(1420)

Oral Questions

commissioner dealing with the important questions before the commission with respect to nuclear energy. But it seems to me the hon, gentleman is still going by the book; he reads the terms of reference and says this Royal Commission has no jurisdiction in this area at all. He is out of date again.

Mr. Clark: I certainly would not suggest that the minister and his colleagues have adopted a Rip Van Winkle approach to politics; they are hoping right now that the Canadian people have slept through the last ten years.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: While we realize that their approach to federalprovincial relations is to dump federal responsibilities on to the provinces, we still ask the minister to tell the House why he is neglecting his responsibility as a minister in the national government to set up a national inquiry into a national question of national importance which is under national jurisdiction rather than trying to hide behind an initiative which has been taken by a government in a province.

Mr. Gillespie: If the Leader of the Opposition is saying to me, to his colleagues and to the rest of the House that the people of Canada should not trust the actions of a Conservative government—

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Gillespie: —that the people of Canada should not trust a Royal Commission which has been set up by the Province of Ontario, a province which more than any other is committed to nuclear energy, if he is saying that, I think he ought to have a chat with Premier Davis.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary to the minister with respect to his incredible lack of responsibility in this key area of nuclear development. In light of the fact that the request for such a public inquiry has been supported by Premier Campbell of Prince Edward Island, Premier Regan of Nova Scotia and by a number of members of parliament from all parties, and also in light of the fact that other provinces have taken varying positions with respect to the development of the nuclear option for Canada, I wonder whether the minister could tell us, given the establishment of further refineries at Port Hope and in Saskatoon, if either the companies concerned or his department are making plans with respect to these facilities to protect them from possible nuclear sabotage or terrorism? I think it is obvious the minister has not been exercising his jurisdiction effectively.

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I think the Atomic Energy Control Board has made clear on a number of occasions the measures they are taking to provide protection for the Canadian public.

ATTEMPT BY ELDORADO TO STOP DRAMATIC PRESENTATION OF NUCLEAR QUESTION IN SASKATOON SCHOOLS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate whether he has heard reports of, or taken action with respect to, a dramatic presentation on the nuclear question which has been taking place in the schools at Saskatoon and which has been protested by an official of Eldorado Nuclear, and that this official has written to the school board of Saskatoon instructing the school board to have this dramatic presentation stopped or else Eldorado Nuclear would take further action? Can the minister indicate under what authority the representative of Eldorado Nuclear has made this representation, whether the minister supports it, and what if any further action might be taken?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would be prepared to give me that information I would be prepared to look into it. He knows and his colleagues know that no decision has been taken to proceed with a refining operation in Saskatchewan close to Saskatoon. He also probably knows, if he has been following events, that no decision has been taken yet with respect to an additional refining and manufacturing facility close to Port Hope.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister indicating that he is not aware of the action that has been taken by an official of Eldorado Nuclear, and have instructions been communicated to this corporation in regard to terminating any kind of public discussion in the schools or elsewhere at Saskatoon regarding this important development?

Mr. Gillespie: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the particular schoolroom activities that the hon. member is referring to, but I would think it very important that our school children across Canada be exposed to the arguments, both pro and con, respecting the use of nuclear energy.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

PROPOSED NEW CBC HEADQUARTERS IN TORONTO—DATE GOVERNMENT WILL ANNOUNCE DETAILS—POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC TENDERS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Public Works. Is the government ready to announce the details of the proposal of Robert Campeau, well known developer and Liberal supporter, for a new CBC headquarters at the Toronto Harbourfront, of which a model was to be revealed to the cabinet last week until the mayor of Toronto indicated that he refused to attend?