

Vancouver International Airport

Mr. J. L. MacDougall (Vancouver-Burrard): Mr. Speaker, I feel I should say a very few words in connection with this resolution. I am rather surprised that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) should have used the words "member for patronage" in referring to the former representative for New Westminster. But when I consider the matter I realize that he is an authority on that, perhaps more so than any other hon. member in this house. I do not think we should designate whether such persons belong to one party or another. I do not think we should have to listen to remarks about a former member of this house who served the people of his riding well and was defeated by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Hahn), now sitting in this chamber.

Mr. Hahn: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, I merely repeated what was said by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. MacDougall: I so stated. The hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) spoke about the stupidity of the R.C.A.F. If the R.C.A.F. is stupid I hope I may be considered to be in the same category. None of us is perfect. Of all the various branches of our services in Canada I think it is rather difficult for anyone to state that the R.C.A.F. is particularly stupid.

Mr. Winch: As a correction may I say that I said that only about the dropping of paratroopers in mid-afternoon on Vancouver airport.

Mr. MacDougall: I heard you the first time.

Mr. Winch: You did not mention that in your talk, and you are not going to get away with that sort of thing.

Mr. MacDougall: The hon. member for New Westminster said that when we get that super highway, that matter of 25 miles, 35 miles or 40 miles is going to mean nothing at all. Maybe that is so. I am not going to disagree with him on that point. But I say that as yet we are a long way from having that so-called superspeed highway.

On top of all that there are several factors that are important. They have been touched upon by those who have preceded me in this debate. I must say in all sincerity and truth that I am in perfect agreement with the suggestion that some other alternative landing field ought to be made available for the various flying schools, and also for the various air lines other than Trans-Canada Air Lines, of which there are many, that operate from the international airport. Unfortunately I cannot offer to the house tonight a location

either for \$3,000, \$30,000 or \$3 million within my own riding. But I would suggest to the Minister of Transport that if and when he considers some alternative to eliminate the congestion that now exists at the airport in Vancouver, we should at least avoid getting into a blueberry bog, regardless of whether we get it for \$3,000, \$30,000 or three cents.

Having regard to the stage of modern aeronautics through which we are passing today, I do not think we should take steps which, at the moment, may seem to be absolutely necessary but which, in the matter of a short time, may not be so necessary. I do not know—and I do not know of any member of this house who does—when we might have a type of airplane that will not require a lengthy runway upon which to land. If that situation should come about in the foreseeable future, as it might, then the runways of the international airport on Sea island, or a certain portion of them, could be utilized for some of the auxiliary flying services other than T.C.A.

I must admit that I am out at the international airport in Vancouver possibly as often as any of the hon. members who reside in and around that locality. I cannot impress upon you, Mr. Speaker, the terrific importance of the international airport in Vancouver.

Mr. Winch: What is that? What did you say?

Mr. MacDougall: You heard me. I was not stuttering.

Mr. Winch: I could not believe my ears.

Mr. MacDougall: Will you sit down until I have finished? Read it in *Hansard* tomorrow. I said no one can realize the importance of the Vancouver international airport.

Mr. Winch: That is the reason I asked you what you said, because it did not sound that way from here.

Mr. MacDougall: You had better go and get your ears washed out.

An hon. Member: Don't go to a dentist.

Mr. MacDougall: I did not ask you to come to me.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. MacDougall: This is a serious problem; make no mistake about it. I am as fearful as any one in this house about what might happen almost any day at that airport.

Because of that fact there is one thing that I want to point out. It seems to be the dogmatic statement of some hon. members that the federal government own the airport. Unfortunately we do not own the airport. As all hon. members know, of course, we are