

years, the name of the surveillance game will be in space. It therefore was a rather hard-nosed cost decision that for the amount of money we were prepared to spend, we could get the coverage we needed with the current system.⁴

Liberal member Len Hopkins inquired about the system that would follow the NWS:

Is a Canadian satellite system not going to be the next generation to succeed the present North Warning System or to supplement it? If so it should be Canadian owned. Are there any long-term projections or discussions on this subject going on? If it is not Canadian owned, then how can we use it for our own sovereignty in the north if we have to share it with somebody else?⁵

Mr. Fowler replied:

The current North Warning System is a joint venture with the United States in order to jointly protect our continent. I think it would be reasonable to consider the system replacing it which will likely be in space, will also be jointly operated and funded. I am not saying there is any firm decision there at all, but we are talking about joint continental defence.⁶

Liberal member George Baker asked the Associate Minister of National Defence about Canada's capability to intercept Soviet aircraft in Canadian airspace. He said:

Is the Associate Minister of National Defence aware that we, under his Government, have to rely on US interceptor jets scrambled from US Air Force bases to intercept Soviet bombers that test our defence

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid., p. 40.

⁶ Ibid.