

Vancouver International Airport

I should like to convey to hon. members the fact that the Department of Transport is very much impressed by the importance of the traffic at Vancouver international airport. We desire by all means possible, and within the limits of the funds at our disposal, to remedy the situation which is referred to in this motion. I should like to assure the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond of my sincerity when I say we shall do our utmost to try to improve the situation at an early date.

I should like to say one further word before I take my seat. I would have liked very much to respond to the invitation of the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre to talk about other things than the motion under consideration, and in particular about the subject of air safety and air regulations, but I thought that in these first remarks which I am addressing to the house I should try to stay within the four corners of the rules, and reserve until some other occasion the opportunity of replying to the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre.

Mr. G. R. Pearkes (Esquimalt-Saanich): One of the causes of the increased congestion at the seaplane base at Vancouver is the fact that the seaplane base at Patricia Bay was done away with a few years ago. When the R.C.A.F. were administering the Patricia Bay airport a seaplane base was maintained at the west side of that airport; but when the R.C.A.F. moved away the floats which had been at Patricia Bay for the seaplane landing were also removed.

I took this matter up with the minister's predecessor last year, and he recognized the fact that because of the absence of a seaplane base on Vancouver island additional seaplane traffic had gone to Vancouver. It was hoped that a new float could have been established at Patricia Bay. I believe the amount of money required for the establishment of a float is small. The sum of \$3,000 was mentioned, and I would like to suggest to the minister that there is a very practical

method by which he could relieve the congestion at Vancouver and also provide facilities on Vancouver island at which the firms using seaplanes to travel up and down the coast and the large number of visitors who come by plane could be accommodated for many years. I suggest that to the minister to see if he will not give it his earnest consideration.

Mr. Goode: Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): If the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond speaks now, he will close the debate.

Mr. Goode: With the permission of the house I could finish in two minutes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Has the hon. member the permission of the house to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. T. H. Goode (Burnaby-Richmond): I thank hon. members for supporting this resolution. It is a compliment to the resolution that we have had two cabinet ministers speak on it, both sympathetically. I think it has done its job in that it has acquainted the Minister of Transport, who has not yet visited Vancouver, with the seriousness of the situation. I am quite sure that we shall have his sympathetic consideration. In his speech tonight he has shown that he is willing to consider ideas. I now ask that I be allowed to withdraw my motion, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Has the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond the consent of the house to withdraw his resolution?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion withdrawn.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Gregg: Tomorrow the house will move to go into supply.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.