

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, January 29, 1971

The House met at 11 a.m.

[Translation]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Seventh report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, in both official languages—Mr. Clermont.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[English]

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND DISPUTES
INVESTIGATION ACTPROVISIONS RESPECTING PAYMENT OF DUES BY NON-
UNION EMPLOYEES, STATUS IN DECERTIFICATION
APPLICATIONS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, on the order paper under Private Members' Public Bills there stands in my name a bill which has a certain technical defect. I would request that, with the permission of the House, the order for second reading of Bill C-209 be discharged and the bill withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Order discharged and bill withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Introduction of Bills. First Reading of Senate Public Bills. Government Notices of Motions.

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is the minister rising on a point of order?

Mr. Greene: No, Mr. Speaker. I wish to make a statement on motions.

Mr. Speaker: The item "Motions" was called previously. Is there agreement of the House to return to motions to allow the minister to make a statement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Alexander: We will give you a break, Joe.

ATOMIC ENERGY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT ENABLING ATOMIC
ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED TO CARRY OUT EN-
GINEERING ASSESSMENT OF DEUTERIUM PLANT

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the government has authorized Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to enter into an agreement with Deuterium of Canada Limited and the government of Nova Scotia to enable Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to carry out an engineering assessment to determine the feasibility and probable costs of bringing the Deuterium plant at Glace Bay into production.

The province of Nova Scotia and Deuterium of Canada Limited have a very substantial investment in this venture, and its failure would be a serious financial setback for the province of Nova Scotia.

The province has indicated to the government that it is not practicable, because of the lack of sufficient technical expertise at the provincial level, for the province to bring the plant into production and operate it with its own provincial facilities and resources. The government has therefore authorized the above study, which does not include any commitment on the part of the federal government or AECL to carry out further work or to put the plant into production or to operate same, but which study will be submitted to the government for its consideration upon completion.

The study will be embarked upon and completed at the earliest possible date, and AECL has been authorized to spend the sum of \$300,000 of its own funds toward such study.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I say that from my own observation the co-operation between Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, the province, and Deuterium of Canada Limited has always been very close. Officials of Atomic Energy of Canada have always been most helpful, and I am pleased to see that this degree of co-operation is evidently continuing. I express the hope that this study and other efforts will lead to an early solution of the problems since this is obviously of great importance to the province of Nova Scotia and indeed to the country as a whole.

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, we approve of such a study being made. However, I regret that studies of this nature were not undertaken a long time ago. Much trouble and inconvenience would have been avoided. I agree with the minister that the amount of knowledge on the provincial level is not adequate to deal with this type of problem. I think it can be more properly done by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.