

Inquiries of the Ministry

of the reasons Mr. Spivak, president of this corporation, severed his connections with the atomic energy commission of the United States.

Mr. Drury: The percentage of Canadian ownership is anticipated to be 51 per cent.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Anticipated, or is now?

Mr. Drury: Anticipated; the issue of stock to the Canadian shareholders has not yet been made.

Mr. Thompson: Could I have an answer to the second part of my question?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the reasons given for Mr. Spivak coming to Canada after having left the service of the atomic energy commission of the United States.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Will the minister tell us how much of the firm is now Canadian owned?

Mr. Drury: This, like a number of other proposals, represents a proposal by a corporation which in itself will only come into full flower if it is awarded the contract. It is only then that the proposals will become operative. Now it is merely a shell of a corporation.

Mr. Knowles: Shades of the trans-Canada pipe line.

Mr. Drury: It will be brought into full existence when it is told that in fact it will have a job to do.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister now telling the house that this company has been awarded a very important contract although it is not a corporate entity at the present time? If so, how is it possible to determine whether this firm has both the technical and financial capacity to carry out the contract which is being given?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, the corporation does exist. The proposals made to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited were for an operation which would involve changing substantially the financial competence and plans of the corporation, changing substantially the equity ownership of the corporation, changing substantially the personnel of the corporation. This is a corporation which is going into a brand new operation, and requires substantial changes.

The contract has not been awarded. As I announced yesterday, it is merely that the government has approved the application of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to enter into an underwriting agreement, Deuterium of Canada Limited having indicated that it

[Mr. Thompson.]

had viable, sensible economic plans to do the things it said it could do. When the corporation does sign agreements providing that it will in fact do the things it says it will do, a contract will be signed with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

Mr. Douglas: Do I take it, Mr. Speaker, that the minister is saying this company is really at the present time a United States company, and the proposal is that it will alter its structure so as to have some degree of Canadian ownership after the reorganization? Is that correct?

Mr. Drury: It is a Canadian company, of which the principal shareholder is a citizen of the United States at the present time.

Mr. Thompson: Coming back to my original question, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister whether he is aware of the reason for this United States citizen who is president of Deuterium of Canada Limited severing his connections with the United States atomic energy commission.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think I answered that question in the affirmative.

Mr. Thompson: If the minister is aware, will he inform the house?

An hon. Member: Read *Hansard* tomorrow.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I have been asked to disclose information regarding the motives of a private individual. I do not think it would be proper for me to make public this type of information.

CONSIDERATION OF FRENCH CANADIANS IN MAKING SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lake St. John): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Industry?

Could the minister tell us why he has been unable to appoint a French speaking deputy minister or assistant deputy minister within his department since the three present directors are English speaking? Will any of the seven proposed directors be French speaking?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say to the hon. member that the only thing I can do is to recommend a candidate for the position of area development agency commissioner; the present incumbent is French speaking.

In every department, the appointment of deputy ministers comes under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister and not the minister.