

Industrial Activity in Maritimes

Winters) in Toronto when he said that it was not easy for members on their side of the house to vote against the resolution introduced by the opposition to increase the old age pension to \$100 a month. How much does the Liberal government care; how have they acted, what have they done, and for whom and where have they done it? The Minister of Transport says that the shipyards never have been so busy. Naturally they will get busier in other places when they take everything we had. Upwards of 600 men were employed, and then in the last six months many of them were unemployed.

Why does not the Minister of National Health and Welfare stand up now and support the statements he made about assistance to the Nova Scotia coal industry? Where is that \$25 million he referred to as an accomplished fact? When are you going to meet and whom are you going to meet with?

So far as the Donald report is concerned, it is the most ridiculous thing to hide behind. I do not know whether Dr. Donald went near a mine. He spoke to mining officials and other officials who met with him in the hotel at Sydney, a long way from the face—and when I say “face” I am sure the Minister of National Health and Welfare knows I am talking about the face in the mine. What has Dr. Donald done to find out about what is needed in the Cape Breton coal industry. Is he going to do anything more than summarize for the government the findings of the British coal board officials who visited here a short while ago?

• (9:20 p.m.)

Why does the government hide behind the Donald report in its short-range program? I notice it always refers to the Donald report as an indication of how it will approach the long-range program for the Cape Breton coal industry. The Donald report has some merit where it deals with improved mechanism of existing collieries, but it has nothing whatever to do with the opening of a new mine at Lingan, and should not be considered in any way, shape or form in that regard. Where is the \$10 million of the \$25 million that was supposed to be directed toward the opening of this new mine? What method is the government going to adopt to obtain some return on its money in this regard?

All these questions bring again to my mind the argument presented by the leader of the New Democratic party of Cape Breton during the last election campaign, who made reference to an article by Mr. Meyers in the *Financial Post*. At that time the former min-

[Mr. MacInnis.]

ister of labour, the present Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) used a great amount of time and a great many words in denying the suggestions made by the leader of the New Democratic party, that the whole question revolved around what was contained in fine print in the government's promises.

The minister of labour at that time, the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond, said there was not any fine print as far as the promises were concerned, but toward the end of the campaign Cape Bretoners began to ask whether there was any large print. They began to doubt whether this government intended to come through with its promises. They are now waiting for this government to make good what the minister of labour of that day, and the minister of mines referred to as an accomplished fact.

Let us have some concern for the people of Cape Breton. The government should take some action in this regard. I make an appeal once again to the Minister of National Health and Welfare—although I know it is useless because he will not take his nose out of his paper,—to do something about the situation and make good some of the government's promises. I direct this appeal to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) as well, in spite of the fact that, although he represents a riding in that area he is not from the maritimes.

I could quote chapter and verse of the promises made by these ministers just prior to the last election, but I will only appeal to them to make available at least 10 per cent of what they promised, which would do a great deal to help the situation in the maritimes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: May I ask the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria whether he intends to speak on the same grievance referred to by the hon. member for Cape Breton South?

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will deal with the economic problems of Cape Breton. The former speaker, my colleague from Cape Breton South (Mr. MacInnis) did mention that his grievance was related to the economic conditions of the maritime provinces in general and Cape Breton island in particular. I was a little afraid that the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) was going to rise before I had an opportunity to say a few words. However, in the spirit of a good Cape Breton islander, he