

done be done unconditionally as regards Mr. McLachlan; but I did not insist or suggest that the Gillen Board be reconvened. What page is it?

Mr. MURDOCK: Page 621, April 3. The language is:

Mr. Meighen: Anyway, I understand that the reconvening of the board is wholly irrespective of the repudiation of Mr. McLachlan's stand.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Hear, hear.

Mr. MURDOCK: Again, on the same page:

Mr. Meighen: Unconditionally?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Hear, hear. Certainly. I understood the reconvening of the board to be unconditional, and unconditional, not depending at all on McLachlan's stand. I never made even the suggestion that the board be reconvened—much less insisted that it be reconvened; but when hon. gentlemen said that the board was going to be reconvened, I asked if the reconvening was to be unconditional and stated my understanding that it was to be unconditional. Will the hon. gentleman cease now to misrepresent me? Will he read the preceding paragraph?

Mr. MURDOCK: I have not the slightest desire or intention of misrepresenting my right hon. friend; but if I might be permitted to suggest, it is purely and simply, as a result of the position taken and insisted upon by my right hon. friend, that the delay of the past two or three weeks has occurred in dealing with the mining situation in Nova Scotia. No other statement or reason is responsible for the delay that has occurred, during the past two or three weeks, in placing a board on the job, properly functioning under the law, to do the thing that this House of Commons, according to its declaration on the evening of March 30, last, wanted done. I know how capable the right hon. gentleman is when he undertakes to convince this house that he is not responsible or to disprove anything which I might say to the contrary. I know full well how easily and readily he will evade the responsibility and undertake to place it upon some of my colleagues or upon myself. Again, I repeat, as Minister of Labour, that the Right hon. Arthur Meighen is primarily responsible

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MURDOCK: The right hon. leader of the Opposition is primarily responsible for the delay of the last two or three weeks, [Mr. Meighen.]

which delay I can assure him I am trying to make up for as fast as possible under the law. As he has said and given me credit for, I felt at the time, after the discussion and after full consideration of the law, that the law did not contemplate the reconvening of the board for the purpose of going as fully into all the circumstances as this House appeared to indicate it wanted those circumstances investigated. We could have reconvened the board in order to express its opinion on some phase of its previous award, but I did not think we could have reconvened it for the purpose of an entirely renewed investigation. The situation is as I have stated. We are endeavouring to make up now, as best we can, for lost time.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I cannot say whether astonishment or amusement is uppermost in my mind listening to the speech of the minister. I am responsible, he says, for three weeks' delay; and if I got his remarks correctly, although I am finding increasing difficulty in following him, as he is getting further from the realm of reason every time he speaks, the cause of that delay is that I insisted on the Gillen Board being reconvened. I may be entitled to all the compliments he pays me as to fidelity to reason and, consequently, some success in convincing people; but I shall not need to over-exercise any of those powers to-night. Hon. members were present in this Chamber all through these discussions, and, if any hon. member has any recollection of my even suggesting the reconvening of the Gillen Board, I should like him now to stand in his place and say so. He will search Hansard in vain for any suggestion, either in the first discussion or the second. On the first discussion, as every hon. member knows, the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Crerar), in perfectly good faith, having heard the debate, having heard the impossible position taken up by the minister, with which position nobody, not even his colleagues, could agree, suggested that the Gillen Board be reconvened; that it be asked to go back and complete on the ground the work that it had commenced. That was followed by the remarks of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), who stated his confidence in the personnel of that board, and recited certain questions that he had put to the parties that had come down to ask for a royal commission. Those parties had themselves stated that they believed that the members of that