NATIONAL DEFENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW OF LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, the Federal Environmental Assessment Review process which is going on in Labrador and Quebec with respect to low-level flying has resulted in some interim recommendations. The panel has recommended that the number of low-level sorties flown from Goose Bay not exceed the number flown in 1986 in any year until recommendations of the panel have been received and a decision has been taken with respect to their implementation.

The panel also recommended that DND adopt restrictions on minimum altitudes for certain areas and dates suggested by the panel. These restrictions are to be refined and improved through direct discussions between DND and representatives of the populations involved. It also recommended that DND install and publicize a toll-free number at its military communications centre at Goose Bay so that persons intending to be on the land can inform the authorities at Goose Bay to ensure that they are not over-flown.

I urge the Government, and particularly the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Beatty) and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan), to ensure that these interim recommendations are implemented. With respect to Recommendation No. 3, the toll-free number, I also want to say that it is really the responsibility of the military to let the native people know where they will be flying, not the other way around. That is part of the problem.

AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

CREATION OF JOBS IN EDMONTON

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, the aerospace industry is alive and well in western Canada, including Winnipeg. Northwest Industries of Edmonton is truly a success story and continues to show our Government's commitment to advancing our position in high technology and particularly in the field of aerospace.

As a result of the CF-18 contract as many as 125 more jobs will be created in Edmonton. This contract, along with others received, will ensure the continuing growth and expansion of Northwest Industries for at least the next 20 years. This will provide economic strength for Edmonton and expertise for the benefit of all Canadians.

We in Edmonton are proud of Northwest Industries. Over the next two decades Canadian aerospace production levels will continue to grow and we are proud to be a part of this vital industry. Alberta is indeed represented in this growing field and we will continue to be leaders in this technology. The Government is looking after Alberta. S. O. 21

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

APPLICATION TO REDUCE BROADCASTING OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I bring to your attention and to the attention of all Hon. Members an application filed before the CRTC by the Canadian Association of Broadcasters which will, if approved, slash Canadian country music content by 50 per cent—from 30 per cent to 15 per cent. I find this proposal completely unacceptable.

Canadian recording artists depend on air-play royalties for their survival. Without this income those artists could not afford hefty production costs and would have no choice but to abandon their careers. In Prince Edward Island as in many other regions, country music is an important part of our cultural identity.

I have received letters and repesentations from such groups as the Ellis Family Band, The Prince Edward Island Songwriters' Association, and Islander Records, all expressing opposition to this proposal. I trust that the CRTC will heed their advice and reject this ill-advised application.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE—MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, five key areas of Armed Forces life have received close scrutiny in recent times. These are the role of women in combat, the exclusion of homosexuals, the continuation of mandatory retirement, the recognition of common-law marriage, and the maintenance of physical and medical employment standards.

• (1415)

It is right that the Armed Forces reflect standards which have been established in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. However, it is absolutely necessary that the Canadian Armed Forces not be required to make changes which could reduce their defence capability. Their primary objective must be maintaining national security. Their task is hard enough without Parliament or Government making it impossible. Our challenge is to balance the rights of the individual and the efficiency of the Forces. Policies announced by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Beatty) show that that balance can be achieved with justice and realism.