

*Adjournment Debate*

pretty massive microwave beams. Strangely enough, Telesat Canada is evidently making use of the dome and the CBC is using a main tower, which still exists, in its system of communication, and evidently Marconi is operating a TACAN monitoring system.

Strangely enough too, in the forecast of improvements to the Stephenville airport it appears likely that some installations will be located on the site by the Department of Transport to support air travel to that airport.

Also left by the United States government was housing accommodation for the some two hundred officers and men who were stationed there, as well as a first class officers' club, NCO's club, a modern snack bar, dining facilities, a first class gymnasium and a bowling alley with almost new ancillary equipment. It has been provided with a water supply with pumping facilities. As an example, Mr. Speaker, one of the community leaders in the area was interested in obtaining a chlorinator which was on the premises, and ended up having to purchase one for \$1,800.

Evidently caretakers were left there by the Americans after they vacated the site until I believe, June 1972. Is it not a wonder that federal departments and agencies that apparently had a decided interest in the use of the technical equipment were not interested enough to bring to the attention of responsible officials the continuing need for caretaker services, and so allowed the property to be vandalized to disgraceful proportions.

As I indicated before, the assessed value of the property at that time was \$3½ million. I doubt those figures are accurate, but certainly at replacement value the buildings and property are worth double.

I think that I have done everything within my power to bring the matter to the attention of all concerned as I did in the House recently, on the basis of my feelings about the unfortunate circumstances that were allowed to prevail. I have been in touch with the property and management officials at the Department of Public Works and some officials at the Department of National Defence who are now pursuing the matter with regional officials.

It appears as if the Department of Public Works will ask the provincial government if it wishes to take the property over, subject to reserving the right to federal interest by the departments and agencies that I have mentioned. I have contacted the provincial minister of public works who indicated his readiness to consider a proposal by the federal government. I think we have things moving now, but it is imperative that the Department of Public Works immediately hire a caretaker staff to protect this very valuable property from further vandalism.

It is my opinion that the site could become a recreational centre for a wide area of the local population, or even on a provincial basis. It is my intention to bring this matter to the attention of provincial government officials responsible for sports and recreation. Further, there is no reason why the site could not become a historic site to hold in perpetuity the memory of the importance of the location in the over-all war efforts of our allies. I feel that the United States government might be interested in co-operating on such a project.

While the parliamentary secretary is here, Mr. Speaker, I would mention the increase in the militia battalion in

[Mr. Marshall.]

Newfoundland and the evidence of the formation of a branch in Stephenville, which is just ten miles from this site. It would be an excellent training ground for militia on a regional or battalion basis.

My purpose in rising tonight is to impress on the parliamentary secretary the need to protect the property. Its protection should be afforded the highest priority. Personnel should inspect it and protect it from the ravages of vandals, who are causing many millions of dollars of damage.

**Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence):** Madam Speaker, may I say to the hon. member how much I and many others appreciate the work he has done for the militia and the interest in it he again expressed this evening. I also appreciate his concern about vandalism. Recently a Pine Tree line radar station in my constituency was closed but, fortunately, we have not encountered the type of problem to which the hon. member alluded. Nevertheless, I appreciate his concern. I also agree with the hon. member that radar stations on the Pine Tree line were kept in excellent shape by the people who occupied them.

Until June 30, 1971, the 722 acres of land and buildings at Table Mountain, Newfoundland, were operated by the United States Air Force as a NORAD radar station. The land was granted to the U.S. government as part of the 1951 Pine Tree agreement by the government of Canada. The buildings and equipment were United States property. In June, 1971, the USAF deactivated the radar site and abandoned the property, taking with them their electronic equipment and other gear. The Tactical Air Navigation installation which had been operated by the USAF was turned over to the Department of National Defence, which has operated and maintained it as an unmanned but secure site ever since. The TACAN equipment is maintained under contract with Canadian Marconi Limited.

In October, 1971, Canadian Forces station Gander was designated as the caretaker unit for the Table Mountain property and requested to raise a declaration of surplus with a view to eventual hand-over of the property to Crown Assets Disposal Corporation. Unfortunately, because of lengthy and complex negotiations with the U.S. government, the Department of National Defence was unable to obtain title to the property until July 19, 1973. On August 8, 1973, the RCMP detachment at Stephenville, Newfoundland, was asked to maintain surveillance over the property.

Canadian Forces station Gander was unable to complete the report of surplus because of weather conditions during the winter of 1974, the final report being submitted in May, 1974. In December, 1974, the site was turned over to the real property division of Crown Assets Disposal Corporation, now the Department of Public Works, for disposal. This action was delayed due to, among other things, inter-departmental discussions concerning the operation and maintenance of TACAN. Several other federal government and civilian agencies have expressed interest in portions of the property for their use. At the present time, in addition to the Department of National Defence's TACAN site, CBC maintains a transmitter on the property and the RCMP have a relay station there. The RCMP have been carrying out security checks since they were request-