

*Supply*

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Chairman, I will be fairly brief because I do not want to take the time of others.

On the first point of rescue operations, I listened carefully to what was said by my hon. friend. This will probably be looked at and analysed, and questions will be asked on the subject. Thank you very much for that particular contribution.

On the subject of ferries, my friend makes too easy a comparison between the west and the east coasts of Canada. On the west coast these are intra-provincial operations. Consequently, there was good justification for the Canadian government to make the agreement it made with B.C. so that it would exercise the normal provincial jurisdiction in these matters.

I do not think it could be constitutionally valid for the federal government, once these agreements have been made, to spend the time supervising and looking over the shoulder of provincial authorities to see if they live up to the standards of the central government. If there is some chastisement to be done, it will be done by the people of the province in one way or the other, presumably at election time. I just want to emphasize the danger of making too easy a comparison between the west coast and the east coast because these ferries on the east coast cross over provincial boundaries.

**Mr. Skelly:** Mr. Chairman, the point escapes me. We were dealing with a situation where the federal government was involved before. It did recognize the responsibility and now it does not. I am sure a conditional agreement would be the thing. Even the minister's predecessor in the other government said that the criticism had grown to such a level that he was seriously considering some kind of action to get conditional arrangements.

I would like to move to one other area respecting the coast of British Columbia that affects the entire coast, and it shows the philosophy of the government toward transportation. There are two small islands halfway up the coast of British Columbia, about 200 miles from each end. One is Campbell Island and the other is Denny Island. On the Campbell Island live 1,200 Indian people in an Indian community. On Denny Island, a short distance away, live 50 people.

Some years ago the Department of Transport did a study having to do with an airport on the central coast. The reasoning was that there is no facility from which a search and rescue base can operate. I think we lost 100 aircraft last year and a number of fishing boats suffered loss of life. However, if helicopters work that area, they must work out of Port Hardy, which is over 100 miles away, or alternatively, from a place called Sandspit which is a tremendous distance away and so is not effective. That area is also a major flyway, not only for geese but also for aircraft going back and forth from Alaska to the southern states. There is also a tremendous amount of Canadian aircraft using the air space but there is nowhere for these aircraft to land. As a matter of fact, a plane flying from Alaska was caught short of fuel in the middle of a storm and heavy headwinds and the pilot had to land in a school yard on

Campbell Island. That is a very dangerous situation. There is nothing from Sandspit to Port Hardy.

The area has international flavour and it has search and rescue flavour. But the crazy situation is that this government has been saying that it is not its responsibility, that it is the responsibility of the government of British Columbia. On the other hand, B.C. said it is not its responsibility and will not become involved, saying it is federal responsibility. What has happened is that 1,250 people on two separate islands have started to build two airports. The Indian community is working on an airport and the other community is doing the same thing. In my opinion this is sheer stupidity. This is because the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development have pumped millions of dollars into the Indian community to develop economic projects there and to provide employment. The community on Campbell Island has a hospital and the RCMP. It strikes me that that would be the logical community to develop. But two airports will probably be built and waste precious, valuable resources because both governments just keep passing the buck back and forth.

I know that the federal government and the minister are very concerned about the spending of funds to provide decent services for people. However, if the federal government was to build an airport there, it would be a tremendous cost reduction for the people of B.C. and a tremendous boost to safety, as well as giving immeasurable help to the Indian community.

I would urge the minister to look at the study, to examine it once again and then negotiate a settlement so those communities can co-operate and build a second airport. I would urge the minister to support the project on Campbell Island because of population facilities and the basic need. I ask the minister to please break this impasse.

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Chairman, I do not have anything particular to contribute. This airport is looked upon as provincial responsibility and treated as such. Again, my hon. friend is suggesting for the second time that we should take over provincial responsibility, at least this is the way I read him. There are so many things to be done in B.C. and elsewhere that are clearly federal responsibility and we are satisfied with that. However, I am very grateful for the advice given by my hon. friend, particularly with respect to the previous subject.

● (2120)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Bachand:** Mr. Chairman, my questions are for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. My three questions relate to the contract for the purchase of the F-18 aircraft. Here is my first question: Can the minister say whether there have been new developments since the F-18 was chosen or can he give details about the sites chosen for the establishment of two important projects, that is a General Electric plant for the manufacturing of blades and vanes that had been promised to the eastern townships, and a digital control machining centre that had been promised to Quebec?