote Conservative on June 10!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pickersgill: At the bottom of the advertisement there is a postscript which reads:

Don't be fooled by the power play of federal candidates for the Liberal party. Mr. Winters has described the program as "a \$200,000,000 program". In Fredericton, Mr. St. Laurent said: "I can't tell you how much the plant will cost." Nova Scotia and New Brunswick want cheaper power but they want to hear the facts first not political speeches.

It ends:

Vote Conservative June 10th.

Mr. MacInnis: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes, certainly.