

Supply—Northern Affairs

on hydro. It is not to be based on the capabilities, whether hydro or thermal—

**Mr. Flynn:** If the hon. member would allow me to interrupt him, I said this was my understanding now. Maybe he should keep his question for the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources whose estimates are to follow mine and who is more directly concerned with this question. My department, as I pointed out, would probably make a study of a question like the one raised by the hon. member, but it would not establish policy with regard to a power grid.

**Mr. Southam:** First, I should like to join with those of my colleagues who have extended congratulations to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys on his appointment to his present high office. I have listened with a great deal of interest this afternoon to the discussion of these items so far as it relates to coal.

I should like to draw the attention of the committee to the fact that approximately 20 per cent of the coal in Canada is situated in the riding of Moose Mountain. Naturally, I have been interested in the comments which have been made. I feel that this recent conference between the federal government and the provinces with respect to a national power grid will be of great interest to the people of my riding. It has been pointed out this afternoon that the provincial governments have the primary responsibility for such an undertaking, but it is also our responsibility as a federal government, I think, to do everything we can to assist the coal industry. The lignite coal in my riding is already being developed for use in thermal generating plants and I think our provincial government has stated, in the course of the discussions of the last day or two, that it is willing to co-operate in a national power grid system.

I should like, now, to make a few brief remarks which, I agree, may not be entirely in order on this item. Nevertheless, if I could have the ear of the Chair, I would point out that the lignite coal industry is having a real problem in competing with other fuels, such as gas and oil, in my riding. The industry is doing its utmost to compete, and in the last few years there have been conversions from the old method of pit mining to surface mining, and new machinery has been brought in to make this change possible. In fact, one of the largest drag lines on the North American continent, called "Mr. Climax" is now working in Moose Mountain. As further assistance to subventions, it has been suggested that we might possibly have an amendment to

the Coal Production Assistance Act so that when people in the lignite industry take advantage of this act and borrow certain sums of money, they would find the terms more favourable than they are at the present time. The act should be amended so that the present repayment on the basis of 30 cents a ton on wholesale costs at the pithead could be reduced to 10 cents, a figure which would be more realistic. I think this is a logical suggestion. Hard coal is worth roughly between \$10 and \$12 at the pithead while the lignite coal which is being mined in Moose Mountain is worth approximately \$2 per ton. Therefore, repayment of a loan at the rate of 30 cents a ton under the Coal Production Assistance Act is really out of proportion and a figure of 10 cents a ton would be far more realistic.

I just thought I would like to bring that to the attention of the minister because there is no doubt that within his department there will be a discussion about the development of a national coal policy. I think the suggestion I have made should be given serious consideration in connection with such a policy.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

National parks branch—

National parks and historic sites and monuments—

648. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment—further amount required, \$2,500,000.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Can the minister give us the distribution of this fund of \$2.5 million which I understand will be used mostly in the national parks? Can the hon. gentleman give the names of the parks and the amounts of money spent in each?

**Mr. Dinsdale:** The item before the committee is concerned entirely with the winter works projects on historic sites and in national parks. I shall be happy to answer the question asked by the hon. member if he will be satisfied with a general breakdown rather than a detailed breakdown. The amount to be spent on historic sites is \$160,700. The further amounts to be spent on the parks themselves are as follows:

National parks trunk highways .....	\$ 64,000
Banff park .....	290,700
Cape Breton Highlands park .....	218,500
Elk Island park .....	78,500
Fundy park .....	66,000
Jasper park .....	164,500
Kootenay park .....	183,500
Mount Revelstoke and Glacier parks	144,500
Point Pelee park .....	40,200
Prince Albert park .....	249,200
Prince Edward Island park .....	102,500
Riding Mountain park .....	320,000
St. Lawrence Islands park .....	4,000