

Canada, Former A-Bomb Partner, Excluded From U.S. Information

By FRANK GALEY
A.P. Science Reporter

OTTAWA, Ont., (AP) — American atomic secrecy is so tight that Canada, a wartime partner on the A-bomb project, is prevented from getting "practically anything" the Americans can't get.

So says Dr. C. J. MacKenzie, scientific chief of the dominion's atomic project.

He declares that exchange of information between the two countries is "in essence," that of the Americans to Canada's direction, and that he believes "this is very much to the disadvantage of the United States."

Asserting that Canada has given all its atomic information to the United States, and that he considers some of it "vital to the Americans in their future plans," MacKenzie declared with reference to the latter type:

"We never have an opportunity to see how they use it and it may be making a lot of mistakes which we could correct."

He was referring specifically to information about the development and use of a device which constitutes the "heart" of Canada's program.

It is an atom-splitting reactor—or "furnace"—having an intensity of atomic rays superior to that of

any reactor so far disclosed by the Americans.

With it, Canadian scientists say, they have learned how plutonium—A-bomb material—can be made faster than it is made by the American process. But they also say their present reactor can produce only "small quantities" of plutonium and that even in a larger reactor now building they do not plan to produce it in large amounts.

Dr. MacKenzie emphasized that, regarding information exchange, he was not speaking critically but rather to suggest the possibility of a "disadvantage" to the United States.

Saying the situation was due to the McMahon act—the American atomic energy control law which limits the amount of information the United States can transmit to other nations—MacKenzie declared:

"It's not the fault of individuals (in the American atomic program). It's the act that prevents them (from giving more information)."

"We in Canada," he said, "are not in the bomb-making business, but there is need in the overall atomic program for establishments such as ours."

"Our project is probably as useful to the United States as it is to us."

"There's nothing about the bomb that would help our research, but our research might help makers of the bomb."

MacKenzie told me he believes

Canada, if it wished, could make "one bomb" in from "one to 20 years" depending upon the amount of technological effort put into it. But he said "quantity" production of bombs would "not be feasible" for Canada because it would entail a marshalling of national resources "which no sane person would suggest."

He added:

"There is no scientific secret about the atomic bomb and no technological secret that any nation having bomb materials and sufficiently competent and extensive technology couldn't ferret out in time."

"Published material that has come out of the United States would make it possible for anyone having fusible material—and sufficient technology—to make one bomb."

"But, whether that would be in one or 20 years is another question."

Other points developed in the interview with MacKenzie or in talks with officials at Canada's atomic plant at Chalk River, Ont., are these:

1. Canada has a unique atomic furnace—the world's "hottest" known reactor from the standpoint of radioactivity produced at any one given time in a given area. And the dominion is now building a bigger and more powerful one.

The uniqueness of the existing device lies in the fact that it employs a special kind of water called "heavy water" to keep a chain re-

Mine Disaster May Be Marked by Work Delay

WEST FRANKFORT, Ill., (AP) — Speculation grew today that the nation's miners may stage a work stoppage in memory of the 119 men who died in the West Frankfort coal mine explosion.

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers union, would not comment on the work stoppage talk, however.

"I have no comment one way or another," he said, "I will neither confirm nor deny any rumors."

The UMW contract permits "memorial period" work stoppages of up to five days a year for mine disaster victims. Speculation growing daily in mining circles is that Lewis will call a memorial work stoppage delay around New Year's Day. This would coincide with the threatened steel strike.

Lewis and other UMW officials came here shortly after the violent explosion ripped through the Orient No. 2 mine last Friday, bringing death to 119 miners.

One miner, Cecil Sanders, was taken alive from the blasted tunnels after virtually all hope was abandoned. He has been given a good chance to recover.

His physician, Dr. John Summers, described the miner's condition as fair and said, "you can't

be too sure he's out of danger until he has been up and around for about a week."

Sanders suffered a relapse Monday night and developed a fever, but he still was expected to pull through.

Christmas was a sad day for West Frankfort. Funerals were held for some of the victims and additional funerals were being arranged.

Yesterday the press was scheduled to interview Sanders but his doctor said his condition did not permit it.

The 44-year-old miner was allowed to participate briefly in a radio broadcast. In a two-minute exclusive interview over St. Louis radio station KSD, he described his actions after the explosion.

He said "nobody but God had anything to do" with his rescue. Sanders has been a Baptist church deacon at nearby Benton, Ill., for 17 years.

During his ordeal, Sanders himself apparently had given up hope of surviving. Lying exhausted and lapsing into intermittent periods of unconsciousness, the spunky miner scribbled what he thought was his

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Three Killed In Gun Fights

SALYERSVILLE, Ky., (AP) — A Christmas shooting that resulted in the death of three men went without explanation today.

Killed were Deputy Sheriff Bill Miller, 47, Jess Roark, 26, and Boone Collingsworth, 45.

Sheriff Carl Cooper said Roark suddenly fired on Collingsworth without a known reason while Collingsworth was visiting the Roark home Monday night. The sheriff said Roark, in bed when Collingsworth arrived, fired while Collingsworth was talking with Roark's father, Ed Roark.

Roark was trailed yesterday to the home of a brother, Miller, knocked on a door and got no response at first. He knocked again, the sheriff said, and Roark answered with a shot that killed Miller.

Mortally wounded, the deputy fired six times, killing Roark instantly.

Steel Peace Talk Slated

PITTSBURGH, (AP) — The highest authorities in the CIO-United Steelworkers of America meet here tomorrow to decide whether they will go through with a nation wide strike at midnight, December 31.

Philip Murray, president of both the CIO and the USW, has summoned the steelworkers' two most powerful groups, into action—the 24-member executive board and the 170-member wage-policy committee.

Apparently there are only two courses open to the steelworkers:

(1) They, like the steel companies, can accept Pres. Truman's mandate that there must be no interruption of steel production—vital to the U.S. defense effort.

(2) They may go through with the strike and face a possible presidential Taft-Hartley act crackdown.

The president asked both companies and union to turn the dispute over to the wage stabilization board for settlement. Truman said the workers, if entitled to a wage raise, would get it, and the companies, if entitled to a price increase, would get it.

To agree to the presidential request, Murray will have to back down from his previous statement that the steelworkers will not work without a contract. He can do this gracefully if his executive board and wage policy committee order him to do so tomorrow.

Somebody Borrows Big Transit Bus

NEW YORK, (AP) — A 41-passenger diesel bus disappeared from its garage early Tuesday and turned up several blocks away three hours later.

A 13-state police alarm had been sent out for the big vehicle belonging to the Trailways of New England bus system.

Two policemen spotted the bus. The keys were in the ignition, but there were no signs of any driver.

Who borrowed it and why was anybody's guess.

Gurs: Maybe he wanted to take some friends to a Christmas party.

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