

Airports

excellent suggestion on the surface, because Copernicus studied in Germany, Italy and Poland and the name would reflect the mosaic of the people living in the area. I opposed the change because 20, 30, 50, or 100 years ago the people living in Parkdale-High Park collected funds and built the library. Today volunteer parents work in it. Taking the name High Park away would take away the history and heritage of the people who built it and who now live around it. I think that this highlights the difficulties of trying to change a name.

I think the Hon. Member for Hull discovered this difficulty when in a previous Bill he suggested that the airport be named the Ottawa-Hull Airport. He changed that name and I think he got agreement from most people to call it the National Capital Airport. But is the international element reflected in that? I do not think it is and I think people would object. If the word "international" were added, I wonder what the name would sound like—would it be the National Capital International Airport or the International National Capital Airport? There are difficulties with that suggestion.

• (1650)

I was pleased that some of the speakers before me highlighted some of the deficiencies in the Ottawa International Airport. If time permits I would like to highlight some of the expansion programs going on at the Ottawa International Airport because, while working as Parliamentary Secretary to the previous and present Ministers of Transport, one of my duties was to respond to telephone calls and letters of complaint. Many complaints I received in writing were from people who landed at the Ottawa International Airport for the first time and were shocked at the state of facilities, such as the baggage carousel, the washrooms and so on. It left them with a very bad impression. This was their first impression of Canada. We cannot allow people coming from all corners of the world to receive this impression of Canada upon landing at the airport of the nation's capital.

Mr. McGrath: Could I ask a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): The Hon. Member can only put a question with unanimous consent of the House. Does the House give its unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Is the Hon. Member prepared to accept a question?

Mr. Flis: Yes.

Mr. McGrath: I agree with what the Hon. Member had to say about Ottawa International Airport. I ask the Hon. Member, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, whether he has been to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, recently, the cradle of Confederation, where this country was born, the capital of the Province of Prince Edward Island, and has seen the disgraceful conditions which exist at that airport? The terminal consists of a Quonset hut, a temporary building, and that temporary building has been the only

terminal facility for the City of Charlottetown for the last number of years. Why the Government of Canada has not recognized the need to put a decent airport and terminal facilities in one of the capitals of a province is difficult to understand.

Mr. Flis: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member is getting sidetracked from name changes into local deficiencies. Yes, there are a lot of deficiencies in many airports across Canada. However, do we have the funds to upgrade all of them at once? Every day in Question Period the Hon. Member, and other Hon. Members, complain about the large deficit. Is the Hon. Member suggesting that we upgrade all of these airports to where they should be and run \$40 billion deficit? I believe that is the simple explanation. The Government recognizes the deficiencies in many of these airports, Mr. Speaker, but—

Mr. McGrath: Just Charlottetown.

Mr. Flis:—but slowly, the Hon. Member, I believe, can see the improvements which are made, and will be made. Yes, I was in Charlottetown, in the Hon. Member's province. As a matter of fact, I made it a point of camping on a trip across Canada with my whole family, to make sure that I get to know my country and to make sure that my children do as well. As I say, we recognize that many of our airports across Canada need upgrading.

Mr. McGrath: Not like Charlottetown.

Mr. Flis: We are working on it. We are not ignoring it.

Mr. Bosley: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Will the Hon. Member accept one more question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Again, it will require unanimous consent of the House. Does the House give its consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Bosley: Mr. Speaker, the reason I raise this question is that the Hon. Member is the Parliamentary Secretary. I know he wants to go on to talk about the improvements to the Ottawa airport. However, he did at least imply, speaking as he does as Parliamentary Secretary, even in Private Members' Hour, a change in policy in that more airport names will be changed to reflect previous Prime Ministers. I took that implication from what he was saying. I want to ask the Parliamentary Secretary very specifically, has such a policy change been made? And is it in fact Government policy, which he was signalling, to re-name the Ottawa International Airport the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Airport?

Mr. Flis: Mr. Speaker, this is why I hope you will allow me to go on because that is exactly what I wanted to address; how airports did receive their names and why. If you will allow me to continue, I will, in my further remarks, answer the question of the Hon. Member. Let us look at the development of the Ottawa International Airport and the association of its official