

work far out underneath the sea and sometimes never return to their homes and families. These are considerations broader than the policies of government or the opinions of financiers. They go to the very root of the future stability of our great coal industry in Nova Scotia.

I can remember the day when that province, apart from our federal subsidy, was almost entirely dependent for its revenue on the royalty of 12½ cents a ton received on coal brought to the pit's mouth. With the extra taxation that has been imposed being in part declared "ultra vires" of the legislature of Nova Scotia, its income will be curtailed, and the needs are great, as they are in every province of Canada. I sound this note of warning, not because I want to prejudice the position of either of these companies in the minds of hon. members; but always there is some doubting Thomas and also there are arch schemers, and the arch schemer is the one that the government must watch. They should make a case that is clear, open and aboveboard; or, as we say in court, make a disclosure, in order that we may help them on a basis that will be fair to the company and fair to the miners who work so hard for a living.

This is only a suggestion I make; I have no interest, except that of the people and those who toil, whether in the mine, in the forest, on the sea or in cultivating the land. These industries are the backbone of any province and any nation, and Canada is a nation. As the central authority it is our duty, when we are asked for subventions and other assistance of a financial character, to see that full disclosure is made of the position of the company, so that we can deal intelligently with the matter when the legislation is brought down by the finance minister, and that it shall be made clear to these people that they must come to parliament with clean hands. I do not say that their hands are unclean, but it is only fair that they should make clear their case, there are many suspicions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I am sorry to have to advise the hon. gentleman that he has exhausted his time.

Mr. FINN: With the indulgence of the house there is just one further point I should like to make. Other matters can stand until the estimates are brought down. It is in reference to the lobster fishermen.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do I understand that the hon. member has the unanimous consent of the house to continue?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go on.

Mr. FINN: I thank hon. members through you, Mr. Speaker. You have only done your

duty in calling me to order. But the rules have been suspended so often, that the trap-door need not be closed, and I can say a word further in the interest of the lobster fishermen. I contend that the control of fisheries is a federal matter, one of the subjects which, under section 91 of the British North America Act, comes within the powers of the parliament of Canada and the Minister of Fisheries. In order that relief in aid may be granted through the government and through this parliament, I would ask that at the earliest possible moment the premier of Nova Scotia, the Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, be asked what he and his government intend to do. The fishermen cannot stand any further loan. These people cannot pay their bills to-day, having lost everything through no fault of their own. They have suffered a major disaster, and they should be helped in being reestablished in the industry. This is the time to do it because they have to cut the trees to make their floats and paint them; laths have to be bought to make the traps; twine has to be procured to make the space in which the lobsters go, and so on. These things could be done between now and the time when they will be able to take up lobster fishing again, in another month or two.

The minister has been sympathetic. He has done everything humanly possible for a Minister of Fisheries to do, but he has failed to get an answer from the premier of Nova Scotia and therefore the responsibility does not rest with him. It rests elsewhere, and I submit that the government should wait no longer if they cannot receive a reply that gives some promise of meeting the needs of the lobster fishermen along the coast of Nova Scotia and of providing for them, as the fishermen are being provided for in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, by co-operation between the two governments. I urge that the government act, and that the legislation, through a resolution if necessary, be brought down in order that any further delay may be avoided, so that in the meantime some ray of sunshine may enter into these destitute homes, many of which are in my own constituency, and that fear be dispelled. Then we shall have the satisfaction of having discharged our responsibility.

Mr. RODOLPHE LEDUC (Wright) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, may I first offer my sincere congratulations to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I am delighted at the success of my good friend the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Chevrier), who was a class-mate of mine at Ottawa university. I well remember having