

THE SENATE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE IN CANADA
EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Wednesday, July 23, 1958.

The Special Committee on land use in Canada met this day at 10.30 a.m.
Senator HENRI CHARLES BOIS in the Chair.

The Deputy CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, we have the pleasure of having with us this morning Mr. W. G. E. Brown, of the Resources Engineering Department, Spartan Air Services Limited. I understand that Mr. Brown will address us on the importance of aerial photography in connection with land use. Mr. Brown, it is the practice here for the witnesses to give us a picture of their background and qualifications.

Mr. W. G. E. BROWN (*Resources Engineering Department, Spartan Air Services, Limited*): Mr. Chairman and honourable senators, I am at present in charge of soil, forestry and agricultural surveys for the Resources Engineering Department of Spartan Air Services Limited. I graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in soil chemistry in 1943, and from the University of Toronto in forestry in 1947. Following that I was associated with G. A. Hills, who I understand was a previous or supporting witness before this committee. He was with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, and I was associated with him on land use surveys and soil surveys in northern Ontario in the areas of the clay belt, Long Lac and Port Arthur.

Following that I was chief soil survey and site specialist for the Forestry Branch of the federal Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, specializing in forest soils covering all provinces in Canada.

In 1957 I joined Spartan Air Services in my present position, carrying on mainly soil surveys, inventories and engineering soil surveys having to do with dams, canals, air strips and town sites in connection with projects undertaken for industry or federal or provincial Governmental departments.

The business of land use in Canada has been a sore point with me for quite a while, especially thinking back to a lot and a house I occupied north of Toronto, on a first-class agricultural soil. Then I moved to Ottawa and I now live in a house on a first-class agricultural soil. In both cases, within a distance of eight miles, there is some extremely aesthetic areas, good building sites which could well have been developed as urban areas. Instead of that we are pushing out into the best agricultural land, of which we have very little proportion-wise to what our population will probably be.

Senator HORNER: I agree.

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, would you like me to read this brief?

The Deputy CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. BROWN: As a result of attending several previous meetings of this committee, and discussions with Dr. R. N. Radforth, of McMaster University, and others,—and I presume that possibly you will have Dr. Radforth as a witness if it can be arranged—I wrote briefly to the committee chairman early this year on the subject of land use research in Canada.