

*Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys*

in the Cape Breton area. The opposition members thought this was another political move and they made representations to this effect; they thought this would only prolong the situation. They did not have the interest or knowledge to realize what the situation was. They just made this a political football. I do not object to that; I will kick a football around with the best of them.

In respect to this \$1,500,000 I should like to offer a few suggestions. It is my hope that this \$1,500,000 will be used in a way which will in no way affect the everyday or ordinary expenditures of the different departments to carry on what might be considered federal projects. It is my hope that this type of fund will be set aside to be used exclusively for the purpose of establishing other industries and providing more permanent work than would be provided by ordinary federal projects.

I do not wish to take away from the importance of the recommendations of the Rand commission. They recommended the spending of \$1,500,000 on the fortress of Louisbourg over a period of 15 to 20 years. Nevertheless I feel quite strongly that any federal money spent on the fortress of Louisbourg should be spent on the merits of that fortress as a most important historical site in the country. I feel that the money necessary for the reconstruction of this fortress should be appropriated through regular channels and should not be related in any way to the special amount which has been set aside by the federal government.

I would go further, Mr. Chairman, and suggest that it might be a good idea to have this sum of \$1.5 million set aside annually for such special projects. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate has implied that the federal government has set aside money without knowing what to do with it. After all, it is partly the responsibility of the provincial and municipal authorities to bring forward projects which would qualify for funds from this amount. I would suggest that it might be cheaper in the long run were the government to set up a much larger fund for the purpose of enticing industries into this area. The fund would be called upon to help them get started. A fund of this kind, if it were provided annually, would be, from a political point of view, very difficult to discontinue. I would very respectfully suggest that the government should take a second look at the amount that has been set aside because as I see the situation in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia generally, it is going to require \$1,500,000 to be spent on an annual basis over a number of years.

Perhaps a revolving fund could be set up from which new industries could borrow at

[Mr. MacInnis.]

a very low rate of interest, and then eventually repay the fund. A fund of from \$25 million to \$50 million could be set up for this purpose. Then, too, in addition to the vocational training and trade schools in Cape Breton, the government might take a look at the possibility of extending assistance to the academic field. In this way, many young people could be kept off the labour market and at the same time given training in some of the professions, as teachers, dentists and so forth, of whom there is a shortage. This course of action would serve the dual purpose of keeping these young people off the labour market and at the same time providing the country with teachers and other professional people.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown):** I am sorry to have to interrupt the hon. member, but I must advise him that his time has expired.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Before the minister replies I wish he would consider certain statements which have been made by both the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond and the hon. member for Cape Breton South. When the minister made his announcement on Tuesday, May 30, with regard to the continuation of subventions for Cape Breton coal, he had this to say and I quote from page 5567 of *Hansard*:

The government considered, however, that as miners are displaced from employment with the corporation this season, other special steps should be taken at this time to assist in the provision of alternative employment. Parliament will therefore be asked to provide an amount of \$1.5 million which will be set aside for approved projects to provide alternative employment this year in the Cape Breton area.

Now, both members have stated, and have repeated, that this amount would be set aside annually. I wish the minister could tell the committee whether or not this statement is accurate.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown):** Shall vote 229 carry?

**Mr. Robichaud:** No, Mr. Chairman, the minister should reply.

**Mr. Comtois:** I am sorry, but would the hon. member repeat his question because I was talking to the men in front of me.

**Mr. Robichaud:** The minister is aware, if he has listened to the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond and the hon. member for Cape Breton South, that both members have stated the amount of \$1.5 million will be set aside annually to provide employment on approved projects in this area. The way in which the minister's announcement reads in *Hansard*, this amount was set aside for this year.