

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**ATOMIC ENERGY**

## GLACE BAY—INQUIRY AS TO PRODUCTION OF HEAVY WATER

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

As the heavy water plant in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, which was built thanks to thousands of dollars of financial aid from the government of Nova Scotia, then led by the Leader of the Opposition, has proved to be a real fiasco—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I would point out to the hon. member that a question cannot be put in those terms.

**Mr. Rondeau:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As that fiasco was later on compounded by the Liberal government—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

[English]

The hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is related to the communiqué tabled by the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member. He will be recognized in a moment. I gather there is a question of privilege being raised by the hon. member for Shefford.

[Translation]

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

A short while ago, the minister gave an answer, but unfortunately, in this corner of the House, we did not catch it.

Has the federal government lost any hope of producing heavy water in Nova Scotia, since it is buying some from the USSR?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member has indicated that he was rising on a question of privilege, and he takes this opportunity to repeat his question. He will agree that the Chair has recognized the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East.

[English]

**Mr. Forrestall:** Mr. Speaker, my question—

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** On a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I again have to apologize to the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East. With a little more patience we shall get to him. The hon. member for Bellechasse is rising on a point of order.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order since I was involved.

In fact, my colleague from Shefford said that we did not catch the minister's reply to my question. It might have been understood but nobody heard it because of the noise. I did not want to interfere then as I preferred to wait till the end of the question period. If Your Honour would

[Mr. Speaker.]

permit the minister to reply, I would be very happy provided that reply is heard.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The minister could perhaps repeat his reply, but I respectfully submit to hon. members that if half the question period is spent repeating answers or questions, it will really be reduced to twenty minutes. In any case, we could perhaps allow the minister to reply to this question in a minute—

[English]

—after the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East has had a chance to put his question.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Make it good.

**Mr. Forrestall:** I don't know whether it will be good but I shall try.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## CANADIAN-SOVIET COMMUNIQUÉ—DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING RUSSIAN-BUILT ICEBREAKERS AND MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** My question arises out of the communiqué tabled by the Prime Minister. I want to ask him whether or not the possibility of purchasing Soviet-built icebreakers or Soviet engineering services for the design and construction of an expanded Arctic fleet was considered during the talks with the Soviet delegation? At the same time I might ask whether any consideration was given to the purchase of long-range maritime patrol aircraft?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, I know of no talks having covered either of those machines.

• (2:50 p.m.)

**Mr. Speaker:** We will return now to the question asked by the hon. member for Bellechasse and allow the minister to repeat the reply which was not heard by that hon. member.

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[Translation]

**ATOMIC ENERGY**

## GLACE BAY—PRODUCTION OF HEAVY WATER SOLD IN CANADA

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, as far as I can understand, the hon. member for Bellechasse asked me whether the government was aware of the difficulties of a company called Deuterium of Canada Limited. The hon. member for Shefford told me the reasons why that company is in trouble. I suggested that along with many Canadians we were also aware of that situation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. minister now has repeated the answer he gave earlier.