

*Supply—National Defence*

It is with regard to his statement which he just made about the CF-5. Would the minister not agree that this aircraft requires a longer runway than an Air Canada DC-8 jet? With its underslung bomb load it requires an even longer runway, and a perfect runway, which would not be available at certain airfields at the present time.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne):** I note that the hon. member puts his question conditionally.

The information I have, and which I give without committing myself, is certainly not complete, because for instance, in the preliminary experiments in Viet Nam, this aircraft took off on a normal strip ranging between 4,700 feet and 6,000 or 7,000 feet but on a 4,700 feet strip, the aircraft took off perfectly.

Now, I say again that I do not have any final information no more, I am sure, than the hon. member who asked that question. Personally, I will be satisfied with extended trials which are now taking place in Viet Nam and with a report which will be forwarded to us, following the conclusion of such trials. But I think that, theoretically, this aircraft does not require a longer take-off strip, certainly not longer and even not as long as the aircraft used by Air Canada.

**Mr. Ricard:** Your answer is, therefore, conditional.

[*English*]

**Mr. Crouse:** Would the minister permit another question. I believe the minister's statement that it would not require a longer runway is incorrect. But with its underslung bomb load it is my understanding that it would require a perfectly flat runway in order for it to take off and land. This type of runway is not generally available in some of the areas in which this aircraft will be used. This is why I question the advisability of purchasing this type of aircraft.

**Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne):** In answer to that particular question, Mr. Chairman, I can say this much, that the basic plane which has been purchased is going to be modified to a certain extent. I think this was one of the things which were considered in the recommendations of the R.C.A.F. specialists. Until the complete aircraft we have purchased in a modified way is in service, I do not think you can assess it and say it is unable to use a rough landing field.

**Mr. Hellyer:** It can land on the grass.

[*Mr. Crouse.*]

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne):** Mr. Chairman, I will now deal with military housing for servicemen and their families.

I appreciate the interest shown by members of the Halifax region in this regard. I can tell them that officials of the department are most concerned about this matter and that they are constantly endeavouring to make military housing more pleasant and more comfortable. But, for the information of the senior member for Halifax who suggested that the minister should do something to encourage members of the armed forces to eventually own their home in the general area of their postings, I wonder how he can reconcile the nature of military life with this permanent residence requirement which means that a soldier would have to live 15 or 20 years in the same place in order to acquire a reasonable equity in the house in which he lives?

In my opinion, these two proposals are mutually exclusive. When a man enlists in the armed forces and accepts postings which may last from three to five years, he accepts at the outset a relatively unstable life and also certain conditions which will prevent him from owning a house after having lived in it for a number of years.

Mr. Chairman, I was extremely flattered last night by the minister's remarks about me and, with deep humility, I should like to pay him the same compliment. I think he deserves it and I would also like to say that it is easy to co-operate with a man who knows what he wants, who is not afraid to take his responsibilities, who is familiar with every last detail of the problems of his department and who knows how to proceed, like a determined and patient man, towards an objective which is difficult to attain.

[*English*]

Mr. Chairman, a great deal has been mentioned already in the course of this debate about morale in the armed forces, and the opinion has been expressed that morale is lower at the present time than it has been for many years—perhaps in the history of the forces. This judgment has been based principally on the increased numbers of members of the force who have been retiring at their own request.

I have in the course of the last several months visited a number of the Canadian forces bases, and from my personal observation morale continues to be of a very high standard.