

*Adjournment Debate*

change their policies. Because of a different political and economic context, and South Africa's greater vulnerability, we believe there exists a possibility of real progress. We are hopeful that in his visit to that part of the world the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will be able to bring about some meaningful progress. I thank the Hon. Member for his intervention.

NATURAL RESOURCES—UTILIZATION OF NOVA SCOTIA AND  
NEW BRUNSWICK COAL IN ONTARIO—REQUEST FOR STUDY. (B)  
REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with regard to a question I posed to the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) on December 10, 1986. At that time I asked about the utilization of Nova Scotia coal and New Brunswick coal in Ontario. At the time I was somewhat amazed, but not really surprised, that the Government had taken upon itself the initiation of a coal utilization study for western Canadian low-sulphur coal. With respect to the substance of the matter, I am happy to see that research and development in this very important area will take place, and has taken place, in terms of coal technologies and the utilization of coal.

But there is another region of the country that deserves some consideration by the Government of Canada. When the federal Department of the Environment, the Department of Transport and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources combine their resources to look at one region of the country and purposefully forget about another entire region of the country whose coal reserves are somewhat substantial, then I say that something must be done. Indeed, the economic base of eastern Nova Scotia has been predicated on the utilization of coal, not only for the purposes of export markets, but also for the production of power in the Province of Nova Scotia. On that very day I directed a question to the Deputy Prime Minister as to whether any consideration was or will be given to the utilization of coal from the Atlantic area. He was not in a position to give me an undertaking, but he took it under advisement. I hope that today the Parliamentary Secretary or his representative will give the House a clear undertaking and commitment that studies will commence forthwith into the utilization of coal from eastern Nova Scotia and parts of New Brunswick, both for the purpose of Ontario Hydro and the purpose of the added-on value that will take place as a result of new coal technologies which may result from any investigation.

● (1820)

It is high time that the Government of the day stopped playing cheap, dirty politics in placing one region against another. To those of us who reside in Atlantic Canada, it seems that we are the brunt and the goat with regard to national policies taken by the Conservative Government of the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).

I wish to give you two other examples, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) placed a 30 per cent tax on the importation of Christmas trees from the United States.

Who does it affect most negatively? The Province of Nova Scotia. What about the sovereignty issue with regard to the giving of the nine factory freezer licences to France to fish in an area in Newfoundland where Newfoundlanders have been told that they must conserve?

Now when we look at a Canadian resource, the Government has totally abandoned and forgotten eastern Nova Scotia, which is a region whose economic livelihood has been based on the utilization of coal. We are not asking for anything to which we are not entitled. We are just asking for fair treatment for the future so that the coal industry in those communities can be buttressed and embellished to create new jobs and wealth for the people in that area. How can it be done if the national Government refuses to recognize its importance, and refuses to spend dollars for research and development and the utilization of our coal in both domestic and international markets? It is very difficult to achieve those objectives that all people would like to see in eastern Nova Scotia, particularly in industrial Cape Breton.

I am disappointed that to date the Government has only moved on one front, that is for western coal. I am not against western Canadians. I am for western Canadians. But I am also for Atlantic Canadians. We do not like this unfair treatment. I echo those words not in a partisan way. There are members and union representatives of the United Mine Workers of America who have written to the Prime Minister, asking him to deliver on his election promises of 1984 and come up with an eastern Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Canadian low sulphur coal utilization study. Who knows what the results of that study may be. They may be very good for the economy of Canada. But stop forthwith this playing of one region against another. It is unfair, un-Canadian, and in breach of the intent of the Canadian Constitution which quite clearly states that all Canadians notwithstanding where they may reside should have an equal economic opportunity.

I say through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Parliamentary Secretary who will be responding tonight: Give us some answers. Give us an undertaking that you will utilize our coal in eastern Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Stop playing one region against the other region because it is fundamental to the economic well-being of eastern Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. I would ask the Parliamentary Secretary, who I know has a great interest in energy-related matters, to give me that undertaking not two weeks from now, but tonight on the floor of the House of Commons.

● (1825)

**Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, it is reprehensible that the Member for Cape Breton—East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall) would demean a very sincere representation he made to the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) on December 10 by his rhetoric tonight.

In response to a question in the House on December 10, 1986 from the Member for Cape Breton—East Richmond, the