

*Government Orders*

is what Canadian federalism and the Canadian national spirit is all about.

Some other very important institutions are attached to the Department of Natural Resources. I want to talk about one of my favourite subjects today. That is Atomic Energy of Canada Limited which reports through the Minister of Natural Resources to the House of Commons.

I was quite concerned one day not too long ago. I was sitting in the House listening to a speaker from across the way talk about the waste and lack of productivity in crown corporations and so on. I was trying to get the floor but time ran out so I am going to say now what I wanted to say then.

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited is a crown corporation and has been around as a corporation since 1952. It was started by the National Research Council of Canada in about 1945. I will give some very revealing highlights of this crown corporation which has been a success to the country.

Research and development is the force that drives the economy in any nation and I will give some facts. In developing Canada's nuclear energy capability, the federal government has appropriated \$4.7 billion to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited since 1952. That is for the last 42 years. After putting \$4.7 billion into it, what is our return?

Ernst & Young, a well-known consulting firm, has made a report on that very issue and has come up with this evidence. At least \$23 billion was contributed to Canada's gross domestic product by the nuclear industry from 1962 to 1992. Within a 30-year period \$23 billion came back into the gross domestic product of this country from an investment by the Canadian taxpayers of \$4.7 billion over the 40-year period from 1952 to 1992. If we simply subtract \$4.7 billion from \$23 billion there is a gross net gain of \$18.3 billion for Canada's economy. And someone has the nerve to stand in the House and state that it has been a drain on the Canadian economy.

• (1635)

Let me give another fact. Ontario has a large industrial community. Yes it was hurt by free trade for a while but it is coming back. A rather interesting statistic is that today 60 per cent of the energy supplied for industrial and domestic use in the province of Ontario comes from CANDU reactors. If we did not have them we would have to use more coal.

Because of geography, the coal for the southern Ontario coal burning plants has been imported from the United States. Ontario Hydro estimates that from 1965 to 1989 nuclear energy has saved the Canadian economy approximately \$17 billion on foreign exchange. That is because we are not shipping money out of Canada to Pennsylvania and other areas in the United

States to buy hard coal for coal powered plants. Think of what the saving is on environmental issues in the province of Ontario alone.

These facts have to be put on the record because there are too many statements made which attack Canadian organizations and other traditions and institutions of the country without having the proper facts to back them up.

In the 1990s foreign exchange savings will amount to approximately \$1 billion a year.

We recently sold two reactors to China. That will mean a lot of money to businesses in this country. One thing was not highly emphasized during the recent trade negotiations with China. An important event that happened during the visit of the Prime Minister, the nine premiers and approximately 375 business people to China was the signing of a nuclear non-proliferation treaty between Canada and China.

Once again Canada is leading the way in putting in place those cornerstones of international necessity with this agreement between our two countries. That reminds us of something else. It was Canada that first recognized Red China, as it was then called, and recognized China as an official state. That opened the door for the U.S. to follow. That opened the door for President Nixon's visit to China. That opened the door for some communication which was absolutely necessary during those cold war days. It has fallen upon Canada to bridge the gap between ourselves and China and other nations can follow thereafter.

• (1640)

Direct employment in Canada's nuclear industry in 1992 was estimated at 30,000 jobs. Direct employment increased approximately 9 per cent in a three-year period alone. A minimum of 10,000 jobs in other sectors indirectly depend on the nuclear industry, another contribution. Nuclear energy supplied 15 per cent of the total electricity across the whole of Canada in 1992 which was valued at \$3.7 billion.

Private sector companies which supply nuclear products and services had total sales of \$9.4 billion between 1988 and 1992. The federal government receives approximately \$700 million annually from the nuclear industry in the form of income and sales taxes. Canada's nuclear industry had a trade surplus of approximately \$500 million individually in recent years.

Those are some of the facts of the tremendous contribution to economic growth that I wanted to put on the record today.

The problem with research and development in Canada over the years has simply been that people look for a return the morning after investing their money. That cannot be done with R and D.