

southern Ontario. The decision made in 1980 and 1981 to put the refinery in Blind River has now been carried out and is providing some 175 jobs to northern Ontario. It also provided several thousand man-years of work during the construction phase.

I think it is very worthwhile, Mr. Speaker, that we are having this debate today on the mining and nuclear fuel cycle. It is a very important industry to our country in terms of jobs and export markets. We want to continue that. During the period that the NDP were in power in Saskatchewan they in fact did not actually shut down the mines out there. The Saskatchewan Mining Corporation developed further mines and became involved in further mining activities. When we read the NDP policy resolution of a few years ago of phasing it out, we wonder which is the policy.

It is interesting to hear a call for an inquiry after the large number of inquiries which have been held into the uranium industry. A few years ago the Ontario Government established the Porter Commission, the Ontario royal commission on electric power planning. That commission published a comprehensive set of reports after five years of work and several million dollars worth of expenditures. The government in Saskatchewan established the Bayda Commission on uranium mining in Saskatchewan, the Cluff Lake Board of Inquiry. That report has been made public during the last few years.

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In Ontario, the Parliamentary Select Committee on Hydro Affairs has investigated a number of aspects of the nuclear industry, such as electrical demands, reactor safety and waste management practices including the joint Canada-Ontario program for the management of spent reactor fuel waste and the problem of uranium mining tailings. As well, before making a decision as to the location of the uranium refinery in Blind River in Ontario, there was a federal environmental assessment and review panel which reported on four different locations for a uranium refinery in the Province of Ontario.

The provincial Environmental Assessment Board has reported on the proposed expansion of uranium mining activities in Elliot Lake before the current expansion which is just about complete took place. There was a massive public inquiry into the expansion of those uranium mines, including the arrangements being made for tailings and preservation of the environment.

In Newfoundland and Labrador a provincial environmental review decided that proposed mining operations in Labrador was not environmentally suitable and that more work would have to be done on the design of the tailings system. Again, that was another public inquiry.

In Saskatchewan, the federal Environmental Assessment Review made a report on the proposed Eldorado resources uranium refinery in that province. The Bates Commission in British Columbia carried out an important study on uranium mining there.

I also understand that there is a former member of the House of Commons, Mr. Robert McCleave, who is carrying

### *Supply*

out a commission in Nova Scotia. As the Minister said this morning, there are certainly a large number of public commissions and inquiries studying this matter. Of course, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited is carrying out a very extensive research program in northern Ontario and Manitoba to look into the whole question of the high level of nuclear wastes. There will be public hearings into that study when it is completed to identify if that proposal for the deep rock disposal of nuclear wastes is environmentally suitable.

I suggest we must take these facts into account when we look at the resolution which is before us today. In any event, I believe the resolution itself is very valuable because it gives us an opportunity to review the whole nuclear fuel cycle.

When the Hon. Member for Regina East was discussing the subject of uranium mining and electricity production this morning, he stated that we should be moving toward the alternative energy proposal on which the special committee task force in this Parliament reported. I certainly want to pay tribute to those members of the committee and the member for Pontiac-Gatineau-Labelle (Mr. Lefebvre), who was its chairman, because they certainly brought forward an excellent report on alternative energy and the use of hydrogen in the future. When we hear this subject discussed, it is interesting to note that the report is based on the concept of producing hydrogen from water and other resources by using electricity. If that ever happens, I assume that the electricity will come from nuclear generators. Therefore, if hydrogen fuel is to be used in the future, much of its production will be based on the use of nuclear energy to generate the electricity that is required. I know that the NDP member from B.C. who sat on that committee was somewhat nervous about that report since he realized that it was based on using nuclear energy.

The Hon. Member also talked about the dangers of the greenhouse effect which is a phenomenon that results when fossil fuels, such as coal, oil or wood, are burned and carbon dioxide is produced which then creates an envelope in the earth's atmosphere and causes a danger. The one fuel that does not create the greenhouse effect is uranium.

It is also important to note that today we are talking about nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, such as generating electricity. It should be remembered that Canada adopted a policy of selling uranium only for non-weapons use back in 1965. That policy has been strengthened over the years with binding commitments that the uranium we sell and the technology be used only for peaceful purposes. I suggest that we have had the strongest policy in that regard.

I also suggest that today's debate is necessary in view of the importance of the nuclear industry. There are some 30,000 people in this country who have jobs in the industry, including some of the largest employers in my constituency. It is an important source of foreign exchange for Canada since 85 per cent of the \$800 million worth of uranium which is produced each year is sold to countries throughout the world. It is sold specifically for peaceful purposes. As well, there is almost \$1 billion worth of electricity generated in this country in