

Industrial Activity in Maritimes

are in a bit of a dilemma because the only way we can assist the miners and the steel workers in our area is to seek assistance for Dosco in order that the benefits would be handed down to the workers; and so we find ourselves on both sides of the argument.

I think that the incentive programs, which the government has so much to say about, should be applied in such a way that they would benefit an area like Sydney. What is the enticement to move any portion of the Sydney plant to other parts of the country? I say the government should step in to see that what we have in Sydney, and the Cape Breton area in general, remains with us, rather than let the government sit back. That the government is sitting back has been very evident since the change of governments.

During the administration of the Conservative government many conferences were held with interested parties in the area, including mayors, clergy, and councillors, to deal with the problems facing the area. But since this government came into office not one such conference has been held. I ask that the minister from Nova Scotia set up such a conference so that the people from Cape Breton can present their views before the government, rather than doing it through correspondence which does not, when checked out, compare favourably with something else said by another minister on another occasion.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare has on many occasions spoken of \$25 million as an accomplished fact. Now we see where he made an announcement over the week end that he intends to go down to Nova Scotia very shortly to meet with the interested parties. I ask, has the government been in touch with the union and in touch with the company to see that they will be present when the minister goes, or is this intended to be, as it was before, a get acquainted trip for the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys?

I could go further, Mr. Speaker, in respect to the employment situation in Cape Breton. For instance, I could remind the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) that on March 2 I had correspondence from his office in reference to a lay-off at the Sydney airport terminal, a matter which he said he was going to look into and advise me on very shortly. However, I have yet to hear further from the Minister of Transport. But people are laid off in Cape Breton by this government which says it acts and makes good things happen.

I cannot even get the minister's nose out of his notes over there, to draw his attention to

[Mr. MacInnis.]

the fact that I do have a letter from his office, dated March 2, which he has not yet followed up. This is just another indication of the government's lack of interest in matters concerning Nova Scotia and Cape Breton in particular. The Minister of National Health and Welfare, when he goes to Cape Breton, takes credit for everything, but I can tell the Minister of Industry he does not know what is going on with respect to heavy water.

All he has to do to verify that fact is look up his own speeches in *Hansard* and he will find he contradicted the former minister of labour, now the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and on occasion he contradicted himself, and it is down in the record.

Mr. Drury: I wonder if the hon. gentleman, because I am interested in these contradictions, would quote me these occasions. I have been unable to find them.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Well, if the minister is looking for contradictions, he does not have to look very hard. I would ask the Minister of Industry this question: What are the requirements in Canada for heavy water today? If he could give the answer to that question I would go further and—

• (9:10 p.m.)

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, if that question is addressed to me, as I pointed out when the same question was asked by the same hon. member some two weeks ago, the responsibility for this particular function now, as it has for some time, resides with the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Pepin). So far as possible I endeavour not to mix in other people's business.

An hon. Member: At that time you were responsible.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Cannot the minister recall a few short weeks ago when he was responsible, and does he mean to tell me now he did not know what were the requirements for heavy water in Canada? Off the top of your head, what is the figure for the requirement in respect of heavy water in Canada?

Mr. Pepin: Would the hon. member like to know the answers to these questions? If so, he has only to ask.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Would the minister just throw out the figure.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, these figures are well known by Atomic Energy of Canada