

Supply—Transport

haggling and horse-trading going on between the Department of Transport and the city about the dominion taking over the airport. I believe the Minister of Transport has offered \$420,000. That is the highest figure I have seen published. On the other hand the city has asked for \$2,175,000, although I think it has been intimated that it would sell for considerably less than that figure.

The city has a great deal of money in the airport. It has bonds outstanding which were issued to help finance the airport amounting, I believe, to at least \$300,000. I do not understand why there should be all this delay in getting the question settled. The suggestion has been made that the process of expropriation should be used and that the exchequer court should decide what is a fair figure. Whether or not that is the right way to settle the difficulty I do not know, but certainly it is hard to imagine such a situation being allowed to continue so far as either Dorval or Malton airport is concerned. It may be because we are so far away from Ottawa that the people here just shrug their shoulders and do not worry very much about getting a question like this settled, but here is something which is the responsibility of the Department of Transport and it should be settled without further delay.

Another difficulty with respect to the airport is that all the traffic to and from must pass over a rickety old wooden bridge known as the Marpole bridge. The federal government, the provincial government and the city council are snarling at each other and suggesting that the other fellow should make a start on getting the bridge replaced. This has been going on for two or three years and nothing has happened. People going to the airport are delayed and sometimes miss their planes. Little tugs by the dozen are going up the waterway every day and the bridge has to be opened to let them through. Hon. members will recall that when we raised this question last year the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) said that he had driven a milk cart over the same bridge when he was a very young man. That makes us realize the great need for some improvement.

Incidentally, I should like to pause for a moment to say how delighted I am, and I am sure I speak for all members of the house, to see the hon. member for Vancouver East about the building again. He has had a long and trying illness. I met him in the building this morning. While he has not been in the house he is able to come to the building. His fellow citizens of Vancouver are particularly pleased because there

has never been a member from that city who has been more highly respected than the present member for Vancouver East. He is the senior member from British Columbia. He has been here since 1930, has always been sincere and conscientious and has had the admiration of all his fellow members whether or not they agree with all his views. Personally I am very glad that he is able to get around again.

The question of the Marpole bridge is another problem that should be solved, and I do not think anybody except the dominion government can take the lead. I hope the minister will initiate steps that will lead to a solution of the problem. Because of the shipping involved and because of the airport, the problem is of more concern to his department than any other.

I will not trespass on the time of the committee further. I hope the minister will deal with these matters before this vote is passed. May I suggest to him in all kindness that, with Canada moving ahead as it is in these days, he might very well consider getting his department out of the rut and making it a vital force in the development of the nation.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, first of all I am sure that the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) will be most grateful for the very kind words with reference to him which were expressed a few moments ago by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra. We who are perhaps a little closer to the hon. member for Vancouver East because we are his colleagues know how thoroughly true are the things that the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra said about our distinguished colleague. We all appreciate deeply what has been said. Like other hon. members who showed their appreciation when the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra spoke so kindly and so highly of our deputy leader, we are indeed pleased that he is making such good progress toward health. We hope that in addition to his being able to be about the building it will not be long until we will have him with us again in this chamber.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Transport is to be commended for the way in which he opened the discussion of his estimates today. He made a general statement with particular reference to the changes that have been made respecting his estimates and with reference to a number of innovations. It is a statement which will be helpful to us as we proceed. I hope he will not mind if during the course of discussing his estimates he finds us asking questions about some of the matters he dealt with in his general