

Inquiries of the Ministry

ed in a few days time, I will answer questions on what we have done and intend to do.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before calling orders of the day I think the hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley should be recognized.

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ATOMIC ENERGY

ACTION TO PROCURE HEAVY WATER TO AVOID SHUTDOWN OR POSTPONEMENT OF EXPANSION OF POWER PLANTS—POSITION RESPECTING NUCLEAR LIABILITY

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. What action is the government taking to procure heavy water and avoid a shutdown of Douglas Point nuclear power station or postponement of the further expansion of the Pickering atomic energy power plant? I wonder if the minister would also answer my question of the other day regarding nuclear liability?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The chairman of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has been seeking to purchase additional quantities of heavy water from foreign sources and has had certain success in this regard. However, the demand for the commodity in Canada at the moment exceeds available supply because of the failure of the Glace Bay plant. Therefore there is a problem. I think I can assure the hon. gentleman that the Pickering program will not be interrupted. That particular system will continue in operation and further successful development.

With regard to the question asked the other day about nuclear liability, at present all nuclear sites in Canada which would be covered by this particular statute are the subject matter of contractual relations between the government of Canada and the individual contractors or provinces in question. The hon. member is quite correct that the Nuclear Liability Act is not in operation, but third party liability is covered by the contracts between the government of Canada and the particular participants.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. Is the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville rising to seek the floor on a point of order or question of privilege?

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CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

CORRECTION OF ERROR IN FINAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege with respect to correcting the record. There was a small but significant omission in the report presented yesterday by the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution. I merely ask to have the report corrected.

[Mr. Pepin.]

Mr. Forrestall: Is the hon. member referring to a minority report?

Mr. MacGuigan: No. I thank the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Rowland) for drawing this matter to my attention this morning. I am referring to the chapter on the national capital area. On page 42 of the report, or page 109 of *Votes and Proceedings*, the first sentence reads:

Hence, we recommend the eventual establishment of a tripartite board appointed jointly by the Ontario, Quebec, and Federal governments.

The sentence should read:

Hence, to determine the nature of this structure, we recommend the eventual establishment of a tripartite board appointed jointly by the Ontario, Quebec, and Federal governments.

The words to be added are, "to determine the nature of this structure".

• (1200)

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**

ALLEGED FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES ON DECENTRALIZATION OF MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICIES

Mr. René Matte (Champlain) moved:

That this House regrets that the government has not established consultative bodies with the provinces and municipalities, with a view to decentralizing monetary and fiscal policies in such a way as to permit each level of government to assume its own responsibilities in a manner less burdensome to the taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move the motion you have just read, the purpose of which is to set up mechanisms for the decentralization of decision making with regard to monetary and fiscal policies, and for giving co-ordinated access to the provinces, and through them to the municipalities, to the source of national credit to finance public capital.

We are not dealing here with specifically Cr ditiste proposals but rather with means capable of meeting the wishes, the requests of provincial as well as municipal authorities.

The Quebec Minister of Finance, Mr. Raymond Garneau, belled the cat during a working session held at Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, in November 1971, and convened by the Canadian Institute of Public Affairs.

This is how this statement is reported in the newspaper *Le Devoir* on November 8, 1971:

While taking part in the study sessions of the Canadian Institute of Public Affairs, Mr. Garneau stated explicitly that the control measures taken by the federal government are such that considerable time elapses before the Quebec government can implement Ottawa's comprehensive policies.

Mr. Garneau puts all the blame for this procedure and the long delays it entails on the federal officials from whom, he said, the provincial government meets with great resistance. "There is