

Workmanship Is Criticized In Atomic Energy Project

By JOHN E. BIRD
OTTAWA (CP)—The head of Canada's atomic energy project has criticized Canadian industry for poor workmanship in the supply, installation and inspection of standard components for Canada's first atomic power plant.

J. L. Gray, president of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, also told the second annual conference of the Canadian Nuclear Association that Canada's program to produce economic electricity from atomic energy "is on one of its boy's own treks."

He added in a luncheon address that Canada's nuclear power program has advanced to the point where the crown agency he heads should soon leave the design and construction of power reactors to engineering consultants and industry.

Mr. Gray said "we must have a very high standard of reliability in much of the equipment used in nuclear plants."

High levels of radioactivity

in some areas of nuclear plants made routine maintenance and inspection a nearly impossible and repair difficult. The high cost of materials used in power plants emphasized the importance of tight joints and sound fittings, while the ability of reactors to increase power rapidly made reliable control systems a necessity.

"All of this points upon the necessity of reliability of equipment—pipe fittings, valves, pumps and control gear."

"The very special equipment has employed the newer materials to very close tolerances and advanced designs are not the major cause of our troubles," he said. "It is the poor workmanship in supply, installation and inspection of standard items."

Mr. Gray said other types of plants have been able to accept a "less-than-desirable performance" from components because maintenance and inspection is routine and easy. A broken valve or poorly installed fitting would be replaced but

very costly and time-consuming.

As automation and remote operation became more common, many conventional power plants were going to require the same reliability of equipment now demanded for nuclear plants.

"The experience being gained in the supply and installation of equipment for nuclear stations gives a preview of industry's ability and attitude towards the supply of equipment that will be a routine requirement in a few years," he said.

Mr. Gray said that if nuclear reactors—especially Canadian-engineered heavy water reactors—develop as expected, the volume of nuclear power business for Canada could total hundreds of millions annually within 10 years.

"We have the production capability to build any of the equipment needed, but companies involved in producing the nuclear components will need to organize special technical groups to adequately handle the problems of design and development peculiar to atomic reactors."

Local Candidates Assume Bigger Role In Campaign

By ARCH MACKENZIE
OTTAWA (CP)—The local candidate, often lost in the national attention paid party leaders during an election campaign, may assume a bigger role this time, evidence indicates.

How much weight he swings will be decided by the voters June 18.

But it's widely agreed that this is not 1958 when the Progressive Conservative swept 208 of the 265 Commons seats. Prime Minister Diefenbaker dominated that campaign to such an extent that some people, including Conservatives, have suggested a good many government candidates rode to victory on his coat-tails.

Just how much influence an individual candidate has in a federal election is always a good debating point, although it's conceded that one with all the desirable attributes is excellent insurance.

Conservative planners say there is far more activity by local candidates this time. They claim superior candidates in seats not won in 1958 but stress that Mr. Diefenbaker still is their No. 1 attraction. They say surveys show Mr. Diefenbaker tends to lead the party in pop-

ularity while—conversely—Liberal Leader Pearson tends to trail his party in appeal.

MAY MEAN LITTLE

In their view, this appears to be another 1953 election—where the challenger may draw crowds that mean little in voting support.

The Liberals have been consistently playing up their candidate as the Pearson "team," stressing calculations that the average age is under 40 years. New emphasis may be put so the party candidates, officials say, on grounds that Liberals hold an advantage man for man across the country.

They suggest too that the image of the "team" will be outlined as one incorporating a ta-

lented second string as well as known names such as Mitchell Sharp, former deputy trade minister, national campaign organizer Walter Gordon and former cabinet ministers Paul Martin, J. W. Pickersill and Lionel Chevrier.

They argue that contrary to what the Conservatives say, Mr. Diefenbaker is being downgraded by some local candidates and that one or two Conservative candidates are even stop-peddling the party affiliation.

LACK BIG NAMES

As for the New Democratic and Social Credit parties, neither has a big name of name campaigners to match that of the two major parties and hence have always had to rely more on local candidates for impact.

Conservatives say that their candidates are digging in harder this time because of a

slow campaign start and the early take-off by Liberals and NDP. This helped get them rolling on their own in what is a more normal Canadian campaign, devoid so far of hanging issues, in the Conservative view.

The general lack of intense interest is always a good sign for the government of the day, they say, since few have been turned out where little excitement has been aroused.

One admitted Conservative weakness where candidates are concerned: Many of these seeking re-election have never lost, and a setback in political life is regarded as the best possible instruction in how to avoid defeat.

ITALIAN LINK

Ken Farmer of Montreal, chairman of the government-established fitness council who announced the rally, said the event will be like a "three-ring

Fitness Festival Is Planned

TORONTO (CP)—A national fitness festival will be held at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds here Sept. 25. It was announced here. Hundreds of youngsters from all parts of Canada are expected to participate.

The plan, which has the blessings of the federal and Ontario governments, is to focus national attention on better health through participation in leisure-hour physical activities.

Ken Farmer of Montreal, chairman of the government-established fitness council who announced the rally, said the event will be like a "three-ring

circus with calisthenics, soft ball, gymnastics cycling, fencing, table tennis, judo, square dancing."

"Our hope is to have at least 10 kids from each province at the festival," said Harry (Red) Foster, a member of the government's fitness council.

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