

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

opposite. I can tell them it is no laughing matter in Cape Breton. I am anxious to speak about this matter seriously and about what should be done now, and hon. gentlemen seem much more interested in going into the past than in considering what ought to be done about it now.

Mr. Sevigny: What do you suggest?

Mr. Pickersgill: Allow me to make the suggestions, instead of constantly interrupting.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown): Order.

Mr. Pickersgill: The plain fact is that this government does not want any suggestions about this or anything else. They got suggestions from Mr. Rand last October and immediately appointed another committee to consider his suggestions; and now they have appointed a third committee to consider the report of that committee, and they are going to postpone that until after these estimates are over so that parliament cannot discuss the problem.

They got some other committee to provide another report, which the hon. member for Cape Breton South properly said was concealed by this government from parliament but distributed to everybody else. I agree with the hon. member in protesting against the conduct of the government and its disrespect of parliament in that regard. The plain fact is the government do not want this subject debated. They do not want attention drawn to it; they emphatically do not want to do anything about it because they have not the foggiest idea what to do.

Mr. Sevigny: What do you suggest?

Mr. Pickersgill: I suggest that if hon. gentlemen opposite had kept some of the promises they made in Moncton in 1957—

An hon. Member: We did.

Mr. Pickersgill: —and if they had set up the capital grants commission that they promised; if they had undertaken the program for the decentralization of industry that they promised—

An hon. Member: We did.

Mr. Pickersgill: —if they had arranged for the adjustment of freight rates that they promised; if they had given a preference in defence expenditures to that area which they promised, all those things could have helped the economy of Cape Breton over the last four years. But all those promises have been disregarded.

Mr. Sevigny: What about your own suggestions?

An hon. Member: They gave three-ring circuses.

Mr. Crouse: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown): Order.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate has just made a statement that has no basis in fact. He said that none of these promises that were made in Moncton had been implemented—

Mr. Pickersgill: That is not a point of order. Am I to be interrupted constantly?

Mr. Crouse: Practically all the Atlantic resolutions have been implemented and I have in my hands the Atlantic resolutions as advertised at that time.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Chown): Order. If the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg has a question to ask the hon. member, that is in order; but he has not raised a point of order.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I wish to go on.

Mr. Crouse: Practically all these resolutions have been implemented—

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. gentleman has finished his babbling, may I go on? When I was interrupted I had cited four of the promises that were made at Moncton which have not been kept and which, if they had been kept, would have helped to stimulate the economy of the whole Cape Breton region. It is perfectly evident, and it has been perfectly evident, as the minister was honest enough to admit this evening,—

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Mr. Pickersgill: —that because of technological advances of one kind and another the demand for coal is decreasing—

Mr. Sevigny: That is right.

Mr. Pickersgill: —and it is not going to increase, but that is not what was said when hon. gentlemen opposite were trying to get themselves elected. They said it would increase. They deceived the people by telling them they would increase it.

Mr. Sevigny: What about your suggestions; we have not heard them?

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order—

Mr. Pickersgill: It is perfectly obvious, it seems to me—

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has just made a statement that we made