

are asking us to support. That was all they could bring up the day before these men were thrown out of work.

There are all kinds of things that could be done in that area. Why do members opposite not carry out their promise to decentralize industry? They came in with the baby budget with its silly suggestion that if some places would call themselves distressed areas, and if the government were to agree that they were, and then if some company would come along and say it would build a plant there it would get double depreciation allowance for one year. They think that is going to result in the decentralization of industry.

**Mr. Pallett:** Tell us about the Gordon report.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The Gordon report gave hon. gentlemen opposite one of the few good ideas they have ever had, the idea of a capital grants commission. If that capital grants commission had been established and put to work in the Atlantic provinces there would be jobs in Cape Breton now waiting to be done.

**Mr. Pallett:** There would be nobody left there at all.

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

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Not at this moment. Everybody knows that the province of Nova Scotia has not proceeded nearly as fast as was hoped with the construction of the trans-Canada highway across Cape Breton.

**Mr. Woolliams:** What has this to do with coal?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** If the hon. member would only listen he would find out. That project is being held up because the government of Nova Scotia has not enough money to pay its 50 per cent. But if the suggestion put forward by members on this side every time the trans-Canada highway has been discussed in this house had been accepted, namely that in the Atlantic provinces 90 per cent of the cost should be borne by the federal government, that road would be well under way and there would be some work there.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** On a point of order—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Surely we are not going to have any more of this closure by phony points of order.

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** It is not phony at all. The hon. member has been talking about the trans-Canada highway. I understand we are talking about coal. The hon. member has not mentioned in all this time the ten mines and the 10,000 people who were put out

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of work in the time of his regime in my constituency and I suggest he get back to the coal mining problem if he wants to talk on this subject.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown):** I have heard the point of order but I think the hon. gentleman, under considerable difficulty, has been relating his oration reasonably well to the item under consideration.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I will relate it very directly. We have the Associate Minister of National Defence asking for suggestions as to what is to be done for these displaced miners, yet when one makes suggestions phony points of order are raised. The relationship is this—

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order—

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown):** There is no point of order. Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):** Yes. I rise on a question of privilege. The hon. member has suggested that his remarks with regard to the trans-Canada highway were not out of order. What I am suggesting to him is that I have a number of coal miners—

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown):** Order. I have heard the hon. member's question of privilege. I think it is unfair to the member who has the floor in that he has been interrupted on numerous occasions on points I have ruled on or points I could not have ruled on because they were neither points of order nor questions of privilege. I want the hon. gentleman to remain in his seat please because there is very little time left for the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate and I think he should be allowed to complete his speech.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** In his opening speech on the coal board this afternoon the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys told us frankly and straightforwardly—and I think it is the first time a spokesman for the government has ever done this—that the coal industry was going down hill, and it was going to continue to go down hill, and that there was going to be less and less employment in the coal industry. He indicated that the problem was to try to slow down this decline, with which we agree, of course, and also to try to find jobs for the people who were going to lose their jobs as miners. Surely nothing could be more important; surely nothing could be more relevant to this item, and surely no hon. member should try to prevent from speaking any member who is trying to suggest some solution of that problem. This I find hard to understand.

I say that if that highway were being built now there would be work. I say that if some of these suggestions Mr. Justice Rand made