

*Supply—Transport*

maintenance of lower freight rates in 1964 and 1965, and after providing for outstanding liabilities for vacation pay accrued in 1966, subject to recovery therefrom of accountable advances made to the company from the consolidated revenue fund, \$25,000,000.

30g. Administration, operation and maintenance, \$339,000.

35g. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment including national airports (as determined by the Minister of Transport) and related facilities including authority, notwithstanding section 30 of the Financial Administration Act, to increase to \$37,800,000 the commitments for the current fiscal year for airports and other ground services, \$5,300,000.

**Mr. Bower:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak in respect of this item also. Again this is in connection with tourism in the province of Nova Scotia. The Yarmouth airport is the air gateway into Nova Scotia and indeed into the maritime provinces from such moderately populated places as New York city, Boston, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Washington and so on. A year or so ago the government improved one of the two runways at the Yarmouth airport but did not improve the other. I questioned the ministry on that and was informed that they would not do the work on the transverse airstrip because they did not expect to have DC-9 aircraft in use until 1970. It seemed therefore, that we were to be relegated to the position of having second rate landing facilities until 1970, and second rate planes to the same date.

I should like to repeat my point that everything should be done to encourage people to travel to the Maritimes. There is no limit to the ability of the people in the maritimes to entertain tourists, including people from central Canada, during the summers. I feel that consideration should be given to providing first rate treatment to the gateway to the area, and that this should include provision of a first rate airport and up to date planes.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, could the minister tell me whether this vote includes any money for improvement of the facilities at the Winnipeg International Airport. I have in mind in particular the fact that the arrangements for people to enter the airport from incoming aircraft have never been completed.

● (9:30 p.m.)

I believe the minister has indicated that he is going on a trip out west in the next few days and will stop at Winnipeg. If he has not done so before, I hope he will take advantage of the fun of walking up a flight of stairs for no other purpose than to come down again.

When he gets off the plane somebody will no doubt recognize him as a V.I.P. and will open the garage doors down below and let him walk through the catacombs. I hope he will refuse that privilege and act like an ordinary person by walking up the stairs for the fun of coming down again.

**Mr. Benson:** I always do.

**Mr. Knowles:** As I understand the original plan, it called for escalators both ways. In the meantime there has been some discussion about the possibility of having one of those telescope arrangements from the second floor to the aircraft level. I might mention that there is no problem confronting people leaving the air terminal to go to the aircraft. They do have to take an escalator up and then walk down. But people arriving find they have to go through this process of walking up the stairs for the fun of walking down, and this is a particular hardship for older people and people with children.

I hope this item includes money for this improvement. If not, I hope that the minister in his capacity as President of the Treasury Board—that man who says there is money for this and for that—will encourage the Minister of Transport to correct this deficiency.

**Mr. Benson:** I should point out that the improvement to the Winnipeg airport is not covered by this item. The Minister of Transport indicated to the house in answer to a question on orders of the day that this particular matter is under consideration. I assure my hon. friend that if he makes a recommendation to me, and we have any money, his recommendation will be looked upon favourably, at least by me.

**Mr. Knowles:** Those are very nice words, but let me remind the President of the Treasury Board that the previous minister of transport, the present Minister of Public Works, was also looking into the situation when he held that portfolio. I hope this process of looking into the situation will some day soon produce results.

Item agreed to.

The following items were agreed to:

35g. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment including national airports (as determined by the Minister of Transport) and related facilities including authority, notwithstanding section 30 of the Financial Administration Act, to increase to \$37,800,000 the commitments for the current fiscal year for airports and other ground services, \$5,300,000.