

*Supply—Trade and Commerce*

earlier this afternoon that there have been committees in two sessions since the war investigating developments in the atomic energy field. What has the minister to suggest for the future that would keep parliament closely in touch with what has taken place, and with the expenditure of these sums of money?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Mr. Chairman, I have always favoured a committee. As my hon. friend knows, I have never resisted a committee on atomic energy. I do not think the situation warrants a permanent committee. The committees have consisted of pretty much the same personnel from year to year. As I say, it is no fault of mine that this committee was not called this year. I put the resolution on the order paper after we had agreed on the wording of it, and it has been there ever since. Any time the house leader would have allowed a debate on it we would have been very glad to participate whether I was in Canada or not.

Next year we shall be very glad to consider it. I think it is better to have a committee on atomic energy. I believe it is a big enough field. If other committees in the fields of science are needed, perhaps they could be separate committees. I would welcome one. I think it is desirable to have a committee on atomic energy from time to time.

**Mr. Green:** I would hope the government would take that step at the next session.

Item agreed to.

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (research program)—

640. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment and to authorize Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to undertake construction of works at Deep River for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited—further amount required, \$2,239,500.

**Mr. Green:** Mr. Chairman, in the annual budget of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited for the financial year 1955-56, which was approved on February 17, 1955, the total shown is \$15,007,465. I take it that this figure does not include the amounts shown in the supplementary estimates. If that is the case, how do those amounts in the supplementary estimates fit in with the annual budgets? To what parts of the budget are they applicable?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** No. This is entirely required for increased housing and other construction. As my hon. friend knows, all the construction in the town of Deep River is carried on by the government of Canada. It was an underestimate as to the amount of

construction required, and this is the amount required to supply the capital needed.

**Mr. Green:** It is a different type of vote from the amount shown in the ordinary estimates?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** It is the same type of vote, but the estimate made last fall apparently was not sufficient to take care of the actual needs as they have subsequently developed.

**Mr. Green:** As I said a while ago, the total vote is about \$35 million. Has the minister any idea whether that amount will be going up each year, or what are the estimates of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited in that regard?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** It goes down. This is a big year; \$34,006,000 next year; 1957, \$31 million; 1958, \$24 million; in 1959, \$15 million; and in 1960, \$16 million. That is the five-year program as we see it today. There is another factor. Next year there should be more substantial earnings from the production. We have contracts with the United States for the sale of plutonium. We also have certain research contracts. It so happens that this is a very high intensity flux, and we have been called on to do a great deal of experimenting, both for the United Kingdom and the United States, owing to the fact that we have a pile that can do experimental work that other piles cannot. We have to somewhat remodel our latest reactor in order to make it possible to fill that role, and we are paid for that work. There again, that is a source of income that will grow from year to year.

**Mr. Green:** The minister says they are paying for it?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Yes, whoever has the work done is paying for it.

**Mr. Green:** Do the figures the minister just gave for expenditures in the years ahead take into account the estimated revenues?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** No.

**Mr. Green:** Or were they without the revenues?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Without the revenues.

**Mr. Green:** When will the new reactor be completed?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I am told it is the net requirement. The new reactor should be in operation by next summer.

**Mr. Green:** When?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** The fall of 1956.