

Aeronautics Act

a government and a minister imposing excise taxes on aeroplanes, federal sales tax on aeroplanes, and the user pay concept, to the detriment of this nation and without consultation with the aviation groups which feel they ought to have an input. The minister has not only jeopardized the aviation industry but by his very actions has also jeopardized the development of the regions of Canada.

The minister was willing to jeopardize safety by charging user fees on every touch and go. I would like to explain that. The minister said that the user pay concept would apply every time a plane landed. Every time it landed a fee would have to be paid for the use of the airstrip. However, what about the young pilot training for an aircraft pilot's licence? Training pilots have to land their planes, take off, circle around, land again and then take off again. The minister said that every time a plane landed it would have to pay for the use of the airstrip. The minister thought he should charge a fee every time a plane touched a runway and lifted off again. That user pay policy affects safety itself.

Most people are conscious of pocket book issues, even if the government is not. They recognize that the government is trying to destroy aviation as a mode of travel in this nation. The government has been doing that with its import excise taxes, with federal sales taxes and with the user pay concept. It is trying to discourage most aspects of the air industry. Light aircraft in many cases can be demonstrated to be just as efficient, and often more so, than the automobile, but the use of the light aircraft mode of travel has been extensively discouraged, very much to the detriment of Canada. Most of Canada can be reached only by aircraft. It is the policy of our party that, if there is to be user pay, there must also be user say and that there should be an opportunity for those who use air travel in this nation to have a say. In effect, the Minister of Transport is attempting to shingle the roof with a sledgehammer. He does not want to listen. He does not want to see committees set up so that there can be the right of appeal.

The minister did not want any aviation groups to appear before the committee studying this bill. He was willing to jeopardize the safety of air traffic by charging the users of touch and go systems in pilot training. The minister wants to have the authority to avoid blame. I submit that with this bill the minister is attempting to take unto himself power without giving anyone any recourse.

The minister claimed that this is a mere housekeeping measure, but in fact he is attempting to change his policy under the sheets in the dark of night. He is chaining, gagging and restraining the public in solitary confinement. The personal concept of the minister is that he uses and we pay. That is a very unsavoury position for a minister to take. He has the same capacity for listening to the Canadian people as that of a brick.

The minister is the Edsel of Canadian national unity. To a large degree he has been a stumbling block in the development of transportation in this country. He is a masochistic minister with a cat-o'-nine-tails who continues to blame and whip users. To the minister it does not matter what extravagance there be,

[Mr. Malone.]

whether it be Mirabel, the Calgary airport or the planned airport for the Toronto region. The minister feels he can design and build whatever he wants, provided he has a whipping boy to blame and provided he can let users pay for his extravaganzas. In view of the concepts which have been perpetuated, representative government is virtually gone. The government is afraid to let people come before our committees to be heard. The government is afraid to allow an amendment which would allow 20 members—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. I regret to inform the hon. member that his allotted time has expired. He may continue, however, with unanimous consent. Does the hon. member have unanimous consent to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Malone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not keep the House much longer.

The government is attempting to rule by regulation rather than to allow this parliament to open the channels of communication so that people may use the parliament of Canada as a means by which to appeal to members of this House and therefore to the country. This government acts largely by order in council. Some 3,500 orders in council were passed last year. Not one of them was brought before parliament. By contrast, in Great Britain there were only ten, and every single one was referred to the British parliament. This government has side-stepped parliament.

The whole concept of orders in council was introduced at a time when it was believed that the cabinet needed to act when parliament was in recess for the summer months. In earlier days when orders in council were passed by cabinet they had to be ratified by parliament. Today, legislation ends up on the books by order in council without the citizens of the country having had an opportunity to review it through their members of parliament.

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We had an example of this in the past 18 months in Bill C-51, which contained what was called the gun control legislation. All the regulations are subject to change by order in council, as is also the case with Bill C-4, which is now before us. We recall that the metric system, when Celsius replaced Fahrenheit and kilometres replaced miles,—came into being without legislation but through order in Council. In Bill C-4, the government is again attempting to by-pass parliament in the belief that 30 people have the wisdom and the power to make all decisions for the country without recourse or appeal to parliament. People who have real concern about the issues involved would have no opportunity to take them to a forum where they could be heard.

If this government continues on its present path, elections will become a means of rotating parties. If every party were to adopt the same position as the government has, elections would simply be a chance for the people to express their will about who they want their dictator to be. Orders in council and the