

hon. member said, it is certainly above all the other Canadians in the country who are seeking information.

I said this was tied in with freedom of information. Yesterday in the House this government was asked about freedom of information. It is going to bring in a bill as was indicated in the Speech from the Throne. It was also in the Speech from the Throne in 1978, and it has not been brought in yet. Sure the government will bring it in, but it will bring in an emasculated bill. The government will not put it to a court review when there is a dispute between a citizen and the government. The government is not going to make it apply to groups, such as Atomic Energy of Canada. I tell hon. members to mark my words. It is not in the interests of the authoritarian nature of the way we have been conducting public business in this country for Atomic Energy of Canada to have such a bill. It is not in the interests of the bureaucrats in the federal government to have that, and it is not in the interests of the Liberal Party of Canada. That is how they use their power and that is how they continue government in this country; not through authoritarian, but through a secretive type of government. It is not in their interest to open up government and let the fresh air in. I tell hon. members to mark my words and watch for that bill.

I just wish to compare Canada to the U.S. The Americans have a good freedom of information bill. They are looking at the nuclear industry critically, and they are not afraid to do so. I have a magazine called the *National Journal*, in which is an article by a Mr. William J. Lanouette. He talks about the dangers that persist one year later at the Three-Mile Island nuclear plant. It is a fair article. He speaks of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which is the American commission, and says this in his article:

Both the utility and the NRC are well aware that their public credibility has suffered from their handling of the Three-Mile Island accident and its aftermath. And both have pledged to involve the public in decisions that affect it.

I repeat that last sentence: "And both have pledged to involve the public in decisions that affect it." I say compare that to this government. The member on the government side is even afraid to ask for information or to press for information from Atomic Energy. Compare that to this attitude in the United States that both the agency and the company, and the government by implication, have pledged to involve the public in decisions that affect it.

We just heard the parliamentary secretary give a most remarkable speech in which it was clear that he is not prepared to involve the public in one of the most vital concerns of our generation.

Mr. Kelly: Mr. Speaker, if there is time remaining in the time allotted for the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) might we ask some questions from this side of the House, if there are no objections?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The hon. member who had the floor does have a couple of moments left, and it is his

privilege to accept questions from other members if he so wishes.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to hear from the other members. I am not sure, but perhaps the Chair could tell me, how long this matter will be debated?

Mr. Knowles: Ninety minutes.

Mr. Waddell: I am informed 90 minutes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to hear from the other members. Personally, I would like to see the matter come to a decision. I would rather the debate proceed than answer questions. It would save time.

● (1750)

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on this motion. In doing so, I will in a way be speaking about a very important part of my life. I spent a large part of my professional life in the nuclear energy industry.

I wish to begin by saying that the nuclear energy industry in Canada and throughout the world has come of age. There is an increasing realization that if mankind is to progress and overcome the poverty in the Third World, it must have access to energy sources that have been developed by mankind. The nuclear energy resource is one that literally developed in the last half century.

In Canada, it has basically been developed over the last 35 years. It is a triumph of Canadian excellence in the area of research and development. This is a magnificent triumph of Canadians which is recognized throughout the world. Indeed, the Canadian excellence can be compared to the excellence of development in any area in the world in history. Canadians can be very proud that they have contributed to the development of nuclear energy.

That is not to say there are not concerns about this industry and apprehension by society at large. One of the reasons for this is that the industry has been kept underground. It has not been allowed to come forth into the open and present to the Canadian public and the rest of the world the substance of the whole effort of producing energy through nuclear fission and nuclear fusion. Indeed, the energy of the sun is nothing more than nuclear fusion. The world is sustained by nuclear fusion. We find that quite acceptable because it is at a distance.

I am convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt, as are many experts in this field, that mankind not only needs nuclear energy desperately in the evolving civilization, but knows how and has available at its fingertips the ability to cope with the problems resulting from this industry.

There is no problem so severe that mankind cannot solve it. I am referring to technical problems. The one thing mankind cannot solve seems to be fear. There is much fear, unjustly expressed, about this industry. For example, it is said we could not possibly solve the nuclear waste disposal problem.

The surface of the world has no end of radioactive deposits. In India one finds great areas of sand with fairly high radioactivity, and it has been there for ages. Indeed, cosmic radia-