

Mr. Friesen:—a lot of their interest, that speaks to the formidable ennui that exists in that caucus on this subject.

I want to put one or two things on the record, Mr. Speaker. I thought that the Hon. Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake did a fairly creditable job of defending his position, even though I do not agree with it. Then the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway muddied the issue. The Hon. Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake at least spoke to the matter of nuclear disarmament as a key issue, in his view, but then the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway implied that the issue is peace and dragged that whole issue into the debate. As important as peace is to all of us and to every Canadian, Mr. Speaker, and no Canadian would disagree that peace is important, the fundamental issue here is freedom.

I have visited only one Iron Curtain country and I want Hon. Members to know that there is peace there. There is peace in East Germany, there is peace in Yugoslavia, there is peace in Bulgaria, but there is no freedom there, and that is the position that is important.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hour provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has expired.

● (1800)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 45 deemed to have been moved.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS—LEAKAGE OF CONTAMINATED WATER AT KEY LAKE URANIUM MINE, SASK. (B) ROLE OF ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak during the Adjournment Debate concerning a matter which I think is not only pressing to myself and my constituents but to a good number of Canadians.

Yesterday I asked a question of the Minister of Environment (Mr. Caccia) concerning the situation at the Key Lake mine site in northern Saskatchewan where there has been some fairly major spills of radioactive water. I am very concerned about the answers I received, thus I have asked for this time to set out a little of the background of the Key Lake mine site and ask some questions which I feel are very pertinent; important enough that the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong) yesterday called for an emergency debate on this topic.

In September of 1979, Mr. Speaker, there was a proposal for a joint venture consortium composed of the Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation, a company called Uranerz and another company called Eldor Resources. The Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation was the largest share-

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holder. On December 11, 1979, a five-member board of inquiry was appointed, chaired by Mr. Bob Mitchell, the then Deputy Minister of Labour in Saskatchewan. Following that inquiry and many representations made by concerned individuals, business interests and government agencies, there was in August of 1981 a lease agreement signed between the Key Lake Mining Development Corporation and the Government of Saskatchewan which would enable them to begin construction at the mine site and eventually go into production of yellowcake. The cost of the project was some \$500 million. It currently employs about 450 people. It is reported that this mine is the world's largest uranium site.

In December of 1983 the mine was working at about 55 per cent capacity and had been expected to reach full capacity some time in early 1984. To date there has been a total of some 16 spills at that mine site, and I stand to be corrected, nine of which were radioactive spills. They began August 3, 1983, which spill was initially reported as a 40,000 litre spill of processed water. We found out just yesterday that the Saskatchewan Government corrected the record by saying it was not a 40,000 litre spill, it was a 400,000 litre spill. So the Saskatchewan Government monitoring agency was wrong.

There were other spills on December 9, December 23, and December 24, 1983, and on January 1 and January 4, 1984. Then there was a huge spill on January 5, 1984, of 100 million litres of contaminated water. A retaining wall in the holding area broke and this 100 million litres of radioactive water escaped into the environment. They say the material is contained because the weather is cold at this time of year. It is contained temporarily, but what appals me is that there was another spill on January 7. Then on January 15 some 800 litres of radioactive sewage was spilled or leaked from that mining operation. This to me, Mr. Speaker, is a very serious problem.

Was there no contingency plan ever put in place by either the federal Department of the Environment or the Atomic Energy Control Board or by the Saskatchewan Government? Do those Government agencies not have a contingency plan for cleaning up? More particularly, how are they going to dispose of 100 million litres of radioactive contaminated water?

● (1805)

They say there are four different inquiries taking place right now. Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious problem. How are they going to dispose of and clean up the polluted environment around the mine site right now? Mr. Speaker, this cannot wait for long. There is containment of the spill only because of the very frigid winter conditions that exist there right now. If we get some unseasonably warm temperatures, or there is procrastination by both levels of Government between now and spring, there will not be containment of that radioactive spill any longer. It will be out into the environment, the swamps and the river systems. The people at the Saskatchewan Research Council are afraid that the radioactivity will go through the food chain and eventually end up being consumed by humans. Although initial levels may not be particularly dangerous to an