

Atomic Energy Control

to avoid taking sides except when absolutely necessary. This kind of gag, you understand, does not fool me or further the interests of the working people of this country. I repeat that the communist crowd in this country do not want a settlement of strikes. Let me say this to them: Speaking as an individual, if they want a battle, well, the battle is on.

LUMBER INDUSTRY—STRIKE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

On the orders of the day:

Hon. GROTE STIRLING (Yale): Will the minister deal with the situation in British Columbia?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): I have not had any further information about British Columbia.

HAROLD LASKI

INQUIRY AS TO RECENT STATEMENT ON
CANADIAN JUDICIARY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. G. HANSELL (Macleod): May I ask a question of the appropriate minister?—I think it would be the Minister of Justice. I am sorry I did not give notice of the question. What action has the government taken or is it contemplating in regard to a statement made by one Harold Laski, prominent in government circles of another country, smearing the Canadian judiciary, particularly when the spy cases are *sub judice*?

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government has taken no action and feels that it can leave it to the good sense of the Canadian public to form its own impressions of the statement made.

DOMINION ELECTIONS

ANNIVERSARY OF 1945 ELECTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. A. MUTCH (Winnipeg South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Have any steps been taken to mark this June 11th anniversary of the last federal election as a day of national thanksgiving?

ATOMIC ENERGY

PUBLIC CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF DEVELOPMENT,
APPLICATION AND USE

The house resumed from Monday, June 10, consideration of the motion of Mr. Howe for the second reading of bill No. 165, relating to the development and control of atomic energy.

[Mr. Mitchell.]

Mr. H. C. GREEN (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply (Mr. Howe) is not speaking at this stage of the discussion on the motion for second reading of the bill, but I presume that he will be making a statement in concluding the debate.

The atomic energy control bill, unlike most of the bills that come before this house, breaks new ground. It is an attempt to deal with a new problem, that of the control of atomic energy, and to do so at a time when no one can be sure of the potentialities of this new power either for good or for evil, its potentialities for the improvement of the lot of humanity or for the destruction of our civilization.

Canada is directly concerned for several reasons. In the first place, in our country there is one of the main sources of the mineral from which this atomic energy is produced, namely uranium; it is found away off in the northwest territories of Canada. Secondly, Canadian scientists and manufacturers have taken a very big part in discovering the secret of atomic energy and of putting that energy to use. Canada is concerned for a third reason, in that we share with the United States and the United Kingdom many of the secrets of manufacture, and finally, because this nation is a member of the united nations atomic energy commission. Membership of that commission is confined to the eleven nations that have been elected to the security council, with the addition of Canada. So I repeat that we are directly concerned with this question of atomic energy.

Now Canada must devise methods to control and supervise the development and the application and use of atomic energy. I think the situation is very well described in the preamble to the bill we are considering, No. 165:

Whereas it is essential in the national interest to make provision for the control and supervision of the development, application and use of atomic energy, and to enable Canada to participate effectively in measures of international control of atomic energy which may hereafter be agreed upon;

The Progressive Conservative party, for whom I am speaking to-day, agree that it is essential in the national interest that there should be a measure of this type. We are willing to cooperate with the government and with the other parties in working out the best possible methods for the development and control of atomic energy. Any suggestions we make about this bill to-day are made in that spirit, with a desire to be helpful, and I am sure that any other member of this