

Message from the Senate

Since this Bill leaves the responsibility for dealing with nuclear waste largely with the federal Government, it is appropriate to ask why the experience in dealing with uranium ore is being forgone. Indeed the disposal of nuclear waste is the nuclear nightmare which must be addressed now. I must admit that the question of the disposal of nuclear waste has not been a major problem for me personally. However, the Minister knows that there is a great deal of concern, apprehension, and opposition to the experiments being conducted in Manitoba which many people believe will lead, if they are not prohibited, to the disposal of nuclear waste in that province. Again, as the Minister knows, there is a great deal of opposition to that in the Province of Manitoba.

• (1640)

The Eldorado waste disposal sites in the Port Hope uranium refinery area are operating on a year by year basis and no replacement has yet been found. This question must be resolved quickly, yet the Government is content to get rid of the corporation without addressing this pressing question. I say to the Minister that we will insist upon much more detailed answers than the few blithe words with which she seemed to dispose of this very important and serious question during her discussion of the Bill.

Does the inability to find new waste sites or even deal with the problems at the existing Welcome site, which is now closed, and the Granby site, which is now open on a temporary basis, say something profound about the future of uranium mining and the use of uranium in Canada, if not in the world?

I ask the question because this problem is not only causing concern in Canada but is causing tremendous concern, apprehension, and debate in the United States. We have received no answers from the Government. It seems to be sloughing off the question altogether.

Is the issue of uranium wastes so fraught with danger that a drastic scaling down, if not phasing out, of uranium use is likely to be in the cards? We do not know, but we certainly think that the matter needs to be discussed. Many responsible people believe that this is so.

The federal New Democratic Party has consistently called for a full-scale investigation of the nuclear fuel cycle and has appointed two caucus Members, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) and the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell), to address the question. They have been travelling across the country, holding hearings, and meeting with people who are involved and concerned. This is something that should have been done by the Government before it brought forward the proposal. Members of my Party regard the question as a serious one.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Unfortunately I must interrupt the Hon. Member at this time. He will be allowed to continue later.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed the following Bills: Bill C-119, an Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending March 31, 1988; Bill C-120, an Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending March 31, 1989; and Bill C-116, an Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Rideau Hall
Ottawa

March 29, 1988

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Gerald Eric Le Dain, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 29th day of March, 1988, at 4:45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

Yours sincerely,
Léopold H. Amyot
Secretary to the Governor General

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ELDORADO NUCLEAR LIMITED REORGANIZATION AND DIVESTITURE ACT**MEASURE TO ENACT**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-121, an Act to authorize the reorganization and divestiture of Eldorado Nuclear Limited and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mrs. McDougall: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I did not want to interrupt the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) earlier, but since there has been an interruption I should like to point out that he began his remarks by saying that he had not had sufficient notice of the Bill today.

I would like it on record that he was offered, and I think received, a full briefing from my officials on Friday and that the Bill was on the Order Paper this morning at nine o'clock as a back-up Bill.