

House, and the correspondence carried on with every member of this House, outlines quite clearly that all I have sought on behalf of the miners of Cape Breton is that which the government itself has undertaken to give but which Devco has never delivered. All I request of the House of Commons is that hon. members stand behind legislation which makes provision for the people of the mining areas of Cape Breton and the general economy of that island, the promises placed before the House in accordance with the terms of that legislation and further supported by the intent announced by ministers while the legislation was before the House.

I understand that all parties are holding caucus meetings tomorrow. I ask all members attending them to make an appeal on behalf of these miners and their families, bearing in mind that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, the minister responsible for the Devco organization, has described my representations as being right and justified. I ask them, also, to keep in mind the fact that a United States oil company has just received \$6 million by way of remission in taxes. I contend that in justice the Cape Breton miners should be given what is their due. It would amount to a lot less than \$6 million and it would benefit between 1,700 miners who are today walking the streets despite the fact that they are still of an age at which they should be accepted by industry, even by government standards.

If members will keep this in mind, they will be backing up the statement made earlier today by the minister responsible when he described my representations as being right and justified. Flattery is healthful, it is said, only as long as one does not inhale it. I would ask everyone to inhale those two words "right" and "justified" and to make representations for the sake of 1,700 or so miners.

All hon. members are aware that a large portion of my appeal on behalf of these men has been based on section 18 of the act. Section 18 makes it imperative for the Devco organization to set up pension arrangements for every person employed by that organization. Again, without fear of contradiction, I say this has not been done. No pension arrangement has been set up for the employees and dependants of Devco. Then I move on to section 18(A)(2), where it is stated that pension arrangements for the benefit of former employees and their dependants should be set up. We have seen some action in this field in recent months, though not to such an extent as to meet the requirements of the legislation.

As I have pointed out, the legislation requires a pension arrangement to be set up for former employees and their dependants. To show how far this corporation has gone, Mr. Speaker, let me say that there is not a dependant of a former employee of Devco receiving anything by way of a pension. The Devco literature itself points this out. On the death of a pensioner, a widow will receive a pension for the month in which her husband dies and the month following, but not thereafter. This is in direct contravention of section 18(A)(2).

Now we come to a most interesting area, the area with regard to which I find myself most disturbed. Many hon. members have heard the representations I have made on behalf of miners who were obliged to use their own UIC fund in order to subsidize their pensions. Mr. Speaker, I shall have to ask hon. members to excuse me because I

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have used the word "pension". It does not belong in any such context concerning Devco. It is pre-retirement leave. A man who qualifies for old age security benefits does not receive anything from Devco by way of pre-retirement leave pay. But the fact that these miners have been required to subsidize their retirement pay is shameful.

Many hon. members are familiar with the consequences of this subsidization: the matter has been placed before the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. I have here a copy of two cheques received by a miner in one month. Each is made out in the amount of 1 cent. If there is any question or doubt about whether these copies are authentic, I will produce the actual cheques. I have hundreds of copies available for any member who may wish to examine them. I can also produce evidence from a number of miners who have received nothing at all.

• (1710)

Here I have two separate cheques, representing one month's allowance from Devco, made out for one cent each. These miners were promised protection when this legislation was passed—but let us see how much protection the individual has had. I can document the evidence I have here; in fact, I will say nothing in this debate that I cannot support with documented evidence. I have before me a report by the Great West Life Assurance Company regarding a small number of employees in the Devco organization who worked on the railway and were given the opportunity of paying into what is referred to as a voluntary contributory pension plan. Let me review the situation of the railway workers under this organization. The railway employees have always worked on a seniority basis. Any man who worked for the railway reaches his best earning years as he acquires seniority.

Here we have the case of a man who had just reached this point and was looking forward to his last five years of service being his best earning years as a result of wage increases and a position of seniority that kept him fully employed every day. He had reached the age of 60 and was paying into the voluntary contributory pension plan which had been in effect only for a short number of years. After his first year he received from the Great West Life Assurance Company an estimate of the monthly pension that he would receive at his normal retirement date. Because this man was in the plan for only a short time, his estimated monthly pension at normal retirement date, which is 65, was \$45.34 per month.

But what happened in his case? As the result of an arbitrary decision of the responsible Devco authorities, this man lost five years' work. I appreciate that these officials are no longer with the Devco organization. It took some time to see through their incompetence and inability, and they are no longer with the company. Nevertheless, Blackmore and Ord were responsible for the fact that this man did not get any protection. Although I am grateful that Blackmore and Ord are no longer with Devco, the results of what they did to the miners are still being felt. Today, miners walking the streets in Glace Bay, New Waterford, Sydney Mines, Dominion and Reserve Mines are paying for the sins and maladministration of Blackmore and Ord.

As I was saying, this individual was looking forward to his best five years of employment and was building up a