

Candu Reactor Sales

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Pursuant to the suggestion by the hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard), is it agreed that the bill now be read a second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to Committee of the Whole?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Blaker in the chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): When shall the bill be read a third time?

Mr. Knowles: By leave, now.

Hon. Pierre Bussières (for the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance) moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

Mr. Pinard: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I just want to express thanks to both opposition parties for their co-operation in respect of this bill. I wish to inform hon. members that tonight we will be studying Bill C-22 as the first item of business, followed by Bill C-13 which was discussed yesterday.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Pursuant to the motion made earlier by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard), the House will now proceed to private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions for papers, private bills, public bills.

Item no. 19 in the name of the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon). Shall the item stand?

Some hon. Members: Stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The House will now proceed to notices of motions for papers, item no. 6 in the name of the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert).

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

SALES OF CANDU REACTORS

The House resumed, from Thursday, June 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. Herbert:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all correspondence, notes, minutes of meetings and other communications between the government and senior officials of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited during the months of June, July, August and September 1979, that pertain to the negotiation of the sales of Candu reactors either by AECL or by any private company acting with the authority or knowledge of AECL.

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, it will not take me too long to conclude my remarks. I should just like to

review very briefly the position of the Thirty-first Parliament on this issue, and the member's position in connection with this motion.

As I indicated before, the Thirty-first Parliament, under the guidance of the government of the day headed by the right hon. member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark), indicated the need for a very broad inquiry in this whole area of nuclear energy. At the same time that government indicated the need for some real reform in respect of freedom of information. It was intended through that broad inquiry to bring to the surface and expose to the people of Canada the ramifications, difficulties and implications, as well as the advantages, of the use of nuclear energy in Canada and in the world. That was the right approach to this terribly important issue; freedom of information, on the one hand, and an inquiry, on the other, to expose all the ramifications of nuclear energy to the people of Canada.

What we now have is an internal examination and review. The government seems to fear this issue, so it wants to hide it again. What do we have before us? We have a very narrow request for information, which is obviously a partisan political request for information covering a very short period of time. Instead of a broad inquiry to expose to the people of Canada all aspects of this industry, we have a very narrow and specific request for information as follows:

—His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all correspondence, notes, minutes of meetings and other communications between the government and senior officials of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited during the months of June, July, August and September, 1979, that pertain to the negotiation of the sales of Candu reactors either by AECL or by any private company acting with the authority or knowledge of AECL.

• (1710)

That period of time is a very narrow period of time, and it is confined almost entirely to the period when the Progressive Conservatives were the government. It is a narrow and despicable approach to this massive problem. Surely the hon. member could have asked for information over a period of ten years, five years or even two years, but he has limited himself to a narrow period which is associated primarily with the tenure of the Progressive Conservative Party in government. This is a despicable action and a despicable motion on behalf of the governing side of this House. As a result it should be treated in that manner.

If members opposite want information gathered for a period of ten years, or five years, then let them ask for it. Let them ask for the information so that they may table it and all hon. members may have access to it. The hon. member has not taken a magnanimous position in this matter. He has taken a very narrow, partisan position, and it is on that note that I wish to end my remarks.

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure as the seconder of the motion to speak on this important topic. I hope to highlight how Canada can achieve a secure energy future through the use of nuclear systems.