

mine at Lingan. This was referred to as an accomplished fact. But since his return to Ottawa the minister has sat silent. We want action on this.

● (9:00 p.m.)

We do have a heavy water plant in the Cape Breton area. I cannot give any credit to the Cape Breton members sitting about a council table for the fact that this came about in Cape Breton. I notice that the Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury) is looking on with a smirk on his face. I would remind him he does not know what is going on. This same Minister of Industry, faced with a question when his estimates were going through the house with respect to heavy water, said this matter was transferred to the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Yet it was in his estimates when they were going through the house. The minister does not know what is going on.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should point out to the hon. gentleman that while in the printed estimates items are apparently allocated to a particular department, under the authority of the Financial Administration Act transfers of responsibilities, including the amounts appropriated, are possible by order in council. I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that such an order in council in respect to responsibility for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited was passed prior to the date of the discussion of the estimates, transferring it to the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I would remind the minister that when an estimate is going through the house he is responsible to answer for that particular estimate at the time it is going through.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I should point out to the hon. member for Cape Breton South that at this particular part of our procedure he is permitted to raise one grievance and he must remain with that grievance. I understood the hon. member's grievance had to do with the amount of money to be expended in connection with coal mining in Nova Scotia. If that is the hon. member's grievance then of course he would not be permitted to move on to any other grievance at this time.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to you, my grievance is concerned with the operations of Dosco in the Cape Breton area, and this

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takes in coal and steel. The interjection by the Minister of Industry only brought me to reply that he was responsible at the time, and did not know what was going on. This again deals directly with the economy of the Cape Breton area.

I would refer the minister to a question I asked him in the house yesterday. As reported at page 2934 of *Hansard* I put this question:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and ask him whether the government is aware of DOSCO's intention to remove production equipment from their wire and nail mill at the Sydney steel plant. If so has the government received a request for aid, or does it intend to give aid to that area?

The minister's answer to that question was:

I was not aware of this intention, Mr. Speaker, but I shall make inquiries.

With respect to my grievance, Mr. Speaker, I refer to the lack of action, or possibly the lack of interest on the part of the government. I would emphasize the lack of interest because there is no doubt the government was made aware of this move, even though the minister who should be in a position to know apparently did not know that the matter was brought to the attention of his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen), who represents Nova Scotia.

A wire was sent to the Minister of National Health and Welfare with respect to the move being made by Dosco to curtail its operations in that plant. I would tell the Minister of Industry that the Minister of National Health and Welfare received a wire from James C. Nicholson, district director of the United Steelworkers of America, suggesting that immediate consultations be held with the heads of Dosco to end the stripping of the Sydney steel mill plant.

The wire went on to say:

Press reports indicate the committee of Atlantic Development Board has been studying the Nova Scotia steel industry for the past year. Possibly this is the avenue for solution to this problem now that Dosco has made known its intentions of further curtailing operation here.

We have the government professing no knowledge of this, even though one of the ministers received a wire from the union. There was an answer from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson) putting forward only the company's side of the story. We members from Nova Scotia, and I make particular mention of the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria (Mr. Muir) and myself.