

*The Address—Mr. Patterson*

and its facilities to their fullest capacity. I believe the runways were extended 2,500 feet several months ago and it has a splendid terminal. It is fully equipped with landing lights, fire equipment and other facilities. Recently we made representations to the Department of National Revenue to have a customs official stationed there in an attempt to develop the traffic using the airport and to provide a much improved service to those now using it.

In spite of the tremendous expenditure of funds to provide and develop the facilities at the airport, it seems the department is very shortsighted in not being willing to provide a customs official. This is something which I wish to call to the attention of the minister once again. We previously discussed it with him and also with his deputy minister, but to date the reply has been in the negative. I contend that if we are willing to spend a lot of public money on an airport, then we ought to do a little more in order to make it pay, instead of constituting what conceivably could be a white elephant. I am not objecting to the provision of the facilities. Let me be quite clear on that. What I am saying is, let us use them and develop them to their fullest capacity.

A second matter in connection with this airport that I would like to bring to the attention of the government is that there is a seeming lack of the human element in dealing with nearby residents who are affected by the development of the airport. In recent weeks a situation has come into being in which it has been considered essential to order the removal of trees from the immediate area of the airport. We understand the necessity of taking every precaution for the sake of safety, but the people affected have made their homes there, and they do not desire to remain in an area completely denuded of trees and natural beauty. Yet the government refuses to consider the preservation of the properties affected, in order to satisfy the requirements of those who are living in the area.

Communications on this subject have been forwarded by the editor of the local newspaper and the reeve of the municipality. I have personally made representations, but I understand that at present court action is being threatened against some people who live in the area. What is so strange about it is from recent reports it appears that even though the trees are going to be removed, power poles will remain where they are. I would think they would create just as great, or greater, a hazard as a few trees, and therefore I suggest that the department consider this thing from a humanitarian point of view. The department says it has no

special use for the properties in question, but these properties are seriously affected by the use of the airport, especially by large planes.

I know of a case in that area where a man painted his home, and just a day or two later it was brought to his attention that he had apparently forgotten to paint part of his house. It turned out that it was not a matter of omitting the paint; the trouble was caused by jet aircraft using the airport. Fuel fumes, and things of that sort, disfigured the man's house, and his home rattled every time a plane went over it.

It seems as though the department is not concerned about the individual problems facing those who live in that area. For this reason I bring it to the attention of the minister and suggest that first we make use of the airport facilities. Then let us place a customs official there who will provide immediate service to those using the airport. In addition, the department should concern itself with, and pay particular attention to, the effects of the use of the airport upon individual nearby residents, and do everything possible to settle the issues without threatening to take them to court and thus impose additional hardships.

There is another matter which has been brought to my attention a number of times by those vitally interested in it in my area. It is, of course, of national importance, and I have reference to the proposals submitted to the government by the Canadian Association for Retarded Children. I do not have much time left to deal with this matter, but I am sure all hon. members are aware of the problem. It has been brought to our attention on a number of occasions by questions on orders of the day, and the Minister of National Health and Welfare has made some reference to it.

The first paragraph in the association's brief states:

Numerically mental retardation now ranks first among the chronic disabilities of childhood. Socially it also is the most serious problem in respect of the number affected and its effect on the lives of its victims and families.

This problem is becoming of increasing importance, and that is indicated by the growing interest being taken in it by voluntary organizations and individuals, at great sacrifice of time and ability, all doing what they can to assist solve the problem. The second page of the brief calls attention to the voluntary organizations. I read as follows:

In the last ten years, some 250 local associations of the Canadian Association for Retarded Children have been established representing some 20,000 registered members. An additional estimated 100,000 volunteers are working supporting local projects through fund raising volunteer activities etc. These people have established over 600 special classes,