

Mr. HARRIS: Have you a break-down of the operating expenses?

Mr. SYMINGTON: Yes.

Mr. HARRIS: Would that be available, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SYMINGTON: Yes.

Mr. HARRIS: Is it available now, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SYMINGTON: I do not know whether it is available to be filed, but I have the figures here and I intended to point out some of the high lights.

Mr. HARRIS: I was not interested in the high lights; I am interested in the figures—the entire break-down of the operating expenses should be filed.

Mr. SYMINGTON: Yes, all right.

Mr. DONNELLY: How do you account for the great increase in the operating expense?

Mr. SYMINGTON: It is accounted for first by the increased mileage flown; secondly, by the increased cost of materials, gas, etc., and third by the cost of living bonus.

Hon. Mr. HOWE: The reduction in operating revenues is due to the fact that the mail rate was cut down by the 1st of April last year from 60 cents a mile to 45 cents a mile.

Mr. HARRIS: Partially cut; perhaps the minister will agree with that?

Hon. Mr. HOWE: Partially? They were all cut.

Mr. HARRIS: They were cut from 60 to 45?

Hon. Mr. HOWE: That is right.

Mr. HARRIS: As a matter of fact, progress in the inverse ratio; I imagine the rates will go down.

The CHAIRMAN: That is quite clear.

Mr. HARRIS: Yes, I think we all appreciate what the minister was able to do in that regard.

Mr. MAYBANK: Was it cut over all?

Hon. Mr. HOWE: Yes, it was cut on the 1st of April.

Mr. MAYBANK: It was not all taken away—

Mr. HARRIS: The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that 53 per cent of the revenues of the T.C.A. is coming under that sacred depository known as the post office. The observation I made, Mr. Chairman, was this: we are still in the happy position of finding it necessary to carry mail by air, and in carrying mail by air we are able to provide the cost of operating the T.C.A. to the extent of 53 per cent by a contract negotiated between the Post Office Department and the T.C.A. which permits of \$53 out of every \$100 of revenue emanating from post office sources. I have no complaint in regard to that. I make that observation. That rate is high compared to rates which obtain in other parts of North America and certainly in Europe previous to war time. None the less, that is the fact. This committee, in my opinion, is appreciative of the fact that it is gradually coming down to a more reasonable basis, but two years ago it provided something in the nature of 70 per cent of our revenue; 1940, it was 62 per cent of all revenue, and in the year gone by it has provided 53 per cent, due to the fact that the rate was reduced; and I think, Mr. Chairman, that the minister will agree that rates, for the density of mail carried, in the United States find themselves in many places half of the rate which presently obtains. The only point I have in mind in making these observations is that the public should know that we have this service. I have enjoyed it for the last two or three weeks to a considerable extent and we must keep it up to a high level. At the same time, the source from which the money comes to operate that service should be known also to the Canadian people,