

expressed our anxiety in this regard to the United States government—to know all that we possibly can know about the effects of these recent developments, the destructive effect of the scientific discoveries, as well as plans the United States may have for further “experimental explosions”. We quite recognize that the United States administration is subject to the McMahon Act in this matter. That Act, until it is amended, does govern what they can or cannot tell us. At the present time we hope that within the limitations of that Act they will give us all the information they possibly can. I think we are also permitted to hope—and I think they know of our hope—that the McMahon Act may in the future be changed somewhat to make this exchange of information a little broader than it is at present.

Mr. COLDWELL: Mr. Chairman, may I follow that with a question? In this morning's paper there is a rather important statement. I may say I addressed a question to the Prime Minister on it this morning to the effect that Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt at Quebec in 1943 came to a very definite arrangement regarding the development of atomic energy and the use of the atom bomb and that subsequently the McMahon Act came into being, and apparently that was set aside; and I am wondering if Canada was a party to that understanding. If so, when the unilateral action was taken by the United States did Canada make any protest regarding the setting aside of what seems to be, according to this morning's paper, a very important and fundamental agreement reached at Quebec in 1943.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Well, Mr. Coldwell, if you addressed a question to the Prime Minister, and I assume you have—

Mr. COLDWELL: I have, yes.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: —I do not suppose I ought to anticipate the Prime Minister's answer, but I could say this, because I do not think it would necessarily be covered in the answer although it might be: the agreement you referred to of 1943 signed at Quebec was an agreement between Mr. Churchill, as he then was, and Mr. Roosevelt, the President of the United States. Mr. Churchill outlined in the House of Commons in London yesterday the nature of that agreement—an agreement between the heads of two governments, not between the heads of three governments.

Mr. COLDWELL: Were we a participant in the conference?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: We were a participant in the conference, but I think the Canadian position in regard to it—and this is forgotten by many; indeed, it was forgotten by me until we began to look into this matter—was stated in the Canadian House of Commons on December 7, 1945 by Mr. Mackenzie King. Canada was specifically concerned with this agreement, because an agency was recommended in the agreement through which cooperation in this field should be carried out. That was a committee called “the Combined Policy Committee”, and the Canadian government was asked to nominate Mr. Howe as a representative for that committee. But that part of the agreement is only one paragraph and the rest of the agreement dealing with the use of atomic energy, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4, did not, as I understand it, cover Canada.

Mr. COLDWELL: Were we accorded a copy of that agreement paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Oh yes. We have had the text of this agreement since it was signed.

Mr. COLDWELL: Between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Yes.