

Adjournment Debate

construction of reactors cannot be accomplished across Canada and elsewhere in the world. The Government must review its plans and its programs and ensure the sale of these reactors to provide for the continuation of these heavy water plants, because if it does not, not only will the workers involved come upon economic disaster, but probably the whole Island of Cape Breton will experience an economic disaster, if it is not already in that situation at present.

I hope the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will give a little more thought and consideration to this problem than he has in the past, that he will not content himself with the indication he gave to the parliamentary committee on November 23 when he simply said he had a proposal to close the heavy water plant and unless something happened, which he did not indicate he intended to make happen, he would have to abide by the recommendation of Atomic Energy and close the heavy water plant.

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, in response to the concerns raised by the Hon. Member, I wish to inform him that we, on this side, do not need to take any direction from him, or his Party, about how we should be sensitive to those workers in Glace Bay and Port Hawkesbury. I should point out to the Hon. Member that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien), as well as the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen), met with the unions involved at both Glace Bay and Port Hawkesbury and explained the situation to them. The problem we have to focus our attention on is twofold, both domestic and international. There are no foreseeable sales for Candu reactors within Canada or, indeed, on the international market.

What is more appalling, Mr. Speaker, is the hypocrisy of the Conservative Party of Canada. We have the Conservative Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby), a "Crosby", unlike his colleague, the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), or his colleague, the Hon. Member for Vancouver

Quadra (Mr. Clarke), or his colleague, the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn), who each want those two heavy water plants closed.

Of course, the New Democratic Party is no better, including the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow). The NDP Convention of 1980 passed a resolution which in effect said, "close both those heavy water plants." Therefore, I find it somewhat despicable that the Hon. Member would come to this Chamber and put forward the case, if you will, that somehow he is concerned about the workers in those areas. It does not add up. On the one hand you have the Conservative Party arguing that the plants ought to be closed. On the other hand you have a member from Halifax, who is probably a leadership candidate provincially, trying to say to the workers in that area that he is very concerned about them.

I assure the Hon. Member that everything possible is being done to maintain the existence of the two heavy water plants in Glace Bay and Port Hawkesbury, both internationally and domestically. But he ought to know and appreciate that we are in a worldwide economic recession and individuals are not buying the Candu reactor. Therefore, I suggest very politely and respectfully that the Hon. Member's hypocrisy is second to none, other than that, of course, of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) and those three Conservative Members who have said time and time again that the heavy water plants ought to close. We don't need that kind of debate in the House of Commons by the Hon. Member from Halifax. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Chair will reserve the right of Hon. Members present or absent to invoke their rights tomorrow as they may see fit with respect to the word "hypocrisy".

It being 10.30 p.m. I do now leave the chair until two o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

At 10.30 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.