

*Order Paper Questions*

## WHITESHELL NUCLEAR RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT

Question No. 1,723—**Mr. Francis:**

Was the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment in Manitoba declared a protected place in June, 1974 and, if so, for what reason?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Atomic Energy Control Board reports as follows: The Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment in Manitoba was declared a protected place by Order of the Atomic Energy Control Board dated December 18, 1962. A new designating order was made in June, 1974 to comply with Section 14 of the Atomic Energy Control Regulations which came into effect on June 4, 1974. The purpose of a protected place is as stated in subsection 14(1) of the Atomic Energy Control Regulations.

## ISSUANCE OF INSURANCE POLICIES TO NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS

Question No. 1,726—**Mr. Francis:**

Have Canadian insurance companies refused to offer the \$75 million insurance policy to licensed nuclear power stations in Canada to cover them for indemnity against nuclear accidents and, if so, will the government cover any claims in the event of such an accident?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Atomic Energy Control Board reports as follows: The Nuclear Insurance Association of Canada is prepared to provide \$75 million of insurance to operators of nuclear power stations in Canada. Until the Nuclear Liability Act is proclaimed in force, operators are not obligated to carry this insurance. At present, nuclear power stations not owned by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited are indemnified by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited against liability to third parties arising from a nuclear incident.

## PERMISSIBLE LEVELS OF RADIATION EXPOSURE

Question No. 1,728—**Mr. Francis:**

Did the Director of the Radiation Protection Branch say that the safe level of radiation is a matter of opinion only and not a matter of scientific research and, if so, will the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources tell the Canadian people how permissible levels of radiation exposure were arrived at by the Atomic Energy Control Board?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Atomic Energy Control Board reports as follows: It is generally accepted by international experts that scientific research has been unable to establish a level of radiation below which the risk to health can be said to be zero. Quoting from the Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, "Any exposure to radiation is assumed to entail a risk of deleterious effects. However, unless man wishes to dispense with activities involving exposures to ionizing radiations he must recognize that there is a degree of risk and must limit the radiation dose to a level at which the assumed risk is deemed to be acceptable to the individual and to society in view of the benefits derived from such activities". These recommendations have been accepted by the Atomic Energy Control Board in setting permissible levels of radiation exposure.

[Mr. Reid.]

## WHARFAGE ACCOUNTS

Question No. 1,744—**Mr. Forrestall:**

With reference to the answer to Question No. 455, does the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs consider that the annual rate on over-due wharfage accounts due the National Harbours Board of 120 per cent is a good example for government to hold to the private sector in terms of interest rates it should charge consumers on consumer over-due accounts and (a) if so, for what reason (b) if not, for what reason?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** As stated by the Minister of Transport in response to question 455, the wharfage charge in question is a penalty to prevent abuse of a privilege. It is a commercial transaction. Quite different considerations arise in consumer transactions where the seller is frequently trying to encourage rather than discourage, the use of credit.

## CANADA COUNCIL AWARD TO STUDY REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Question No. 1,756—**Mr. Halliday:**

1. Did the Canada Council award \$6,000 to study Canadian reports of Unidentified Flying Objects and, if so, was the Council aware that the United States Government spent over half a million dollars between 1966 and 1968 to have competent scientists conduct an intensive study of such reports, including Canadian reports, and that their conclusion was that there was no evidence to warrant any further scientific investigation (the Condon Report)?

2. Did the Council consult with officers of the National Research Council about the advisability of funding such study?

**Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State):** I am informed by the Canada Council as follows: 1. Yes. Under the Council's Explorations program, Mr. John B. Musgrave has been awarded \$6,000 to catalogue old sightings of strange aerial phenomena as reported in Canadian newspapers, journals and local histories, and to interview people who have witnessed such phenomena, especially prior to 1947. The Council's decision was based on an independent appraisal by four scientifically qualified people who were undoubtedly aware of the Condon Report: the Chairman of the Department of Astronomy in an American university, the director of the Mutual U.F.O. Network in the United States, a biologist, and the editor of the Canadian U.F.O. Report.

2. No. This was not felt necessary for the following reasons: (a) the candidate has a solid background in the history of science and particularly of astronomy, having studied these subjects at two major United States universities, and is now involved in scientific work while teaching at Athabaska University, Edmonton; (b) the focus of his project is historical rather than scientific.

## COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

Question No. 1,767—**Mr. Epp:**

1. What new programmes are identified as community employment programmes?

2. What percentage of people who will be employed in the development phase will be Canadians now unemployed?