

It is part of the necessary examination of the sky radiations other than those of light.

Mr. AIKEN: This is routine observation which may at some time, however, result in such a discovery, or is that its purpose at all?

● (10.00 a.m.)

Mr. HODGSON: It is difficult to know. They have made many discoveries; they discovered new sources of radio noise and published papers and maps of them, and so on, but these have not indicated any radically new departure in sciences at the moment.

One has to take observations, interpret observations and apply the scientific method for a long time without necessarily finding any completely new departure. I think our group is extremely competent and well justifies the expenditures that are put into the equipment that they have.

Mr. AIKEN: The building up of a field of scientific knowledge?

Mr. HODGSON: That is right.

Mr. AIKEN: Thank you.

Mr. BOWER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to inquire if these observatories are planning to work on quasars?

Mr. HODGSON: Some of the observations at Penticton are involved in that. Our optical equipment is not up to this; it is a thing, of course, we hope to get into when we have our 150-inch telescope some five or seven years hence.

Mr. BOWER: I believe they are called quasars, but that is an abbreviation for quasi stellar—

Mr. HODGSON: I am sorry; I should say I am a seismologist professionally so please do not expect too much from me in this area.

Mr. BOWER: I am a geologist.

Mr. FULTON: Well, could somebody translate for the benefit of the uninformed. What is a quasar.

Mr. HODGSON: Remember, Mr. Chairman, I am a seismologist.

The CHAIRMAN: Remember, Dr. Hodgson, that we are laymen.

Mr. HODGSON: It gives you a certain leeway.

There are radio sources that put out tremendous energy and all the studies about them indicate that they are relatively small in size. The problem is, if you can get so much energy being radiated from a point in space which has such a small linear dimension, then it suggests that there is some new way in which energy can be generated in the universe. These objects, I believe have been proved to be extremely distant and therefore it has profound implications for all theories of how the universe was formed. It is the real forefront at the moment of astrophysical research; it is extremely interesting. We are out of it optically because our biggest telescopes in Canada are not big enough for this.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?