

Perhaps, I might go further with respect to the first part of the question a moment ago and say that the GATT council, because Canada was not satisfied with respect to the concessions offered by the E.E.C. has agreed to a panel. This panel was supported by 23 nations. I hope that it will make a finding with respect to these concessions during the two months that we received as an extension on the deadline.

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ENERGY

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF ENRICHED URANIUM PLANT AT JAMES BAY—NEGOTIATIONS WITH QUEBEC AND FRANCE

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): My question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the reference in the minister's statement to enriched uranium, and further, in view of an earlier reply by the Prime Minister that he had conveyed the position of his government on the export of such fissionable material to the premier of Quebec and the premier of France, will the minister now say what negotiations have taken place regarding the establishment of an enriched uranium plant in the James Bay area and the export of such materials to France?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, there have been no negotiations between this government and either Quebec or France in this regard, but we have made known both to France and the government of Quebec that the Atomic Energy Control Act would require the federal licencing for the installation of any such facility, and of course the export of any uranium whether enriched or otherwise, would be fully safeguarded and indeed would be subjected to the restrictions indicated by Mr. Pearson in 1965. So, both parties have been advised that they will have to receive the approval of this government for any such facilities. At this stage, they are engaged in a feasibility study, but they know very well that they will have to satisfy this government that the project is indeed in the national interest.

URANIUM—POSSIBLE RESTRICTION ON DEGREE OF ENRICHMENT

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): In view of the fact that if uranium is enriched beyond 20 per cent it can be used virtually as easily as plutonium for the construction of a nuclear explosive, will the minister say what limitations, if any, the government has placed on the degree to which uranium can be enriched in Canada?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The limitation at the moment is the practical one that it cannot go beyond the uranium hexafluoride stage. Any export of uranium, as the statement indicated, will be fully subject to safeguards, both with regard to the use of uranium itself or any derivative fissionable materials, for example, plutonium which could be made from it in due course.

Oral Questions

SPORTS

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, EDMONTON—REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF COMMEMORATIVE COINS AND STAMPS TO HELP DEFRAY EXPENSES

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister, and I should like to put it to him in the spirit of Christmas. In view of the fact that no nation has ever commemorated the Commonwealth Games with a special coin and stamp and in view of the fact that the federal government lacks funds to help Edmonton finance the total capital costs of the 1978 Commonwealth Games, and as a New Year resolution for 1975, would the Prime Minister allow Edmonton a special commemorative coin and stamp in the same manner as he allowed Montreal for the 1976 Olympics so as to allow Edmonton to defray escalated construction and building supply costs?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I take offence at the fact that the hon. member should not believe that Edmonton can stand on its own right and has to be compared to Montreal in the hon. member's representation. I would ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare to answer the hon. member's question.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the federal government has already committed itself to the provision of one third of the capital cost of the Commonwealth Games, up to \$12 million, which is a contribution that does not compare with any other games to which Canada has contributed in the international field, and secondly—

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do not want to hear a political speech. I did not ask how much the government has committed. All I want to know is whether the government will commit itself to—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Paproski: Is that the spirit of Christmas?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. With all due respect, the hon. member's question concerned whether or not the federal government was prepared to take a step with respect to assistance to Edmonton in the Commonwealth Games. Surely, it is in order for the reply to deal with what steps have been taken in this regard.

Mr. Lalonde: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the more so since the preamble to the question implied that the federal government is not contributing. We are contributing one third of the capital cost of the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, up to \$12 million. I met about a month ago with the representatives of the Commonwealth Games Foundation concerning their proposal for a stamp and coin scheme. I told the Commonwealth Games Foundation that this matter was being considered and reviewed by the various departments concerned, and that an answer would be forthcoming.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!