

with care such issues as the technology needed to ensure the safe disposal of nuclear wastes, and the longer-term benefits and costs of the nuclear fuel cycle—

Against the risks of nuclear must also be balanced the risks in our time of not going nuclear, the risks of closing off our options prematurely. These risks are social, economic, health and environmental.

In 1976, when the United Nations held its conference on human settlements in Vancouver we saw, very dramatically, the two sides of this debate. There were calls for a moratorium on the spread of nuclear energy at a conference, where the main concerns were the starvation, death and the dreadful conditions of life in underdeveloped countries. No one can be unaware of what is involved in looking after the world's four billion people, a population which will escalate in three decades to eight billion. The struggle in the developing countries is harsh. Food shortages and higher prices for oil and commodities are presenting people with almost intolerable conditions of living.

Following Habitat, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was asked what he thought about the calls for a moratorium on nuclear energy. I will read part of his reply:

We have this high technology in an era where many of the less developed countries are starved for energy, they need it not for explosive purposes; they need it in order to improve their standard of living; they need it for medical purposes, for agricultural purposes; they need it to reach some degree, some minimum degree of habitable environment, and we're sitting on this technology. We could say, well, . . . we don't share it because the dangers of proliferation are too great . . . It's too risky for you . . . We can trust ourselves . . . not to abuse this technology but we can't trust you so we won't teach you how to use it.

That is something for those who call for a moratorium to consider. The developed nations have a moral obligation to assist energy-poor nations to develop alternatives to oil. This conclusion was arrived at during the Venice Summit in June, 1980. I will quote from the declaration:

We underline the vital contribution of nuclear power to a more secure energy supply. The role of nuclear energy has to be increased if world energy needs are

to be met. We shall, therefore, have to expand our nuclear generating capacity. We will continue to give the highest priority to ensuring the health and safety of the public and to perfecting methods of dealing with spent fuels and disposal of nuclear waste. We reaffirm the importance of ensuring the reliable supply of nuclear fuel and minimizing the risk of nuclear proliferation.

That was from the declaration following the Venice Summit in June, 1980, a declaration which was arrived at following a very extensive discussion of the obligations of developed countries.

"The Health Hazards of Not Going Nuclear" is the title of an American publication which was borrowed by a Canadian scientist who, in an address last year, quoted some figures about the possibilities which would flow from our not going nuclear from, for example, an increased use of coal. Professor Yaffe pointed out that:

In the last 80 years 30,000 coal miners in Pennsylvania alone have been killed in coal mine accidents. In Appalachia 57,000 coal miners suffer from black-lung disease.

He also gave some figures about the effect on the environment and the possible increase in acid rain if we were to neglect our nuclear technology in favour of existing technology, such as more use of coal.

To a very large extent, the debate about nuclear power is a debate about the nature of risk, about how we evaluate risk, how open the discussion is and how best to make these decisions which will affect not only us, but also future generations.

● (1700)

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has now expired.

It being five o'clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.