

Transfer of Base at Ladner

Pollution—Qu'Appelle Lakes, Sask.—Implementation of recommendations in report; the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Rowland)—Income Tax—Practice of discounting tax rebate cheques—request for government regulation; the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp)—Canadian Culture—Multiculturalism—policy of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Guay) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): May I call it a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker? Reference was made to the fact that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) and I were not in the House this afternoon. I should like to have it on the record that the reason both of us were not in the House this afternoon was that we were meeting a very important delegation from western Canada pertaining to the same matter that has been under discussion in the House this afternoon.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SUGGESTED TRANSFER OF LAND AND BUILDINGS AT CANADIAN FORCES STATION LADNER TO MUNICIPALITY OF DELTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of transferring the Crown lands, commonly known as the Canadian Forces Station Ladner or the Old Boundary Bay Airport, together with the buildings thereon, to the municipality of Delta and, in co-operation with the municipality, develop the areas as an industrial-recreational complex of pollution-free secondary industries, parkland, ocean beaches and sports stadia for the benefit of Delta, Richmond and the Lower Mainland and as an example to other medium-sized urban and suburban communities of the value of such a complex.

He said: Mr. Speaker, possibly no greater opportunity exists for the government to contribute to the over-all development of an area with a minimum capital investment than in the Boundary Bay area of the municipality of Delta in British Columbia. In co-operation with the municipality of Delta, there exists an area with potential for development as an industrial-recreational complex comprised of pollution free secondary industry, parkland, ocean beaches, and sports facilities. This complex would benefit not only the residents of Delta and Richmond, but also the entire lower mainland of B.C. and could serve as an example to other medium-sized urban and suburban communities.

● (1700)

We have already seen the federal government propose multi-million dollar developments for the Toronto waterfront and we have an idea of the benefit that will be

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

accorded the citizens of the entire metropolis. We have seen how multi-million dollar expenditures on Montreal's Expo have served to benefit the citizens of Montreal by completely changing an area that previously offered very little. Benefits of similar proportion can be accomplished in the area to which I am referring with an investment of one fraction the amount of money. But the government must take positive steps now if these goals are to be achieved.

For example, at this particular site there is an airport hangar which at the present moment is of little value. With modifications, and again limited expenditure, this facility could be turned into an arena to serve the needs of the thousands of children and sports enthusiasts in one of the fastest growing areas in Canada. The miles of beaches that are presently not being used for recreational purposes could be transformed into one of the finest beach areas in the province with limited federal spending. In addition, the very real possibility exists of turning the entire Boundary Bay area into a vital tax resource for all levels of government. With limited government investment, the existing Boundary Bay airport could become the lower mainland's principal airport for small private aircraft in the years to come. The tendency over the past decade has been to segregate the larger aircraft from smaller aircraft used for business and utility purposes. One of the most costly items in the construction of any airport is in the initial acquisition of land, but in this case the land, with an existing airport, is already there. The principal cost now is in maintenance rather than in acquisition.

It would be in the best interests of all who carry on business from the Burnaby-Richmond-Delta and lower mainland area to have an active local airport for small private aircraft at this location. In addition, the advantages are obvious to those interested primarily in the recreational facilities which could be incorporated virtually hand in hand. New businesses would be attracted to the Delta area by virtue of the fact that they could locate near an airport which could effectively and efficiently carry personnel to their branch plants. The airport would thus aid in the growth of the area and offer greater employment opportunities in the entire mainland area.

New facilities will be necessary to support this industry and thus contribute to the over-all economy of the area. Possibly some of the smaller firms presently located at the Vancouver international airport will move due to the high lease rates and the overcrowding. This, in turn, will permit an orderly expansion of the present facilities at the Vancouver international airport. Boundary Bay airport is already built and is served by good access roads. There is no other area that is so capable of incorporating the airport, an industrial complex and a recreational complex all in one, each one nurturing the other, and each one complementing the other.

Possibly, the former Centralia air force base could be regarded as an example of an industrial development which became successful because of its airport. But no such undertaking can be successful without a proper environmental impact study carried out with respect to the implementation of this proposal. It is appreciated that an environmental impact study cannot be completed overnight, but the long-range program in this case is of such