

Questions

2. If so, when was the policy adopted and on what principle(s) is it based?
3. If not, will such a policy be adopted and when?
4. If there is no intention of adopting such a policy, for what reason?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):

I am informed by the C.B.C. as follows: 1. Yes. Free time is allocated to bona fide political parties for the expression of opinion. There is no allocation of free time to groups other than bona fide political parties but the Corporation applies to all controversial issues the principles enunciated in reply to Part 2.

2. The policy of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation governing political and controversial broadcasting was adopted in the early years of public broadcasting and is based on the following principles: (i) The air belongs to the people who are entitled to hear the principal points of view on all questions of importance; (ii) The air must not fall under the control of any individuals or groups influential by reason of their wealth or special position; (iii) The right to answer is inherent in the doctrine of free speech; (iv) The full interchange of opinion is one of the principal safeguards of free institutions.

The C.B.C. does not sell time to individuals or commercial concerns for broadcasts of opinions or propaganda. It furthers the foregoing principles by the provision of free time to competent speakers to present, without let or hindrance, varying points of view on questions of the day. The C.B.C. considers that the best safeguard of freedom of discussion is a policy which permits fair opportunity for the expression of varied points of view on issues of public interest and concern.

C.B.C. policy with regard to party political broadcasting is based on the fact that for the proper functioning of representative and democratic government, it is essential that the public should be fully informed of the issues at stake in any provincial or federal election, and of the position and policies of the various parties on these issues. To carry out this policy, the C.B.C. follows a general plan for party political broadcasting which includes the provision of network time free of charge to recognized political parties during general elections. This gives all qualifying parties the opportunity of speaking to a wide public, irrespective of their capacity to buy time. In the periods between elections, an amount of free network time is

[Mr. Fortin.]

made available to recognized party leaders or their representatives.

The allocation of free time broadcasts between elections traditionally has been established at a meeting between the C.B.C. and qualifying parties held at the beginning of each new Parliament.

Free time broadcast periods during election campaigns are also allocated in immediate consultation with the parties.

3. N/A.
4. N/A.

STATISTICS RESPECTING UNEMPLOYMENT

Question No. 1,047—**Mr. Macquarrie:**

1. According to the latest available statistics, what is the total number of unemployed persons in Canada?
2. What was the comparable figure for the same month in 1967?
3. Has the government any plans for alleviating winter unemployment?
4. If so, what types of programs are projected?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the Departments of Manpower and Immigration and Finance as follows: 1. The total number of unemployed persons in Canada was estimated to be 338,000 in the week ended November 16, 1968.

2. The comparable figure for the same month in 1967 was 289,000. The number of employed persons rose from 7,409,000 to 7,677,000 over the same period of time.

3 and 4. The Department of Manpower and Immigration gives consideration at all times to the improvement of manpower programs in order to combat not only winter unemployment but unemployment in general. In the current fiscal year, the federal government will spend \$197 million to provide training and retraining for adult workers. As compared with the previous fiscal year, this is an increase of \$47 million. The training program is planned, in co-operation with the provinces, so that, wherever possible, adult workers are placed in training when they are unemployed. There is also a program which will this fiscal year provide various kinds of mobility grants to approximately 30,000 workers involving an expenditure of \$4 million. The counselling and placement services of Canada Manpower Centres across the country have been greatly extended and improved.