

and all the other factors that contribute to the destruction of confidence in the minds of the people.

We cannot do much about it so far as the United States is concerned. The picture there is not so bright. We can do something about it, however, in Canada. If free enterprise is capable of doing the job, why is it that the system functions and establishes standards of living for the workers of the world only when there is a war on, when most of the young and productive people are in the armed services? Then we can pay them wages and allowances, provide pensions, provide hospitals and the best of medical services and all that kind of thing. We can do that during a war, but when these people come back to the country they come back to a different set of conditions. Notwithstanding that there are plenty of resources, plant and machinery, we relegate them once more to the street.

Why is this? It is because of lack of planning. The Conservative party does not believe in planning, except from Bay street in Toronto and Jesse James street in Montreal. They are on record as being favourable to that, and we know what to expect from it. As soon as the war was over, up went the not-wanted signs again.

I am really ashamed to say in this house what the conditions are in the maritime provinces. Listening to a newscast this morning we heard that there were over 30,000 unemployed in the maritimes. On that little island that I come from there are 2,200 ex-servicemen, most of whom never had a job in their lives before they went into the services. They were unemployed under free enterprise. They donned the uniform and offered their lives for the institutions of the country, and they came back after all these promises that were made them. But, as I say, on that little island alone there are 2,200 of these men who today are unemployed, and they write pathetic letters, as the Minister of Veterans Affairs knows.

There is no work. Everything that was functioning during the war has been closed up. Back to the streets they go. I want to say for the benefit of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) and the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply (Mr. Howe) that there is a strike on there at the present time, and I want to put a question to my hon. friends over here, and over there too, because I think there are a lot of Tories over there. I want to ask if they can tell me that the coal industry in the maritime provinces is better off because of the removal of controls.

[Mr. Gillis.]

For thirty years I worked in and around that industry and witnessed the most terrible conditions, socially, underground, and from every other point of view, and the most terrible relations with the employer, because we have the toughest octopus to grapple with in Canada in Dosco—tougher than any other organization in the country. There are no human values whatsoever so far as the management or the directorate of that organization is concerned.

During this war, with the establishment of national control in that industry, there was a different condition. I say without fear of contradiction, that the establishment of a national labour relations board, which took the whole industry and centralized it in Ottawa meant that, for the first time in my life or in my experience in that industry, we got away from Dosco's machine. Demands were made, the national board met with the Minister of Reconstruction, who handled the industry practically all through the war, and there were no strikes, no difficulties; wages were stepped up to some extent; vacations with pay was established, and people in that part of the country were beginning to want to live.

In December, 1946, the federal government removed these controls and passed them back to the provincial government, and when you pass them back to the provincial government you pass complete control back to an agency of that corporation. That is all they are, an agency of the corporation. The executive board of the mine workers' union tried to work out an agreement, but there was no agreement—you cannot come into Ottawa; the controls are off. No more subsidies; we have to get back to free enterprise and give them the right to run the show themselves.

Well, they have run that show for a long time. The price of coal in this province has gone up approximately \$3 a ton because of the removal of subsidies. That industry cannot pay wages in Nova Scotia because of the removal of production subsidies and the assistance the corporation was getting. I am not saying they were entitled to all the assistance they extracted from the government, but I say that was because this government lacked the machinery to scrutinize and check reports and balance sheets of the twenty-six subsidiary organizations by which that company can juggle costs around. It is pretty hard to chase them unless you are there all the time. Unless the federal government steps into the picture and takes that strike out of the hands of the provincial and local authorities, and reestablishes some kind of machinery in