

5. Prime Minister Attlee Speaks on the Passage of British Atomic Energy Legislation (Hansard, House of Commons, Oct. 8, 1946)

"In debate on the second reading of Atomic Energy Bill, Prime Minister said: "The House is in the presence of an invention and discovery of most far reaching possibilities, and in those circumstances it is quite clear that its development must be guided in the national interest. The Government must have adequate powers of control. It is on those broad lines of ensuring safety for this country and at the same time not unduly hampering research that this Bill has been drafted..."

In the same debate in reply to an enquiry why atomic energy had not been entrusted to a Minister whose position and authority were greater than that of a Minister of Supply who was not in the Cabinet, the Prime Minister said that he had always kept the general supervision of the broad matter in his own hands as Prime Minister. It was a major consideration of the Government, but the Minister of Supply was entrusted with the actual physical working.

6. Announcement of Promulgation of the British Atomic Energy Act.

The Atomic Energy Act giving H.M. Government the power to control the use and development of atomic energy received the royal assent on November 6, 1946.

7. Minister of Supply Announces Atomic Energy Site at Sellafield (Hansard, House of Commons, July 23, 1947)

The Minister of Supply: "On 29th January 1946 the Prime Minister announced the setting up of an organization to be responsible for the provision of fissile material for research and other purposes. It has since been announced that the first stage of this process, viz., the production of pure uranium from pitch-blende concentrates, will be carried out at the Ministry of Supply factory at Springfields, near Preston.

"Consideration has been given to the location of the second stage of the process, viz., the production of a chain-reacting pile of fissile material from the uranium produced at Springfields.

"In addition to purely technical considerations, it was necessary, in order to save much time, to find a prepared site with services already developed, and, if possible, in reasonable proximity to Springfields..."

The atomic energy project will, therefore, be located at Sellafield. Building and engineering work will begin in the near future, and will give employment to a considerable number of men for some time to come. For the time being, there will be no change in the present use of the Royal Ordnance factory at Drigg."

8. First British Atomic Pile Commences Operation on August 16, 1947. (Washington Times Herald, August 17, 1947)

"The United Kingdom's first atomic pile is called "Gleep" (graphite low energy experimental pile) and was