$559,000. That does not indicate thinning out to the extent that your general statement would lead us to believe. I am not complaining about it. It is just as well it is not thinned out too much.

Mr. SYMINGTON: I think we are thinned out too much. I have asked the R.C.A.F. to get me seventy-five pilots, one hundred and fifty mechanics, navigators and radio operators. They are getting them as fast as they can.

Hon. Mr. HANSON: It seems to me that the chief criticism of your statement is the tremendous increase in your operating cost; is that not so?

Mr. SYMINGTON: That is the reason I read the statement to you. I went to some trouble to read a statement this morning which I prepared in explanation of it, and which you will find on the record.

Hon. Mr. HANSON: Of course, we have not got it in front of us, and we cannot cross-examine you intelligently on it without it so I am not going any further with it.

Mr. JACKMAN: On this contributory pensions plan for the personnel what percentage do you contribute and how much does he contribute?

Mr. SYMINGTON: We contribute the same as he does up to 5 per cent.

Mr. JACKMAN: And he contributes what he likes up to that.

Mr. SYMINGTON: New employees since the plan was effective are compulsory 2 per cent.

Mr. JACKMAN: That is approved by the revenue department for taxation purposes?

Mr. SYMINGTON: Yes.

Mr. JACKMAN: Why do you not put the money into government annuities and get 4 per cent instead of 3 on the government guaranteed bonds? Why do you not put it into government annuities, buy them government annuities?

Mr. SYMINGTON: We cannot buy them annuities at the moment until we get enough money to buy annuities.

Mr. JACKMAN: You can pay in on them.

Mr. SYMINGTON: We do not know that we are going to want annuities when the time comes. These boys are not looking for annuities now. They are building up a fund under the plan to buy an annuity at the time they retire.

Mr. JACKMAN: But during the time they are building up, if that is the purpose in view, they could be getting 4 per cent instead of 3 per cent?

Mr. SYMINGTON: Of course, probably many of them will leave the service and will want their money out. The plan is one of investment in government securities, and when a man comes to the retiring age whatever sum is there buys him an annuity for life, a government annuity.

Mr. JACKMAN: If he wants his money out he cannot get his money out; the government will not approve of a plan whereby you give them a lump sum when they leave your employ?

Mr. SYMINGTON: In the air business I do not think we could tie them up so they could not get out.

Mr. JACKMAN: They cannot get their money out under a government approved plan?

Mr. SYMINGTON: I do not think they would consent to that.

Mr. JACKMAN: They have no option now when they leave your service?

Mr. SYMINGTON: No, they get their money back but if they are retiring they get an annuity for the rest of their life.

Mr. JACKMAN: A man may come under this plan with government approval and when he leaves your employ he can get a lump sum?

Mr. SYMINGTON: He gets the money he has paid in plus interest on it.