

*Business of Supply*

points I have raised. But I hope that on some occasion he will have an opportunity to consider the changing role of the United Nations, the present reality of the General Assembly and what kind of change is called for by a country like Canada, which is seriously willing and seriously prepared to let the politics of interest serve the politics of idealism.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lawrence:** Mr. Chairman, after hearing the hon. member for St. Paul's this afternoon, I am sorely tempted to have him come over to our side and agree with us in relation to the PLO and the mealy-mouthed attitude of this government in respect of the whole issue of the PLO and the observers at the United Nations. I am also tempted, when I hear the ambitious member for York Centre, to talk about the wishy-washy attitude of this minister and this government at the United Nations and to continue in that vein, but I think there will be opportunities to discuss the PLO and the United Nations on other occasions.

I want to add my few remarks to the general thrust of the remarks which were made this afternoon by my hon. friends on this side of the House with respect to the general issue of nuclear arms and the role this government has played in the proliferation of nuclear arms in the world today. I wish to begin my remarks by making reference to two occurrences, 20 years apart, in a country which is far from here. Both of these occurrences impressed me very deeply, and I am sure they impressed a great many Canadians. In 1945 Prime Minister Nehru of India, in the tradition of Gandhi before him, proposed an end to the testing by anyone anywhere of any type of nuclear device. On May 18, 1974, just last year, at a site in the Rajasthan Desert east of New Delhi, the Indian department of atomic energy exploded a nuclear bomb—it cannot be called anything else—the yield of which was between 15 and 20 kilotons, which is approximately the same force as the bomb which was exploded over Hiroshima.

What has this to do with Canada, this department, this minister or even this government, apart altogether from what I think is a general Canadian abhorrence of nuclear weapons as instruments of mass destruction? What has it to do with us? I think it has everything to do with us because Canada supplied the original materials, the original financing, the original knowledge and the original technology. These contributions, inescapably and inevitably, led to the Indian development in that desert just over a year ago.

I do not criticize, and I do not think we on this side of the House criticize the government for assisting the nations of the world in establishing nuclear electric power generating plants. I do, however, criticize the government for a weak-kneed policing, not only of a known danger and a known potential put into the hands of those who have nuclear power plants, but also for deceiving other nations and the Canadian people into believing that adequate safeguards and inspection were utilized which would prevent this spread of nuclear arms.

In the beginning, 1956, Canada assisted in the establishment of the Canada-Indian research reactor at Trombay, India. This is a research reactor only. It produces no

[Mr. Kaplan.]

power. It was, however, designed to produce approximately 10 kilograms of weapons grade plutonium. That plutonium, with Canada's knowledge, could be treated at the nearby Indian plutonium plant which was established later, in 1964. That plutonium plant in India could also process fuel rods from a nuclear power reactor. At first they had no nuclear power reactor. On November 14, 1963, Canada signed a further agreement with India for the installation of a 210 megawatt power reactor near the Rajasthan Desert. They now had, in large measure, all the necessary ingredients for a nuclear bomb. The agreement of 1963 provided for reciprocal inspection by Canada of that power reactor and, curiously, the inspection of India of the Douglas Point reactor in Ontario, here in Canada, even though India obviously had no part in the development of our Douglas Point reactor.

I do not necessarily blame India for what has happened because on October 16, 1964, China exploded a nuclear bomb. The reaction of India was swift, open, public and predictable. Before 1964 was over the then Prime Minister Shastri was calling for a guarantee to non-nuclear countries against nuclear attack.

● (2020)

In May of 1965 in the United Nations and in July, 1965 in Geneva, Indian representatives warned of the need for meaningful disarmament and hinted even then that India's alternative was to build the bomb herself.

In April, 1967 the Indian external affairs minister Mr. Chagla came out into the open and said that if India was not to explode its own bomb it must have, in his words, a "credible guarantee" of its own security. Of course, to this day, no such guarantee has been given.

And what of Canada during all this time? Canada, safe, snug and, I regret to say, smug under the U.S. nuclear umbrella was continuing to make great breast beating noises about the need for measures designed to limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world. Canada was continually warned by Pakistan, for instance, that its Indian safeguards were no good and its inspection and control were virtually non-existent.

In October 1965, Pakistan specifically and openly stated that India was using the accumulation of plutonium from the Canadian research reactor to start an atomic arsenal some time in the future. General Burns, as Canada's representative, received many warnings and I am convinced that other Canadian government representatives also received warnings. The only move that the Canadian government made was to attempt to allay the fears of all nations by stating that India had given solemn assurances to Canada that the product of those reactors, and nuclear energy in general in India, would be used for only peaceful purposes.

These warnings woke up somebody over there and bore some fruit, because in 1971 when the present Canadian Prime Minister visited New Delhi, further assurances were sought by him on this particular matter but these assurances were never given by India. It was then too late for India to turn back. But it was not too late for Canada to turn back, Mr. Chairman. For almost ten years Canada has supplied the means, the material and the men, which directly led to that explosion in the Indian desert 13