

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

in relation to thermal plants in Nova Scotia and the transmission of power by wire is a really good suggestion?

Mr. Pickersgill: Does the hon. member think for one minute that I would have put it forward if I did not think it was worth considering? Everybody who knows anything about what is going on in Canada today knows that the greatest possible consideration is being given to the development of hydro power on the Hamilton river and hydro power on the Peace river, which will be transmitted hundreds of miles, in some cases thousands of miles, to the ultimate users. I am not an engineer, so I am not going to say anything about the feasibility of these projects. However, I know this sort of thing is being done in some parts of the world. Surely it is just as possible to transmit power generated from coal as it is to transmit hydro power.

Mr. MacInnis: Would the hon. member permit another question?

Mr. Pickersgill: I should like to carry on—

Mr. MacInnis: It is just one short question.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps the hon. member would save his question until I have finished, in order to contribute to orderly debate. I am trying to make some points, and I would prefer the opportunity of making them consecutively.

I say that now we have reached this situation, what is absolutely essential is some expedient, some stopgap, something that will give these men who are thrown out of work something to do right away so they can continue to earn a living. We must remember that most of these miners are not young men. Most of them are not trained for anything but mining. Even if there were plenty of jobs in Quebec or Ontario, these men could not go there.

The Chairman: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I must inform him that his time has expired.

Mr. MacInnis: Would the hon. member permit a question now?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes, certainly.

Mr. MacInnis: He just said that he would not put forward a suggestion unless he considered it worth while. The hon. member has maintained that I have never put forward any proposal that would be beneficial to the coal mining areas. If the hon. member will look at page 16 of *Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day* for March 20, 1961 he will find a resolution standing in my name which reads as follows:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give consideration to the advisability of creating a national grid system for the transmission of power produced from coal in order to take full advantage of this natural resource and further assist the coal mining industry throughout the country.

Does the hon. member not agree that this is the proposal he is now putting forward as his own suggestion? He will note that I put forward this resolution on March 20.

Mr. Pickersgill: I would agree with that. I must say I think it is quite a good suggestion. I never pretended there was any originality in what I was suggesting.

Mr. MacInnis: There certainly was not.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am not seeking to disagree with the hon. member. If he had urged that on the government last night instead of attacking the chiefs of the united mine workers who are doing their best—

Mr. MacInnis: Are you defending them now?

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. member asked me a question, but he does not seem to want to hear my answer. My answer is that instead of attacking other people who were sincerely trying to solve this problem—

Mr. MacInnis: About as sincere as you are.

Mr. Pickersgill: —if he had put this constructive suggestion to the government it would have been a more useful contribution to the debate.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate is setting himself up as the champion of the coal miners of Cape Breton. He is the man, according to his own statement, who knows how to remedy the terrible situation we have at home in Cape Breton. Yet I notice that in taking up the maximum time of the committee that the rules would allow last night and again this morning, he still did not find time to deal with any of these remedies. Indeed, he is the man who last night complained that some hon. members on this side referred to the history of the coal industry in Nova Scotia, yet most of the time he himself has been talking about the history of coal and, I may say, I believe most of it was a distortion.

Mr. Pickersgill: What about this advertisement?

Mr. MacLellan: Let me see the advertisement.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is a Tory advertisement.

Mr. MacInnis: The polite hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate.