

action, they are not likely to be totally resolved to the satisfaction of all, in the immediate term.

For example, the safe management and disposal of radioactive wastes is a problem facing the industry as a whole. From its inception in the early 1950s, AECL has been studying means of safely immobilizing such materials and, more recently, has formally joined with the province of Ontario in a major effort to establish the parameters associated with their permanent disposal. With the proper support, AECL is confident that this matter can be addressed in an economic and timely manner, consistent with the meeting of concerns on health and safety. The present phase of the program consists of a research effort for the safe disposal of nuclear waste. Site selection will come much later.

The Candu reactor system has a power safety record second to none in the world and a comprehensive high level waste management program is well under way. Significant progress has been made through the aegis of international organizations and agencies toward the articulation of a global safeguards regime which will, on the one hand, diminish the probability of weapons proliferation and, on the other, provide developing nations with the benefits or nuclear technology upon which to base some of their economic development aspirations.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the nuclear energy option is of compelling national and international importance. The issues are not trivial and are often politically sensitive. The goal is nothing short of a solid contribution to a stable and secure long term energy supply to underpin our economic and social development in the years ahead. To this end Canada, through government funding, has firmly established international scale and world recognized research and development facilities, the principal mission of which is to sustain and safeguard our fission energy option both now and in the future.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I noted the remarks made by the hon. parliamentary secretary. I am always pleased to hear him read his speeches because of the exciting way he does so. The beginning of his speech was so exciting that even the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) was compelled to leave the House on business—momentarily. His speeches are so exciting that they make the answers given by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) during the question period sound positively vaudevillian, exciting and stimulating. The hon. member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) has other discriptions for the hon. member's delivery but I shall not repeat them.

I shall, however, say something about the substance of the parliamentary secretary's speech. It was simply an incredible speech and showed a completely uncritical attitude toward the nuclear industry.

An hon. Member: It was critical but it was not negative.

Candu Reactor Sales

Mr. Waddell: I heard nothing critical in the whole speech; no questioning, nothing.

This is the government that in reply to a question in this House today stated there was an inquiry under way with reference to the nuclear industry. Mr. Speaker, the nuclear question is probably one of the most crucial questions of the day. I am astounded at the parliamentary secretary's uncritical attitude toward the nuclear industry. It shows that the internal inquiry is not real. This government and the department should come clean with the Canadian people and say so.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Have a public inquiry.

Mr. Waddell: The hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) says it should be a public inquiry. That is what his government suggested and I shall return to that in a moment.

I have not finished with the parliamentary secretary yet but I want to deal with the remarks of the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert). He said he was not pleading for the sale of Candu reactors and was not pleading for information. What was he pleading for, then? I thought he had a tiger of a resolution here and was bringing up an important matter on the freedom of information and the important matter of the nuclear industry, but he fizzled out. He started off like a tiger and became a pussycat. I do not say that personally, but in effect that was the result of his speech.

He said he did not receive documents, but that it does not matter; that he was not asking for documents—in spite of putting the resolution forward—because they are probably of a private and confidential nature.

A new book has been published entitled "Deference to Authority: the Case of Canada" by an author called Friedenberg. I am sorry I do not have the name of the publisher or the full title available. The book points out that we Canadians have such deference for authority we are afraid to question things and ask that they be brought out in the open; that we are almost a totalitarian society and that we will not look into things as the Americans will. This pertains to freedom of information, to the McDonald Inquiry, to the way RCMP is run and the way the Liberals run the Government of Canada. I shall come back to this, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member did say he was pleading for a policy, a standard but he apparently objected to a standard being set. I do not think it is any secret but he mentioned that representatives from Argentina were in this country about a month ago. They visited Ottawa in secret. The Argentinian equivalent of the head of AECL came to see the government to get us to reduce our standards. So we do have a policy and we do have standards, Mr. Speaker, and I will congratulate the government on that. There are standards for the sale of Candu reactors overseas and the hon. member should know that and the difficulty of keeping to those standards.

I believe we sold a reactor to India. They did not live up to the standards and built an atomic bomb, to their eternal disgrace. I can understand why they did it; because of the pressures on them and the difficulties of their foreign policy,