

The Montmagny *Syndicat du Textile* wants to point out that the City of Montmagny was considered, in 1966, as the site of a heavy water plant to be built by Canadian General Electric.

Now, Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 1969, I put on the order paper the following question No. 1,307:

Did the government have a special survey made into the possibilities of locating a heavy water plant in Montmagny or its vicinity and, if so, what were the results of that study?

The following reply was given:

As far as Atomic Energy of Canada, Limited is concerned, no.

No such study was made.

• (10:10 p.m.)

Later on, that is on February 10, 1969, I asked the department for additional information. The deputy minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce answered my letter as follows:

This is the list of production facilities which are under construction or which are planned in Canada:

- a) Glace Bay (Nova Scotia). Yearly output: 400 tons. Operation will begin in 1969.
- b) Tupper Point (Nova Scotia): Operation beginning in 1969.
- c) Douglas Point (Ontario): Operation beginning in 1972.

The construction cost of a heavy water plant with a yearly output of 400 tons is about \$65 million. Deuterium of Canada Ltd. and the Canadian General Electric Ltd. have entered into contracts with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. for the sale of 5,000 tons of heavy water during a 12-year period. The production of the Douglas Point plant will be used by Ontario Hydro which seeks to increase its nuclear power production program.

If I can be of further help, do not hesitate to contact me.

Following this reply, I put on the order paper the following question:

- 1. Has the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce already considered the possibility of establishing a heavy water plant in Montmagny?
- 2. Has the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce ordered certain research work for this purpose and, if so, (a) what have been the results of this research, (b) was the site found suitable for such a plant, (c) has the water required for such a plant been considered suitable for this purpose, (d) what is the approximate cost of the construction of a heavy water plant?

I got the following answer:

- 1. The possibility of building a heavy water plant in Montmagny has not been considered.
- 2. Not applicable.

Now, in a bulletin published by Quebec Hydro on July 25, 1966, it is stated:

The federal government, through the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys and the Atomic Energy Board of Canada had asked Canadian General Electric if they would be willing to build a heavy water plant in Canada, under certain conditions, one of the first ones being that this plant be located in one of the regions officially designated as "underdeveloped area".

—of which Montmagny was then a part.

Well, the study was made, and one paragraph of the bulletin reads as follows:

Canadian General Electric, urged on by the Atomic Energy Board of Canada, was compelled to set June 24 as the final date for registration.

—for the towns that wanted to apply for the building of the heavy water plant within their limits.

A study was conducted. Reference is made to a report in the bi-monthly review of Quebec Hydro. I am surprised to

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learn in newspaper reports today that apparently the plant has been built in Nova Scotia at a cost of \$120 million, that it has not yet produced any heavy water, that it is intended to hand it over to the government of Nova Scotia and that, in order to put it into operation, a further investment of \$90 million would be needed.

In conclusion, I would like to have an explanation, not out of curiosity, but in order to satisfy the Montmagny population and authorities. I also wish to urge again the government to look into that question. The Montmagny plant closure will lead to the lay-off of several hundred workers. The installation of a heavy water plant would help fight unemployment that will soon prevail in Montmagny.

I hope the hon. minister and the government will take into consideration the facts I have mentioned, and if it is true that there has been a study, then there is something to go on. If there has been no study, the truth should be told and from there, all government levels will be able to work on a project to achieve the construction of a heavy water plant in Montmagny. That would be much appreciated not only by the people in Montmagny but also by the population of the whole area.

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as far as the federal government is concerned, no study has been made in Canada in 1970 about Montmagny as a possible site for the establishment of a heavy water plant. There is no such plan at the present time, because there is no need for it.

[English]

Members will recall that a plant at Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, has not come into production and that in April, 1970, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) offered financial assistance amounting to some \$40 million to the province of Nova Scotia toward rehabilitating the plant. The offer was not taken up and the months slipped by. Early in 1971 the federal government authorized AECL to undertake a study of the plant to see what in their judgment was involved in the rehabilitation of the Glace Bay plant. Just recently AECL has been asked by the federal government to enter discussions with Deuterium of Canada Limited and the premier of the province of Nova Scotia to determine whether grounds for an agreement could be reached regarding the terms of AECL rehabilitating the plant. The outcome of this initiative should be known in the near future.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION—IMPERIAL OIL CONSOLIDATION OF PRAIRIE OPERATIONS IN EDMONTON—CONSULTATION WITH MINISTER OF IMPLICATIONS

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, on Thursday October 14 I asked the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) the following question:

May I ask the minister whether, prior to the recent decision by Imperial Oil to consolidate their prairie operations in Edmonton, or at any time since that decision was made, he has consulted with Imperial Oil to discuss the implications of such consolidation for regional economic disparity?