

Government Orders

It is a chicken and egg. Somebody has to play the right card and say: "Listen, the feds say we have trouble at Pearson, too much traffic. We need to put in a couple of more runways".

Nonsense I say. Just create at a minimal expense some multi-modal approach to transportation between Hamilton and Toronto.

Travellers are aware of the difficulties associated with departing or arriving on time at Pearson International. Many have waited on the tarmac as my hon. friend from the NDP has indicated. The clock ticks by either for take-off clearance or for a space at the gate.

Considering that it would take roughly the same time to travel from Hamilton Airport to downtown Toronto as it would from Pearson International Airport to downtown Toronto, one has to acknowledge how Hamilton Airport could play a positive role in alleviating air transportation congestion in southern Ontario.

• (1750)

I will refer to the second report here. This latest report to cross my desk is in contrast to the first report that crossed my desk a year ago. As this Transport Canada environmental impact statement summary outlines, Hamilton Airport is too close to Toronto.

Mr. Boudria: I thought it was too far.

Mr. Keyes: It is too far because a person has to get on a bus to Toronto airport.

This report says: "It is too close". There are other examples of dual operating airports in the world, as was explained a little earlier, which function with great success. They are meant to compliment the services of each other.

Hamilton airport, 60 kilometres from Pearson International, is much farther than the 16 kilometres which separates two of the world's busiest airports, JFK International and LaGuardia. LaGuardia basically serves domestic flights, although American and Canadian carriers fly into the facility from Canada.

Passengers regularly land at LaGuardia on domestic flights and transfer by shuttle bus to JFK. Conveniently licking up the two airports in New York is an interstate highway.

In California, passengers transfer between San Francisco International and Oakland International on a regular basis. The two airports are some 90 kilometres apart straight across San Francisco Bay. A shuttle bus transfers passengers with baggage from one facility to the next facility in an hour.

Passengers also transfer from San Francisco International to San Jose International. There are three principal airports in sunny California.

Passengers arriving at or departing Heathrow International in London also transfer to flights in Gatwick, some 45 kilometres from each other.

Transport Canada must encourage the development of Hamilton airport as the second principal airport in southern Ontario and must co-operate with the province of Ontario to similarly develop an effective means of ground transportation between Pearson International and Hamilton. We cannot say it enough.

I have only a couple of minutes remaining, so I will conclude my remarks. There are other concerns related to Bill C-5 and to the over-all strategy which I think this government has failed to implement. It is an over-all vision for the future of transportation in this country. It is something that incorporates not just talking about planes today and cars on the highways tomorrow and the trains next week.

All of this has to be co-ordinated. The *Open Skies* agreement will surely increase pressure on that already over crowded Pearson International.

Testimony from the Dryden inquiry from Transport Canada indicated that because of delays at PIA, planes which are de-iced in the winter risk recurring ice contamination while sitting on a tarmac waiting to take off. There is that risk.

I talked to the airport management. It is already talking about putting one of those de-icing machines at the end of a runway. We will see.

We have agreed that in order to realize the expansion of Hamilton we need a commitment from Transport Canada and the Ontario government.

I want to conclude on a final note. Sometimes people think: "Keyes, you are just an opposition member blowing in the wind". The reality is that you are in opposition and have to oppose the government policies.