

Supply—Transport

and will be speaking. However, the mayor of Revelstoke has asked me to support the hon. member for Kamloops in his effort to obtain a grant of \$5,000 for a municipal airport at Revelstoke. I know the hon. member for Kamloops has been working on this for some time and has been doing all he can to obtain a grant for the airport at this point. I wish to support his efforts in this connection. The airport is necessary because of the increased logging operations and the development of the pulp and paper industry which has necessitated the landing of aircraft carrying survey crews and workmen from the north Columbia area who would take part in general logging operations.

This small airport has become of particular importance because of the proposed pulp and paper development in the Columbia river basin. One realizes how great this development is when it is pointed out that the licence for the company will extend over an area with an average width of 50 miles and 300 miles in length, from which there will be cut in perpetuity over 200 million feet of lumber a year. I offer my support of the hon. member for Kamloops at the request of the mayor of Revelstoke, and other persons in that city. This small airport is another link in the chain of small airports necessary to the interior of British Columbia, if our industrial activity is to be serviced adequately with the type of plane required to go up the mountain gorges to survey timber limits, to carry men to isolated locations, and so on. I trust the minister will give further consideration to this request.

Now I change my tune. I brought this subject up on several occasions, but thus far without results. In the interior of British Columbia we suffer from very poor radio reception in certain areas. We can hear Canadian stations fairly well during daytime hours; but once darkness falls and the sun goes behind the mountains it is impossible to hear anything but American stations. I am one who, like many others in my constituency, would like to hear the C.B.C. news, and would like to have an opportunity to hear the minister when he makes an occasional address over the radio. However, it is impossible for us to do that now because we cannot bring in Canadian stations after nightfall. This condition prevails throughout the greater part of the Arrow lakes area, the greater part of the Kootenay lakes and of East Kootenay. I do hope that something more will be done to see that these people have better radio reception.

I wish particularly to refer to radio interference, a subject that has been mentioned

before. I have taken it up with the department throughout the years, and many of my constituents have written the department, the inspectors, and officials in charge at Vancouver. I suppose they have been doing their best. They come in with their cars or trucks and make investigations with their instruments, of which I have little knowledge. I have very little mechanical ability except perhaps to oil a wheelbarrow. As I say, they have done their best to locate the causes of this interference but without much success to date.

I suggest to the minister that it is not a good policy for the Department of Transport, radio division, to drive into a small community with a small truck marked "Department of Transport, radio division." When that happens many people who have small motors and other gadgets without the necessary attachments to stop interference shut them down until they are told the inspectors have left the village. I suggest that these inspections should be made without unnecessary advertising.

I am also of the opinion that the inspectors have far too much to do. I understand there is an inspector located at Kelowna who handles all the interior of British Columbia. That is far too much for one inspector to handle. It means that he can make only infrequent visits to the smaller communities. I suggest to the minister that he give consideration to increasing the number of inspectors in the radio division in British Columbia, particularly in the area which I represent. Also something more should be done to detect the causes of this radio interference. Some regulation should be enacted to require people who are causing interference to get the proper appliances to eliminate that interference.

I know of the inconvenience caused by this interference from personal experience. My own ranch is six miles from my nearest neighbour on the one side and twelve miles on the other. There are no roads and therefore I must travel by launch or steamer. Like many others in the area I depend a great deal on the radio for outside information and entertainment. The men going into the back woods with their families to do logging work, the men working in the mines back in the hills, the men who are trapping or prospecting, the farmers in small communities along the lakeside within my constituency, all these people are entitled to just as good reception as that prevailing in the urban areas. They pay the radio licence fee and I think every effort should be made to provide proper reception for these people who are willing to go into isolated places to provide the production so necessary to our country.