

*Inquiries of the Ministry***TRADE****URANIUM—REPORTED STATEMENT BY U.S.
ATOMIC ENERGY OFFICIAL**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Following up the question which I asked the Prime Minister on the subject on April 20, has the Minister of Trade and Commerce any comment to make on a speech made by the director of the division of raw materials, United States atomic energy commission, on April 17, shortly after the minister visited Washington, in which Mr. Johnson said that 84 per cent of the uranium which the commission is committed to buy for the period June 30, 1962 to December 31, 1966 will come from United States sources, and that there is no commitment to take up the Canadian options which expire on March 31, 1961?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, yes; I would be very glad to answer this question, because in the course of his remarks the other night the Leader of the Opposition got the whole matter twisted around and gave an incorrect impression of what was said on that occasion. In the course of his speech he talked about requirements during that period, and Mr. Johnson who made this speech in the United States was talking about commitments. He indicated in his speech, with a chart which accompanied it, the commitments of the atomic energy commission of the United States with respect to supplies they are getting from United States uranium mines, supplies they are getting from Canadian sources, and supplies they are getting from other countries. All he indicated in that speech was the nature of their commitments running up to 1966. He showed that the firm commitments in so far as Canada was concerned ran to 1962, with a small portion going to 1963. Firm commitments with the United States uranium mines run to 1966. He did not indicate in that speech the requirements that might be needed by the United States authorities in the period 1962 to 1966, but he did show that the commitments to buy from United States sources amount to about one half the present requirements.

He also stated that no commitments had been made to exercise at this time the options which expire on March 31, 1961. There is plenty of opportunity for discussion during the course of this year with regard to those options, and there will be plenty of time to discuss—if the information can be obtained—the requirements for the period 1962 to 1966.

The picture is not as gloomy as the Leader of the Opposition attempted to show in his

speech the other night, or as he is perhaps attempting to convey by means of this question. Negotiations will be going on with the authorities in the United States with regard to the entire uranium supply and uranium requirements in the course of the next few years. It is a vital matter to Canada, because our exports of uranium in the course of this year will reach or exceed the figure of \$300 million, and we are very much interested in arranging for or having some consideration given to our sources of supply following the time when the present contracts run out.

On the basis of—I think the Leader of the Opposition mentioned this in the course of his speech the other day—the special efforts that were made by Canada in a period when uranium was in very short supply, and on the basis of joint defence, I think Canada will deserve the most serious consideration on the part of the United States authorities with regard to their sources of supply of uranium and when they are discussing their requirements in the future.

Mr. Pearson: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope the minister is right in his optimistic conclusion in this matter. Will the minister comment on the other statement I made, which Mr. Johnson made in his speech, that there was no commitment legally or morally—and the “legally or morally” are my words—to exercise these options that expire on March 31, 1961?

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I mentioned this just a moment ago. These options expire on March 31, 1961. Mr. Johnson said in the course of his speech that at this moment no commitments had been given to take up these options as of March 31, 1961.

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES**DELEGATION FROM NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
CANADIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio from Toronto. Did he receive a short time ago a delegation from the national federation of Canadian university students, who submitted a brief on aid to education? If so, what was the result of that meeting?

Hon. J. M. Macdonnell (Minister without Portfolio): I received the brief, and I am in communication with the students as well. I am still expecting to hear further from them.