

*Adjournment Debate*

which their policy would move toward. By way of example, I can mention two, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Both of these provinces have had inquiries with respect to the nuclear side of things and also with respect to uranium policy. Yet, the national government has been singularly absent from this kind of inquiry, although it has responsibility and jurisdiction over that particular aspect of our energy policy.

When I first raised this matter last year, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) indicated to me that there would be an internal inquiry conducted, at which time there would be some provision for public input. Subsequently I raised the matter with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde). He also responded to me that there would take place an internal inquiry by way of a number of studies which would be released and made available to the public for their input, consideration, observation and, in fact, that there would possibly be an opportunity for a parliamentary inquiry. The basis upon which the Prime Minister responded to me on that first occasion was that he did not think a parliamentary inquiry or a national inquiry, which we had proposed, was appropriate. This was because he felt time was of the essence and quick decisions had to be made in order to determine what the future of our nuclear industry would be.

What I have since discovered is that there is, in my view, none, or very little, action taking place on the part of the federal government with respect to our view of the nuclear policy.

In my estimation and submission, Mr. Speaker, the government has decided the course of action they will take. It has established a team to sell nuclear reactors abroad. It has already made its decision. Mr. Speaker, this is a shell game. There is absolutely no intention on the part of this government to have any sort of public input into what our policies ought to be.

The other side of the coin is that as a result of the lack of any type of inquiry or involvement on the part of the public, or an opportunity for the public to come to grips with this situation, there is a sense among the nuclear and the uranium industries that there is no leadership. In fact, we are facing a government which is giving absolutely no leadership and respect to the nuclear or uranium industries in our country. People do not know where we are going with respect to this matter. There is no indication whatsoever. As I say, Mr. Speaker, it is a shell game because decisions are being made.

If the inquiry which we had originally set up had been proceeded with, we would have had a report to the government by this time with respect to the situation in Canada today. Our government had set a time limit of one year on the original nuclear inquiry. The present government says we must have an internal investigation. They say we must have reports and that these reports will be made public. Our government had internal papers prepared which would have been available for a national inquiry. These papers and studies were available to the government when it took office. I suggest to the parliament

ary secretary, if he is attempting to answer again today, that what has happened is that these papers have been available to the government on the basis of a discussion and on a basis upon which there could be public input, yet we have heard nothing, no announcement and we have seen no interest. My only conclusion can be that there is no serious interest on the part of this government in respect of having any kind of inquiry at all. We are faced again with something that is the opposite of the truth from the Prime Minister and from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and they are going to proceed on their own basis without an opportunity given to the people of Canada to in fact have a full public open discussion as to what our policy should be on the domestic and international side.

● (2225)

I will be interested in hearing whether the parliamentary secretary, again at this late date, almost a year after the government has been in office, can give some explanation as to what in fact the government's intentions are, or some indication as to whether we are going to have any kind of inquiry at all with any opportunity for public input.

**Mr. Roy MacLaren (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has mentioned the previous discussion on this subject which he raised back in May. At which time the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) indicated that the government, in light of the pressing problems facing the nuclear industry in Canada, would undertake an internal review.

Since then the government has indicated on several occasions that the background papers which would form in part the basis for such a review would be released. They include those papers to which the hon. member opposite has referred, the background papers which were prepared for the study proposed by the previous government, which have subsequently been updated. I am pleased to indicate to the hon. member opposite that those papers will be released in the next weeks. Comments and contributions of the Canadian public will be welcomed; indeed, will be solicited in respect of those papers.

The hon. member opposite may also be aware from a recent press comment that additional studies were undertaken; two in fact by the Woods, Gordon consulting group. Those papers will also be made available, with whatever restrictions may be necessary for commercially confidential purposes, a point which I am sure the hon. member opposite would recognize.

Beyond that, of course, we have had the benefit in Canada, as the hon. member has noted, of commissions and inquiries in a number of provinces in Canada; the hon. member mentioned Saskatchewan and two in Ontario. In addition there have been inquiries in British Columbia and New Brunswick. Those papers and contributions have also been taken into account in the review which has been conducted.

At the same time, I should point out to the hon. member, when he refers to what he considers lack of direction in the