

The Address—Mr. Stefanson

future of Gander because that airport represents a considerable investment, as I am sure the minister is well aware. I would ask him again to look into this matter of the utilization of Gander.

I am well aware of the fact that many of the air carriers are not Canadian, so there is a limit to what can be done to influence them to use the port of Gander. However, I hope no avenue will be left unexplored and that the minister will use every means in his power to negotiate with all potential customers so that the port of Gander may become the busy airport it once was, and which I am sure it can be again. It has been suggested, too, that a new look should be taken at the charges for the use of airport facilities. I believe landing fees are uniform all across Canada, regardless of what the airports have to offer. It would be reasonable, I believe, to assume there should be a relationship between the charges made and the potential revenue available.

I should like to mention briefly the desirability of having mail delivered by road in central Newfoundland. I have in mind the Buchans, Millertown and Grand Falls area, where I feel sure the present mail delivery can be considerably speeded up if the mail were moved by road from Gander. I should like to suggest also that it is desirable to have air mail service in northern Newfoundland and Labrador continued throughout the year.

In conclusion, I should like to say a brief word about the trans-Canada highway. Since confederation, the provincial government has made enormous strides in road building. Progress has been made to a remarkable extent and after centuries of isolation many remote areas are now connected by road. The building of these roads placed a heavy financial burden upon the provincial government. Add the cost of building a network of roads to the hundreds of communities in our province to the high cost of building the trans-Canada highway, and the burden becomes back-breaking. Bearing in mind, Mr. Speaker, the high cost of transportation in Newfoundland and in the Atlantic provinces in particular, I would hope that the federal government would consider the advisability of completing the trans-Canada highway in Newfoundland.

Mr. Eric Stefanson (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this debate my first words are those of congratulation to the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Bourdages) and the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Browne), for the excellent job they both did in moving and seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne. As a result

[Mr. Granger.]

of the job they have done, they have brought honour to themselves and to the constituencies they represent. I offer my congratulations to you, sir, on your appointment as Deputy Speaker. I am sure you will preside over this assembly with fairness to all.

I have listened with a great deal of interest to the speeches so far in this debate. These speeches have covered a wide field.

I notice from press reports that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) and the former leader of the C.C.F. both expressed disappointment with the throne speech. This was to be expected. Whenever this government has introduced good legislation, and this has happened regularly, these expressions indicate their disappointment. I suppose this is human nature—to be envious of a government which is discharging its duty well.

I shall leave the section dealing with external affairs and international events to others who are more experienced in that field. The hon. member for Grenville-Dundas (Mrs. Casselman) dealt very ably with the subject this afternoon. However, I was surprised to hear the Leader of the Opposition make an attack on the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green). There is no minister held in greater affection right across the country than he and I am sure no one has worked harder for peace. The comments I have heard indicate that people generally feel the minister of external affairs is doing a noble job and they are proud of the Canadian achievements at the United Nations and in international affairs.

Surely we have not forgotten the speech which our Prime Minister made to the United Nations in September, 1960? At that time the feeling was that we were all proud of him, proud to be Canadians and rightly so. At that time he gave leadership which was so vitally needed.

The speech from the throne contains the following sentence:

The Canadian government remains devoted to peace as its primary objective.

Surely this is a principle that all hon. members in the House of Commons can accept, and dedicate themselves to work together to achieve that objective?

It has been pointed out that in 1961 there were more people at work than ever before. They earned more and, saved more. Productivity was at an all time high and exports created new records. I am not going into detail and I shall not quote statistics, as the Minister of Trade and Commerce ably outlined all of this when he spoke. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) is reluctant to give the government any credit. In fact he said it was only natural that all these things