

Vancouver International Airport

Noel Booth, and airport manager Art Sellers. The report in the *Vancouver Sun* continues:

Mr. Sellers stated Skyway Air Services could handle all the aircraft likely to come, without being overcrowded for several years.

He declared "Langley airport is becoming the prime field of the Fraser valley for light aircraft and a few more dollars spent here would be well invested."

My purpose in drawing this to your attention, Mr. Speaker, is to underline the fact that here we have an airport on the lower mainland in which the government earlier invested a total of more than \$100,000 for construction purposes. They have invested an additional \$5,000 annually over the past three years, and this year another grant will be required.

I am well aware that we are not now discussing the estimates, but I would suggest that in considering the problem of airport facilities it should be remembered that we already have an airport available, and that that airport can be made usable. Indeed, it is already being used today for agricultural purposes, and there is a private flying school operating from that field. I understand 25 light planes are already using that airport for agricultural purposes, principally for dusting.

I discussed this matter earlier with the minister, and I would now urge him to take a very close look at the matter and see to it that the board submits its recommendation early so the people in the area can prepare themselves for the renovation work which will require to be carried out. They are ready to do a certain amount of work in the rebuilding of the airport, and advantage should be taken of their proffered assistance. We have the site available, the facilities are there, and I believe it will not take very much money to reconstruct the airport so it can be used for the very purposes outlined by the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond.

With reference to the article from which I have already quoted, I would like to draw attention to the fact that it refers to a gentleman by the name of William Mott and has put "M.P." after his name. I take it "M.P." does not mean the military police, but in all likelihood means "member of parliament". On several occasions I have heard this gentleman referred to as an ex-member of this house, but I did not realize until I saw this article datelined January 5, 1955, that he had been again elected to this house.

Mr. Knowles: Maybe it means "member for patronage."

Mr. Hahn: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) states that it means "member for patronage." That might be, but I believe we should be set right on this thing and the people of that riding

[Mr. Hahn.]

informed that they have a new member of parliament. I might say in justice to the man who invited this gentleman to this meeting—and I believe the house has the right to know—that the gentleman in question is also a member of that particular board and that was probably the reason for his being there.

I might also say for the information of the house that I had this delegation to see me about two and a half months ago. It is possible, as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre suggests, that there might be a form of patronage involved in this whereby the Liberal party hope to put their own representative back into the good graces of the public, and hope to keep their representative before the public by suggesting that he is the man who is accomplishing all these things. However, I am convinced the Minister of Transport is satisfied that such probably is not and should not be the case, and I am prepared to let the matter rest there.

Hon. members have already spoken in support of the resolution outlining what should be done, and I believe the answer to the problems posed can be found in my riding. The Langley airport, for example, requires just a few thousand dollars of expenditure in order to make it a feasible proposition and it is within 30 or 40 minutes' drive from Vancouver. We have the airport, hangars, and 25 planes already there, and all that is basically required is the rebuilding of the gravel runway on which a plane nose-dived last year in nine inches of water. A certain amount of that money is required for sinking tiles to help dry up the runway.

We have another airport at Boundary Bay which has been in operation for some time. It is possibly 25 or 30 minutes' driving time from the downtown section of Vancouver, and it is already being used by planes today. I believe we have our own caretakers there. The Minister of National Defence could possibly tell us quite a lot about that if he so desired. However, I merely wish to draw attention to the fact that it is there and I hope the new Minister of Transport will take advantage of it.

We have the answer to most of these problems in the riding of New Westminster, and we would be only too happy if the Minister of Transport through his department availed himself of the opportunity to make use of these facilities. More important, however, than any of these things is the fact that we must obtain a secondary airport on the lower mainland, and for my part I hope it will be established in the New Westminster riding.