

*Industrial Activity in Maritimes*

Limited. It is quite difficult for Atomic Energy of Canada to state these figures very clearly, because for one thing they depend on contracts which they enter into with other countries of the world. It is quite difficult to know when these contracts will materialize. Second, it depends on production in Canada. It is quite difficult for Atomic Energy of Canada to know whether the contracts entered into by Canadian production companies will be concluded.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** I have one simple question. Originally the figure was 400 tons and then they got to 600 tons. I ask the minister now, what is the actual figure they are working toward? They are supposed to be dealing right at this moment with the Canadian General Electric Company. I asked the question yesterday and the minister then gave what I would consider a rather ridiculous answer. I asked him whether Canadian General Electric had come up with an approved process for the manufacturing of heavy water, and he has made the answer: We do business with General Electric, and it stands to reason they must have an approved process for manufacturing heavy water. This is most ridiculous. This government dealt with British American Oil Company in the development of heavy water, and it turned out that they did not have a process at all; yet, you were willing to deal with them on the basis that if at all possible you would have taken the heavy water plant away from Nova Scotia and Glace Bay, but you could not do it because the lower bid was in. That is why the contract went to Nova Scotia.

Now, they have said they need 400 tons. They are involved in the 400-ton deal with General Electric and they cannot even answer whether or not General Electric is capable of producing heavy water. What is the figure; is it 400, 600 or 800?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. If the minister wishes to answer the questions posed by the hon. member for Cape Breton South, he can do so by replying to the hon. member; but I should point out to the house that this is not a question and answer period.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** Mr. Speaker, I was only giving the government front bench the opportunity to show their ignorance in the matter. It is nothing less than ignorance. The Minister of Transport, still with his nose in his notes, has no concern whatsoever for the fact that, under his jurisdiction, Cape Bretoners have been laid off

and unemployed. Of course he does not give any consideration to us. I am quite sure my hon. friend from Cape Breton North and Victoria (Mr. Muir) will have something to say about his side of the harbour. The minister had no concern when they closed out the base. He said that they started the coastguard college.

What is the relation between this coastguard college and the fact that we have had such lay-offs at the naval base. Yet, this same Minister of Transport came to Cape Breton during the campaign and made the statement that our shipyards were never so busy. They are busy in places other than Cape Breton, because they have taken a lot of the work away from the Cape Bretoners. The minister is still buried in that book; I do not know whether it is fiction.

**An hon. Member:** He wrote it.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** The minister ignored the fact that there have been lay-offs under his jurisdiction, and ignored it despite the fact that he has the letters received in his office on March 2. He has yet to provide any answers to the problem concerning these people who have been unemployed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the activity of Dosco as the largest employer in the Cape Breton area, affects the welfare of every man, woman and child in Cape Breton and the province of Nova Scotia. The Liberal government cares. How much did they care? Again, when I refer to the economic problems and their relation to Cape Bretoners I speak for the youngest child and the oldest pensioner. They care enough that one of their first actions here was to deny an amendment from this side of the house to increase the old age pension to \$100.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Surely the hon. member is drifting far afield now from the grievance with which he began.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** Mr. Speaker, with all due deference, I do not see how you can say I am going astray. I am speaking about the economic problems of Cape Bretoners. As I say, what Dosco does has an influence on how the pensioner lives, because practically every pensioner in Cape Breton is subsidized by a steel worker or miner, and this affects his living.

The member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) has said they never voted against old age pensions, but I can quote from the speech of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr.