

Loans to New Brunswick Electric Power Commission in connection with the operation of a nuclear generating station at Point Lepreau, New Brunswick.

An agreement reached between New Brunswick and the federal Government provides a series of standby loans to New Brunswick Power in the event that the Point Lepreau nuclear reactor fails to provide an adequate amount of electricity. The agreement provides that New Brunswick Power can receive up to \$6 million per year maximum in the event that Point Lepreau's power production is less than 75 per cent of capacity.

When the Supplementary Estimate was drawn up, the Department assumed that the maximum amount for the year would be called upon. In fact, while the reactor missed its October start-up date, and only started producing at full power in March, the reactor has behaved very well since. Thus New Brunswick Power is only able to call upon a total of \$3.8 million.

New Brunswick Power has indicated in writing to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources that it has no intention of seeking any funds for the current year. It is also worth noting that when called, New Brunswick Power knew nothing of this Supplementary Estimate.

● (1900)

Since the fund has been called upon to the extent I just indicated, we had no choice but to support concurrence in the estimate itself. But it is evidence of a sloppiness in the preparation of the estimate, particularly in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources where they would be calling for substantial moneys over and above those actually needed.

We are therefore supporting the Schedule, but now that these remarks are on the record the Department will likely take note and rectify things in the future.

[Translation]

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: The President of the Privy Council, on the same point of order.

Mr. Pinard: There is absolutely no point of order. At this stage, the Chair is supposed to put all questions, without debate or amendment, and I think this is abusing the rules of the House. I hope the Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) will refrain from doing so again.

[English]

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: The point raised by the President of the Privy Council is well taken. I refer Hon. Members to Standing Order 62(10) where the Chairman has no choice but to put all questions forthwith and successively without debate or amendment. I take it that the Hon. Member for Yukon was rising on a point of order. He has made his point and we will proceed.

Mr. Skelly: Mr. Chairman, to accept the point of order raised by the Hon. Member for Yukon to place on the record justification for an absolute irrational act in supporting the

Supply

nuclear program is unacceptable. The Member was not up on a point of order.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order. We are now getting into debate.

Shall the Schedule carry?

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Schedule agreed to.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Shall Clause 1 carry?

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Clause agreed to.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Shall the preamble carry?

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Preamble agreed to.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Shall the title carry?

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Title agreed to.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Shall I report the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Bill reported.

Mr. Gray moved that the Bill be concurred in.

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Gray moved that the Bill be read the third time and do pass.

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to and Bill read the third time and passed.

[Translation]

Mr. Prud'homme: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme), on a point of order.

Mr. Prud'homme: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

I seek unanimous consent. We have undertaken all consultations necessary and it should be possible to get consent for presenting to the House a motion to be accepted without debate by all Parties.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to reverting to motions?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.