

Vancouver International Airport

offer and the city council approved it. Somehow the matter seems to have bogged down because now I understand it has to be voted on again.

So far as our operations are concerned, I think they are a minor factor in the operation of Vancouver airport. I also think they are carefully supervised, and are very necessary and useful to Vancouver and the lower mainland area.

Mr. W. Ross Thatcher (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of interest to the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond and others speak about the difficulties that are being experienced at the Vancouver airport. I want to tell them that Vancouver is not the only airport in Canada where there are difficulties. Unless something is done soon about conditions over the Moose Jaw airport some planes flying west will not get as far as Vancouver, because those flying that way seem to run into so many difficulties.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, my problem for a few minutes will be to keep in order, but I am going to try to do so. We have had a major air crash over Moose Jaw and a lot of incidents, and we think something could be done to improve the air regulations and prevent these happenings. I hope when the Minister of Transport replies tonight he will take the opportunity to tell us what amendments his department is planning. From the speakers who have preceded me I take it that the difficulty at Vancouver is the fact that the airport is not big enough or is not properly located to handle both military and civil planes. Over Moose Jaw the trouble seems to be that the safety regulations are not adequate or are not being enforced.

I wish the Minister of Transport would tell us why military planes do not observe the same safety regulations as civilian planes. I find that fact very strange. I may say that the people of my riding do not blame the R.C.A.F. for most of these difficulties. We find the attitude of Trans-Canada Air Lines to be somewhat lacking. We do not feel that T.C.A. is doing all it can to avoid these air incidents. I wish I could tell you why we think thus, but I hesitate to begin. However, the president of Trans-Canada Air Lines—

Mr. Dickey: On a point of order, I would submit that this discussion is out of order. There will be ample opportunity to discuss questions of this nature during the session. If the hon. member is permitted to continue it will mean that we will get into a debate on something that is completely irrelevant to this particular motion.

Mr. Thatcher: Thank you. I observe what the hon. member says—

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The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Order. Perhaps at this moment the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre will permit me to remind him that the operative part of the resolution is "action which will relieve the congested and dangerous conditions existing at the Vancouver international airport". It is not my intention, and I do not think it is the desire of the house, to hamper the hon. member too much in presenting his arguments, but he will have to make them apply to conditions at the Vancouver airport.

Mr. Knowles: Our world is shrinking. These places are not very far apart.

Mr. Thatcher: The first point the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond made was that he wants congestion at the Vancouver airport eliminated. I think that is a good idea and I support it, but at Moose Jaw our trouble is not the elimination of congestion. It is to have the air safety regulations improved. The second request of the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond was to urge the segregation of various types of air traffic. I think that too is a good idea, both at Vancouver and Moose Jaw. I am sure that if Trans-Canada Air Lines when flying over Moose Jaw would just notify the R.C.A.F. control tower—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Order.

Mr. Thatcher:—on the way to Vancouver—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Order. I do not think the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre would like to create the impression that he is deliberately twisting his argument to make it appear to apply to Vancouver when it actually applies elsewhere. I know the hon. member, having indicated the points he wishes to make, will now make a real effort to remain in order.

Mr. Thatcher: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I accept your ruling, but I do hope that before the evening is through, the Minister of Transport will make a statement which will clarify the safety situation at all these airports.

Mr. Pearson: He would be out of order if he did.

Mr. Thatcher: I firmly believe that the air safety regulations could be improved to take care of cases such as have been discussed tonight. I am sure something can be done, and I think the safety of passengers travelling on Trans-Canada Air Lines is in jeopardy as long as some action is not taken.

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I am not so sure that the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre (Mr.