

Aid Commitments to India

I should like to commend the minister and the government on the continuation of subsidies to assist Cape Breton coal to get into the upper Canadian markets, especially the \$1 per ton subsidy which is paid 80 cents by the federal government and 20 cents by the provincial government in order to assist the coal to non-subsvention areas.

I noted also—and I was glad to see it—that the hon. member for Gloucester was sitting in the front benches last night, although on the opposite side of the house. Perhaps he was counting his chickens before they were hatched; I do not know. Perhaps he did so in New Brunswick a short time ago also in a recent event but I do not know anything about that.

The hon. member for Cape Breton South dealt last evening with his remarks, and I just wish to comment on a few of the things stated by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate. Referring back to 1946, and the fact that the hon. member for Cape Breton South placed on the record the closing of the various mines during the Liberal regime, as found at page 5744 of *Hansard* following an interjection by an hon. member "You could have done something at one time", he stated:

Yes; and in 1946 and in 1956 a miner, if he lost a job in Cape Breton, could get a job in another mine, either in Cape Breton or somewhere else, and he did so because we had full employment in those days.

I do not know about that. I had not lived in Cape Breton at that time. However, I lived in Pictou county, where I was born and brought up. The closing of the mines during that period were as follows. Acadia No. 7, known as the Skunk mine, closed in 1947; Thorburn in 1947; Allan shaft in the same period; the Albion and McGregor in January of 1957; and especially the mine with which I am most familiar, the Drummond mine in Westville, where production was reduced in 1951. In his remarks further on he mentioned this amount of \$1.5 million which was put up, as stated by him. As reported at page 5748 of *Hansard* he said:

"We shall ask parliament to appropriate \$1.5 million—

He was quoting the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys.

"—but we have not the faintest idea what will be done with it—

I commend the government for providing this amount. I just refer to my own area. When these mines closed and Liberal governments were in power in Halifax and in Ottawa, not one 5-cent piece was given at that time by either government to assist the miners of Pictou county to get jobs, and I can tell this committee now that there was

not full employment in Pictou county at that time. That is when the trouble actually began.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to interrupt my remarks in order to give the Prime Minister an opportunity to make his announcement.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would ask that we now revert to the order for motions.

Progress reported.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INDIA—STATEMENT OF CONSORTIUM ON AID COMMITMENTS**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I wish to thank hon. members of the house for agreeing to revert to motions at this time. My reason for wishing to do so is to table a statement which is being released in other countries concerned as well.

The house will recall that Canada has been represented at meetings this week of a consortium of countries and international agencies concerned with the financing of the foreign exchange requirements of India's third five year plan. This meeting concluded successfully yesterday and agreed on the text of a statement, copies of which I shall table for the information of hon. members.

I will not endeavour to repeat the details furnished in the statement. The meeting was attended by representatives of the governments of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States and by representatives of the international bank for reconstruction and development and the international development agency. France joined the consortium as a member during the meeting.

At this meeting the members of the consortium undertook commitments of aid to India totalling over \$2 billion for the first two years of the five year plan. These large commitments should enable India to launch this plan of economic development with confidence in the ultimate achievement of its objectives. The group recognized that, in order to carry out the plan, it will be necessary not only for India to devote very considerable resources to financing it but also it will have to be supplemented by a very large inflow of capital, both private and public.

The total commitments undertaken for the first two years amount to \$2,225,000,000. Included in that is \$56 million from Canada. This Canadian figure is at a rate of \$28 million for each of the two years. This includes \$18 million each year of aid made available under the Colombo plan and \$10 million in each of the two years which the government has undertaken to allocate in the form of export credits, contingent upon the approval