

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

this plant was being proceeded with in Ontario because it would provide even more markets for this heavy water plant than had been anticipated originally.

There is a matter which disturbs us a little bit, and it was referred to some time ago by the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria. It is a statement made at the conference which was attended by the minister. This statement was made by a member of the dominion coal board, Mr. Whittaker. The hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria asked the Prime Minister whether or not Mr. Whittaker, the managing director of the coal operators association of Canada, was stating government policy when he called on coal transportation officials to work for the eventual elimination of the federal subvention on coal transportation. This subvention on coal transportation is most important to the maritime provinces, especially in the Cape Breton area where much coal is produced which is marketed here in Ontario. It is sold to the Ontario hydro commission. In fact, as hon. members probably know, one large ship has been constructed, the S.S. *Cape Breton* I believe, which has been used to transport coal, and another ship is now being constructed to carry on this trade. These subventions are necessary and must be continued in order to assist this area. Any suggestion by a member of the dominion coal board that they be eliminated would, I hope, not be considered by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister did say, in reply to the hon. member's question, that this statement did not reflect government policy but he would be glad to look into the matter at once. Let us hope that this member of the dominion coal board, who has a great deal to say about matters pertaining to coal in Canada, will not prevail upon the government. Of course the coal board has to go to the government before there is any change in policy, so let us hope there will be no change in this regard.

There is a final matter which I should like to bring to the attention of the minister. It has been brought forward annually ever since 1957, when I became a member. As the officials will know, and as succeeding officials have become aware, I refer to the oceanographic ship *Acadia*. This ship has been put up for a long time in the port of Pictou, in my constituency. Each year about this time a question arises as to whether or not the *Acadia* will be based there for the winter. I believe this subject bears repetition so I will put on the record the fact that this

ship means a great deal to the Pictou area, not only to the town but the whole area. It means much to the shipyards in the way of refitting and repairs, and means much to the local merchants. Many of the crew members, of course, have their houses in this community and their children go to school there. This is a matter of great importance to them.

My final point in this regard is that Pictou is in a designated area. It comes under the New Glasgow employment office. Certainly when an area is designated, that does not mean that the present industries—this ship represents an industry—will be moved out of the area. Certainly the Minister of Industry should be interested in this matter. I remind the minister that the former minister, the hon. member for Pontiac-Témiscamingue, made provision that the ship should remain there, as did the present minister last year. It has been stated that since the oceanographic institute is at Bedford, the *Acadia* should remain there. However, it is a small ship and it does not operate in winter. It means a great deal to the Pictou area, so I urge the minister that this ship be retained there.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, may I just point out that we have a Nova Scotian minister, the Minister of Labour. This department, and particularly the branch relating to coal mining, is most important to the Atlantic area. Let us hope that the minister of this department will consult with the minister from Nova Scotia on all matters so important to the Atlantic area, especially those relating to coal mining and subventions on coal transportation. Let us hope that they, in turn, will prevail upon the Minister of Finance, who is from another province, that the Atlantic area is also a part of Canada and is important. Let these ministers be heard in the cabinet, and let them speak on behalf of the economy of the Atlantic area.

Mr. Fisher: I will try to be succinct in my remarks relating to this department. The only question of an over-all nature that I wanted to raise was the suggestion that the government should be considering looking at every department to see whether or not it is necessary for them to have ministerial status any longer. This Department of Mines and Technical Surveys it seems to me is so little in the political centre of things, the partisan centre of things, that I believe it would be feasible to eliminate it. I certainly think we should have a report on this question. It is in the main a scientific and research or-