

Heavy Water Production

other place who has put the record straight. He is a member of the hon. member's party. I have referred to remarks made by the chairman of the science committee of the other place, as well as by the hon. member for Trinity and the hon. member for Thunder Bay. The hon. member opposite in the back row, from Renfrew-Carleton, has taken exception to statements made by his Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) about the development at Glace Bay. He complained that certain conditions were to be met—

Mr. McBride: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being recognized by the hon. member but my constituency is Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton.

Mr. McIntosh: That is a great contribution.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, that is what I call a contribution to the debate. At least I will admit that Liberal members know where they come from. I say the evidence is there for all to see. It is interesting to note that a former minister who recently resigned from the government—I say this with all due respect to him, because he resigned for health reasons—was pushing for a system of operation that would not use heavy water. I refer to the former minister of energy, mines and resources. I have a cutting from the *Globe and Mail* of December 18, 1970, which is headlined "Greene indicates Ottawa leaning toward building a uranium enriching plant". This is in contradiction to all the undertakings given by AECL. A former minister of the government is questioning whether a proper decision was taken and whether the cabinet had given the matter enough study.

• (1750)

There is no question that this was a political decision involving the expenditure of \$60 million to help the Liberal government; this was denied the Conservative government of Nova Scotia. Perhaps I should not suggest that a decision to put the plant in Glace Bay was a political decision because there was a Conservative government involved. The government in power today did its utmost to put the people of Nova Scotia in a financial straitjacket, and it will take them a very long time to recover.

Snide remarks are being made every day about the leader of the opposition. Hardly a day goes by without the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) shouting something about heavy water. It is very interesting to note what was said on April 1, 1965, by the now new Liberal Premier of the province of Nova Scotia when he was a Liberal backbencher from Halifax. He directed a question to the then minister of labour, the minister from Cape Breton in the Liberal government. I shall quote his question to emphasize the fact that these are the people who today want to blame the leader of the opposition for all the faults of this plant at Glace Bay. The new Premier of Nova Scotia was sitting as a Liberal backbencher on April 1, 1965, when he asked this question. He had to be reminded by the Speaker that he could only ask his question if it was truly a question. He never knew how to ask a question when he was here, and now as Premier of Nova Scotia he does not know how to answer.

An hon. Member: That was April fool's day.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Mr. MacInnis: The hon. member says it was April fool's day, but that had nothing to do with the question. Mr. Speaker said the now Premier of Nova Scotia could ask his question—

If it is a true question and not a statement.

MR. REGAN: It is a Nova Scotia one. Will the Minister of Labour assure the House that on behalf of all constituencies in Cape Breton, he will keep the type of representation in the future that brought to that island the heavy water plant?

Today, members of the Liberal party point to the leader of the opposition, because he was premier of Nova Scotia at the time, and shout about heavy water. You can hear their shouts throughout this chamber. But the question is in *Hansard* for all to read and check. At that time they apparently took full credit for the establishment of the plant in Glace Bay. Whenever things go wrong, members on the opposite side blame the leader of the opposition; but the facts can be checked.

When the government was prepared to double the capacity of the plant in Nova Scotia there was no announcement from the federal government or from the Conservative premier of Nova Scotia at that time. Who made the announcement about doubling the capacity of the Glace Bay heavy water plant? Lo and behold, it was the same Mr. Regan who is now the Liberal premier of that province; yet we hear every day from the other side the same shouts about heavy water. The responsibility is theirs; they made the decision and they can live with it.

Let me now come to the question of what is happening in respect of patronage. Again, I regret the absence of the government House leader, the hon. member from Cape Breton. The unemployment rate in Cape Breton today ranges between 29 per cent and 31 per cent. The minister from Cape Breton says he did not talk to anyone from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, but when he was in Scotland last year he met a Scotsman at a social function and, just by coincidence, asked him to accept a job as public relations officer for Atomic Energy of Canada. He brought a Scotsman into this area where there is 29 per cent to 31 per cent unemployment. That man is now working in the plant where there are at least two men who have had years of experience in the public relations field. The minister says he does not remember speaking to him about this job, but he is not very emphatic in his denial.

In any event, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited hired this public relations officer. I understand that a public relations officer is someone who is employed to create a good public image for somebody else. This man was brought in from Scotland and put on the job, yet Atomic Energy of Canada Limited say he has not been there long enough for them to assess his capabilities. They did not advertise the job. They never advertise these positions. They did not contact the Atlantic public relations officers association to find someone from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia or even from the rest of Canada who was qualified to fill the position. Apparently, if you are looking for a job with this government the best thing to do is to go overseas and get in the way of a minister on tour at government expense. If you do not believe me, read the Auditor General's report and check the Paris newspapers.

There are thousands of young graduate Canadians tramping the streets of Ottawa and Montreal today. On