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Whitehall, October 19, 1956.

The following Addresses were presented to the QUEEN on the occasion of the opening of the Atomic Power Station at Calder Hall on Wednesday, October 17th, 1956, by the Lord Privy Seal, and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority:—

The Lord Privy Seal.

Your Majesty, your Excellencies, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, I must begin by saying how sorry we all are that Lord Salisbury, the Minister responsible for atomic affairs, could not be with us today. He has asked me to say that he is deeply disappointed not to be present and that he sends every good wish for this great occasion.

All too often, in the Press and elsewhere, we see accounts of what are described as epoch making events and epoch making achievements, whereas in reality they are not of the first importance, even within a single epoch. But I believe that this occasion, in which we are taking part today, really does deserve that high sounding epithet. In years to come many atomic power stations will be built in this country and overseas. But to Calder Hall, here in Cumberland, will always belong the pride of having been the first station anywhere in the world to produce electricity from atomic energy on a full industrial scale. It does indeed mark the beginning of a new epoch.

It is, I feel, right that so historic an occasion should be honoured by the presence of Your Majesty, and I should like most respectfully to thank You, Madam, on behalf of the Government and indeed, I am sure, of the whole country, for having graciously consented to perform the opening ceremony of the new Power Station. We are also most pleased to welcome here today representatives of many countries where scientists and engineers are working to extend the peaceful applications of atomic energy.

In the last two hundred years vast industrial developments have transformed the conditions of life here in the United Kingdom and in many other countries as well. We can foresee this great process continuing far into the future and, every day, we see it expanding to touch countries which did not feel its first impact.

All this industrial development depends on power: indeed, in a sense, it is power—the harnessing of natural forces to do things for which man's hands are not strong enough or quick enough. The number of natural forces that mankind has found how to harness in this way is quite small—coal, oil and, in some parts of the world, flowing water. An addition to this small group of wasting assets is, therefore, a thing of tremendous importance. The "meaning" of Calder Hall is that such an addition has been made. This power station shows in practical terms that electricity for use in homes and factories can be produced by burning uranium in nuclear reactors.

Great Britain was early in the field of industrial development. We must remain among the leaders of that development, for that is the only way prosperity can be retained and increased for so large a

population in so small a land. But these very facts—that the land is small and that long and intensive use has already been made of its natural resources—mean that we face great difficulties in winning the increasing quantities of coal that our industries and power stations require. Oil is an alternative and our great oil industry will, I have no doubt, continue to make a big contribution to our needs; but there is virtually no oil in these islands. This country, therefore, stands in especial need of a new source of power and it is for that reason that the opening of Calder Hall is of such particular importance for us.

Calder Hall is a beginning. Already we are planning and working for the developments that lie ahead. This station, and the twin which you can see being built alongside it will together supply nearly 150,000 Kilowatts of electricity, enough to light a town of a million inhabitants. Within a few months the U.K. Electricity Authorities will place orders with industry for the first commercially-built atomic power stations. These will have a larger output than Calder Hall. They will be followed by many others. It may be that, soon after 1965 every new power station built will be an atomic power station, and that by 1975 the total output of atomic power stations will certainly be more than, and may possibly be double the total electricity output of all the power stations that supply our needs for electricity today.

It is an ambitious programme. We are satisfied that, in Calder Hall, we have begun well.

I would now ask Sir Edwin Plowden, Chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, to say something of the ways in which the Authority and industry are working together to make this programme a reality.

The Chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority.

Your Majesty, may I on behalf of the Atomic Energy Authority welcome you to Calder Hall.

We greatly appreciate the honour you have done us in consenting to open this station.

We are proud of this power station. And although the day will come when we shall look back on it with the same feelings that we now have for the first steam engine and for the first aircraft, future achievements will not be able to detract from the importance of this first great step forward.

The pace of advance has been rapid.

In 1937 Lord Rutherford himself said: "The outlook for gaining useful energy by artificial processes of transformation does not look promising."

That was less than twenty years ago.

Those twenty years have seen the Second World War and all the needs of reconstruction.

But, in spite of their other preoccupations, British scientists and engineers under the leadership of Sir John Cockcroft and Sir Christopher Hinton have moved forward and changed that unpromising outlook into the industrial-sized power station which stands before us.

I should like to express the gratitude of all of us in the Authority for the help that we have had from British industry.