

Mr. Pickersgill said that it is "my opinion that North Sydney will grow, employment will increase and within three years the town will be more prosperous than it is today."

Mr. Chairman, to my mind this is a new definition of economics. You do away with 575 jobs plus at North Sydney and the minister has not yet said how these people are to find work. He says, in effect, that everything is going to be better than it was. He says that we are in a new era; that the millennium is coming. We are going to do away with all these workers, and many of them are at an age when they cannot move. The government is going to put into practice the Gordon report which has been the theory of this administration when they are in government—and they are in government now. The prevailing philosophy is: We will provide you with one-way tickets and with transportation to get out of an area.

Let us follow this a little further. A committee was set up comprised of representatives of the Canadian National Railways, the Department of Labour and the officials of the I.L.A. They more or less told me that there is no alternative but to work with this committee. I am sure that they will do a good job to assist those who will be displaced.

During the election campaign the former minister of labour and the Liberal candidate in my area, said that no one will suffer; that everything will be lovely; that nobody will be hurt and that everybody will be looked after. I hope that the minister is going to be prepared to look after those people who are going to be unemployed. Of course, this was mentioned before; but then it was alleged we were the rumour mongers, and that sort of thing. Prominent Liberals in my area said that this could not possibly happen: "Muir is spreading wild and weird rumours." However, we find out now that the minister must be spreading rumours too, in his official statement of July 9. I hope that the minister will get to his feet and say that it is nothing but a rumour. However, I am afraid it is the truth.

• (7:10 p.m.)

Another point to be considered is why transshipment is to take place out of Port aux Basques. I hope the minister will explain why it was placed there. Possibly the same work could have been carried out on the mainland. I do not know. I hope the minister will explain why Port aux Basques was chosen. It seems to me this was not the most suitable location either geographically or

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economically. I suggest it was against the advice of C.N.R. officials that these facilities were located at Port aux Basques. It is likely we shall spend millions of dollars more at Port aux Basques than would have been necessary had these facilities been placed on the mainland.

Now I should like the minister to tell us just what are the official duties of Mr. Ron Kay. From what I can find out about Mr. Kay, he is an efficient and capable man. His official title is "manpower co-ordinator". I hope every assistance will be given him by the government in placing the men from these three ports about which I have spoken. Concerning this appointment the Cape Breton Post of December 8, 1965 had this to say:

Mr. Kay will interview men likely to be affected by the changes in employment and will keep closely in touch with new jobs developing as a result of improvements in the Newfoundland service.

He will also develop training programs for people who want to fill new jobs and work with local and government organizations in finding solutions to problems arising from the changes.

I think Mr. Kay has a man-sized job on his hands. I urge the minister to give serious consideration to the nature of his duties and to the facilities made available to him. It is all right to make fine speeches and statements, but this is a bread and butter issue and something more than that will be needed. As I have mentioned, some of these men are at the stage when they cannot leave their homes. All they have accumulated over the years is in the North Sydney area.

I understand that some interviews have already taken place and it has been suggested to a number of these men that they should take training. I suppose that while they are training they will receive \$35 or \$40 a week—quite a decrease compared with what they were earning.

May I propose to the minister that he give consideration to the adoption of the plan which was put into effect with application to automotive workers in Windsor. A transitional benefits plan to assist workers in this industry was announced by the former minister of labour on June 28, 1965. A pamphlet describing it says:

The reasoning behind the assistance program is that because the economy as a whole will benefit from the new automotive agreement, the people of Canada and the automotive companies themselves should bear an equitable part of the resulting financial burden of adjustment which will fall on some groups of workers.

The situation which will arise at North Sydney will not be the result of anything