

## Order Paper Questions

## CBC OBJECTIVES

Question No. 1,775—**Mr. Herbert:**

1. Is one of the sub-objectives of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation "to contribute to the development of national unity..." and, if so, are there expressions of discontent that CBC may not be conforming to this objective?

2. Is the sub-objective "... should provide reasonable, balanced opportunity for the expression of different views on matters of public concern.", considered to conflict with the sub-objective quoted in Part 1 and, if so, in what manner is it proposed to resolve this conflict?

**Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State):** I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: 1. The Broadcasting Act states that the national broadcasting service should "contribute to the development of national unity and provide for a continuing expression of Canadian identity". The question of the CBC and its contribution to the development of national unity has recently been a topic of public discussion.

2. No. In its general programming—drama, music, biographies and documentaries—the CBC contributes to the development of national unity by reflecting and interpreting Canada to Canadians. Communication between the different peoples and regions of the country is the key to achieving this goal. That communication is maintained and strengthened not only through the physical network of communications that the CBC has built up across Canada, but more particularly through the content of programmes. Mutual understanding and an appreciation of the cultural diversity of the various regions of Canada is fostered through these programmes, programmes which celebrate Canada's greatness as well as reflecting on its problems. The current affairs programming of the CBC, on the other hand, has as its objective informing Canadians about the underlying issues confronting them—analyzing these issues and reflecting different perspectives on them in order that Canadians might better decide how to resolve such issues. The CBC sees this contribution to knowledge and understanding as being consistent with that part of the mandate which calls for a "reasonable, balanced opportunity for the expression of differing views on matters of public concern". In the area of news programming the role of the CBC is to inform Canadians of major news events on the national, international and local levels. An informed Canadian public, again, is in a better position to take the decisions which must be taken by them in determining the economic, political and cultural future of the country.

## CNR INVESTMENT IN THE CAST GROUP OF COMPANIES

Question No. 2,156—**Mr. Forrestall:**

1. (a) How many (i) Board of Directors meetings (ii) other meetings pertaining to business affairs of the CAST Group of Companies were attended by Dr. R. A. Bandeen or his representative since Canadian National Railways invested money in the Group (b) in what locations were the meetings held (c) what Companies paid the travel expenses of Dr. Bandeen (d) how many days of Dr. Bandeen's time were occupied on each occasion?

2. With reference to the answer to Question No. 1,248, what specific indirect benefits accrued to CNR from its investment in the CAST Group of Companies?

[Mr. Lang.]

3. Under what conditions can the capital invested by CNR in the Group be withdrawn?

4. For (a) 1974 (b) 1975 (c) 1976, what was the amount paid by the Group to CNR for rail services in North America?

5. Did the Board of Directors of the Group approve the move of that Group's operations in whole or in part from the Port of Montreal to the Port of Halifax and, if so, did Dr. R. A. Bandeen concur in this decision and for what reason?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** The Management of Canadian National Railways advises as follows: 1. Canadian National Railway Company advises that since it is but a minority shareholder it would be improper to divulge information relative to the business affairs of the CAST group. Since Dr. Bandeen was appointed to the board he has attended three Directors Meetings and several other meetings. This has involved less than one week of his time. The CAST group is responsible for out of pocket expenses associated with such meetings.

2. There has been a very substantial increase in the total number of containers handled by CN.

3. Upon the sale of its shares.

4. It is not the policy of CN to divulge by specific Companies the amounts of its revenues.

5. It would be improper to give details of the internal management of companies comprising the CAST group.

## CAST NORTH AMERICA LIMITED—LOCATION OF OPERATIONS

Question No. 2,219—**Mr. Forrestall:**

Did the government or any of its agencies exercise influence over CAST North America Limited to maintain its port operations in Montreal rather than Halifax and, if so (a) in what manner (b) through what individual, department or agency was such influence exercised?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** No, the government or any of its agencies did not exercise influence over CAST North America Limited to maintain its port operations in Montreal rather than Halifax; (a) Not applicable; (b) Not applicable.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT—VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK

Question No. 2,231—**Mr. Herbert:**

In each of the past five years, what was the value of construction work carried out by the Department of Transport?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** In each of the past five years, the value of construction work, including capital expenditures from the Airports Revolving Fund, is as follows:

Fiscal Year	Amount
1972-73	\$ 80,175,042
1973-74	126,243,029
1974-75	179,409,151
1975-76	167,273,403
1976-77 (to March 31/77)	161,485,317
	\$714,585,942