

Mr. Bell: How about the filibuster on old age pensions?

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

AIRPORTS

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL—ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION TO PROCEED WITH EXPANSION FOLLOWING HEARINGS UNDER EXPROPRIATION ACT

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I believe hon. members are aware that public hearings under the Expropriation Act of objections to the intended expropriation of land required for the expansion of Vancouver International Airport were completed last week.

Of the 170 properties required for this expansion, the government had completed the purchase of 117 prior to expropriation proceedings. The notice of intention to expropriate therefore affects a total of 53 properties.

The government has carefully considered the objections documented in the hearing officer's report, and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand), in particular, has reviewed the technical aspects. The government is convinced of the need to complete the planned expansion of Vancouver International Airport, and I am of the opinion that the designated lands are required for this purpose. Accordingly, I have signed the notice of confirmation of expropriation and requested the Attorney General of Canada to take the necessary steps to immediately effect registration of the notice in the local land registry office.

The objections made at the hearing focused on the possible impact of constructing a new runway. Notwithstanding the fact that noise studies already have been made and published, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Davis) will conduct a thorough study during the next 12 months into the effects of a new runway on the environment. The findings will be published and open to public discussion before work begins on the proposed new runway.

• (1120)

I believe these arrangements meet the concerns of the residents of Vancouver, and in particular I can assure the House that each owner will be dealt with compassionately and given the full benefit of the new Expropriation Act.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The minister did not provide us with a copy of his statement.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Why should he? You are not the opposition any more.

Mr. Hees: You are in the same party.

Mr. Bell: Go to caucus.

Mr. Hees: Did you not get a copy at caucus?

Vancouver International Airport

Mr. Lewis: If you have had your fun, perhaps you will let me finish my point of order. I have not seen a copy of the statement, Mr. Speaker, and I could not hear the hon. minister because of the noise.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: I have it now, Mr. Speaker. I have been provided with a copy of the statement by a member of the Social Credit party.

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, in rising to reply to the statement which has just been made on behalf of the government, may I say I noticed the singular silence evidenced by a lack of applause from the government benches when the statement was concluded.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fraser: I think that silence was appropriate because the record of this expropriation and the lack of planning that has gone into this expansion of Vancouver airport is a classic example of what is wrong with our environmental decision-making.

I notice the statement says "The government has carefully considered the objections documented in the hearing officer's report". If that is so, the government is all the more condemned because documented in that hearing officer's report were facts such as these: No reliable NEF noise contour map exists; an estimate prepared by the Greater Vancouver Regional District indicates that approximately 135,000 residents in the areas mentioned would be placed within the NEF 25 contour. There has been no necessary co-operative planning with the Department of the Environment, the province of British Columbia, the city of Vancouver, the municipality of Richmond or the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

The minister also stated that "the Minister of the Environment will conduct a thorough study during the next 12 months into the effects of the runway on the environment." I suggest, Mr. Speaker, even that concession would not have been made if it had not been for the tremendous attack the government has been under in the past two months with regard to both this airport and the Pickering airport.

I ask all members, especially those on the government side, what kind of decision-making is this? The government is going to go ahead with the airport and then, because it came under attack in the House, it is going to have an environmental study. Suppose the environmental study shows you should not go ahead with it. What are you going to do?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fraser: What if the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Davis) says, don't do it? What about the neighbourhood that has been broken up and destroyed in the process? Can the government put that back?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fraser: Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I remind all hon. members that some years ago the then minister of justice, now the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner), when he appeared