

*Adjournment Debate**[Translation]*

● (1825)

Mr. Pierre Gimaïel (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Mines)): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the comments made by the Hon. Member for Kootenay East-Revelstoke (Mr. Parker) concerning the coal industry and the role played by the Canadian Government in developing this industry in recent years. I can also easily understand why he wants to uphold the interests of his constituents and to extend the market for Western coal, especially in Canada, and I must say by the way that it is a very high grade of coal having a very low sulphur content which puts it among the less polluting in the world.

In any case, I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that the Canadian Government has been actively involved in this industry for several years. When the Government did become involved in the coal industry in Eastern Canada, for instance, on Cape Breton Island, it did so at the request of the Provinces, mainly the producing Province, and also because of its desire to keep this very important energy source fully developed and readily available for all Canadians.

Obviously, as the Hon. Member said earlier, the Canadian Government also became very directly involved in the development of the Western coal industry both in providing export assistance and in the development of new markets. The efforts made by the Canadian Government in Korea and the Far Eastern countries to explore new markets specifically for Western coal are extremely important.

In addition, in spite of the Hon. Member and his party, the Canadian Government provided a new transportation policy for Western Canada last year, after a very animated debate in this House. The party of the Hon. Member is the one which

objected most strongly to this new policy which aimed at double-tracking East-West railway lines to increase the traffic in both directions and also at opening new markets for Western Canadian products.

I was glad to hear him say today that Ontario, or Central Canada as it is known in the West, would be a major market for Western Canadian coal. It is true also that traditionally Ontario Hydro bought in the United States at a lower cost the coal it needs and which is more polluting than the Western Canadian variety. It is a fact. It is also true that through its double-tracking policy and the new Crow rate, the Government of Canada last year found a way to change such traditions and to contribute to the industrial development of the West and to the sale of Western Canadian resources to Central Canada, the most populated area of our country. Unfortunately, his party opposed these initiatives and filibustered the bill for several weeks in every way possible, without considering that although transportation costs could be a little bit higher, the economic benefits would be tremendous. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, it should be emphasized that because the Government of Canada did what it had to do, the sales of Western Canadian coal have increased. My last point and the one I want to conclude on is that the Government of Canada sold 17 million tons of coal for which it received \$1.23 billion on behalf of Canada and all Canadians. That was 400 tons more than what we had imported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please! The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted.

Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

At 6.30 p.m., the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.