

**Mr. Hellyer:** Would you not like to continue sitting for a couple of hours?

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** Somebody called it ten o'clock.

Progress reported.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, what is the business for tomorrow?

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we shall continue with the interim supply motion and at the conclusion of that we shall take the housing legislation.

### PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

#### AIRPORTS—REPORT ON ADEQUACY OF FACILITIES

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 7, as reported at page 9604 of *Hansard*, I asked the Minister of Transport a question concerning the airport operations analysis unit established by his department, according to a press release dated May 6, 1966. The question was deemed not to be one to be dealt with on the orders of the day so the minister and I are here tonight to discuss our mutual interest in this matter.

● (10.00 p.m.)

As the minister knows, and I made sure that he does by speaking to him personally about it, my particular interest in this airport operations analysis unit relates to a condition at the Winnipeg international airport. Incidentally, the press release about this unit told us that among other things it would study the terminal area, the runway capacities, the facilities for air passengers and visitors, and so on. My concern, as the minister knows, is with a condition at the Winnipeg international airport which creates considerable difficulty for aged passengers, for mothers with children and for passengers carrying parcels. This is something which it seems to me ought to be corrected at the earliest possible date.

Just to make it clear that I am not springing this on the minister I would remind him that the first time I raised the matter in the House of Commons was on December 21, 1963.

#### *Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

I do not suggest I raised this in 1919, but after a while 1963 will be a long time ago as well. And I have raised it several times since then.

We are very proud of the new airport we have in Winnipeg. We think it is an attractive building and that the facilities for the most part are very efficient. But the situation which confronts incoming passengers does seem unfortunate, if not ridiculous. When you arrive by air at the airport in Winnipeg, you get off the plane and are at ground level. But immediately you are inside the door you have to climb a flight of stairs solely for the purpose of coming down again to get your baggage and leave the airport. Such a situation does not pertain when you are departing from the airport. When you are departing there is an escalator to take you up one flight to the waiting room from which you walk down-stairs to board the aircraft.

Incidentally, I had a letter today from an acquaintance of mine in Winnipeg. This gentleman is suffering from a heart condition. He went on a trip west and everything was all right when he departed. He went up the escalator, down the stairs and on to the plane. But when he returned to his home city he discovered he had to climb a flight of stairs in order to go down again and he says in this letter, which was written on November 12 and reached me today, that it took him 20 minutes to climb those stairs. He wonders when something is likely to be done about it. He says he hopes something will be done soon, or—and perhaps I should quote him—“must we wait until some passenger or passengers drop dead trying to climb these completely unjustified stairs?”

I know the reason for the situation is that when the airport was planned the idea was to have movable exits which would extend from the second floor to the level of the aircraft. But apparently the previous government ran out of money at that time, as governments have a habit of doing; unfortunately the previous government did not have a Benson to find money in a sock. So these special conveyances were not installed. But surely something else could be done. Escalators could be put in or special arrangements made for people who find it too difficult to climb these stairs.

The minister will tell me that this is a local issue and that I should not take the time of the house with it. I see he is shaking his head, indicating he does not intend to say that to me, and I am glad to know that.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I am from Winnipeg too.