

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

afternoon. He did say, and I am not quarrelling with the use of the word, that we over here scoffed about the vision of developing a great centre in Frobisher Bay. I did mention that this afternoon, and I read from a report of the minister's trip to this place. It may well be that Frobisher Bay, before long, will be an important centre of a great defence complex and a trade and economic complex. It may realize all the dreams that were portrayed in this particular report. What I asked the minister on this point was merely for information concerning, not the building of skyscrapers in Frobisher Bay because if that is the best way of providing Arctic housing, that is fine, but this particular report says, and this is what struck my imagination and I wondered whether there was any basis of fact for it:

It involves the use of six-story skyscrapers of concrete ringing a mammoth central, roofed and heated hexagonal plaza containing stores and offices.

This leaves the impression that the population of this particular place would be living under cover in winter and summer, if they so desired, and that seemed to me to be a new idea in Arctic development.

I talked about the atomic power station, with which the minister did not deal except in a general way. I ask him if he can confirm the statement he made, and it is an important one, that we have now in this country package atomic power stations for this kind of use. If we have, we have made a great deal of progress in Canada in the last year, and progress of which we can all be very proud.

After I made that statement, and during the dinner recess, I happened to pick up the *New York Times*. Perhaps the minister has read this article. The report is from Chicago, dated August 13, and it says that the Argonne National Laboratory of the United States, which is the centre of atomic power development over there for civilian purposes, announced today—that is August 13—the development of a portable package atomic power plant designed for use on the Distant Early Warning line, that is in Canada. Apparently this is the first atomic power plant for this purpose that has been designed and brought into use, at least in prototype, in the United States. The report goes on:

The unit is called the Argonne low power reactor.

It has a capacity, at full power, to produce 3,000 thermal kilowatts, enough energy to light 300 average homes or to heat 14 average homes. Presumably, you would need quite a few of these for the kind of development about which the minister was talking. As the

[Mr. Pearson.]

United States has now announced this is a first, it is a prototype, I was naturally even more interested after dinner in the statement the minister made that we had already in Canada such a package atomic power plant.

The only other matter I wish to mention is the statement of the minister—I think it was an important statement and he should produce some evidence to support it—that Canadian cabinet ministers and officials had to go through certain formalities before they could visit United States military installations in the Arctic. He mentioned one Canadian official in particular who had been held up for months in doing his official work on Canadian soil because of these formalities. I suspected that the minister's statement would become headline news. If he looked at the seven o'clock news on television, he would realize it has already become so because the particular news which I saw at seven o'clock—probably it was an effort to compress what the minister said—indicated that both cabinet ministers and Canadian officials had considerable difficulty in visiting these stations on Canadian soil. I do not know whether or not the minister wishes to leave that impression.

I do know that when we were in office there was no difficulty of any kind for any Canadian cabinet minister who wished to visit any United States controlled station on Canadian soil, a United States station which was there with our approval and after formal agreement with Canada. All he had to do was indicate his desire to go there and he was cleared at once. It is not improper that Canadians, even Canadian cabinet ministers, should have to be cleared on occasions like that because if we had a top secret military installation in the United States, and we are entitled to have one there under agreement between the two countries, and any United States cabinet minister wished to visit it he would have to be cleared through the proper Canadian security authorities. I venture to say that if a German cabinet minister wanted to go to a top secret Canadian establishment on German soil, and we have some there, he would have to be cleared by the Canadian authorities. That is not improper procedure. But if it is being improperly exercised by the United States, we should hear about it. If Canadian officials are in fact being held up through the improper application of United States security procedure, we should have information about that. If that is being done there are remedies available to apply to that kind of thing to stop it.

It seems to me that if it gets out at this particular moment that United States authorities are improperly exercising their authority on Canadian soil in the way in which the