

## COMMUNICATIONS

## RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICE IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. In the Northwest Territories there are francophone residents who have been trying for the past several years to acquire radio and television service in their official language, but the federal Government continues to delay and postpone its requirements to provide communication services to French speaking people residing in the North.

Will the Minister explain why the Government can spend billions of dollars on bilingual programming and completely exclude Yellowknife, for instance, one of the capital cities of Canada, where it has jurisdiction and the responsibility to provide both official languages on radio and television?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, this morning I met the *Fédération des francophones hors Québec*, and this is one of the issues that was discussed.

I can inform the Hon. Member that the situation with respect to bilingual services at the CBC, for instance, has greatly improved in recent years, thanks to the use of satellites and CBC stations broadcasting directly.

There is still work to be done, and I can assure the Hon. Member that the Government is taking this question very seriously.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. The Northwest Territories will become officially bilingual on January 1, 1990.

They have asked the federal Government's financial assistance in order to implement their action plan. They have had no news so far. It has now been six months since the federal Government promised them \$716,000.

Furthermore, there is no French network of the CBC in the Northwest Territories.

## Oral Questions

The Minister has \$21 million to serve outlying communities. Is he prepared to do his share and give the Northwest Territories the money they need so that CBC's French network can provide television and radio broadcasting in French?

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, of course the Government is aware of these questions, as are the Members of this House, who know perfectly well that it is not up to the Minister of Communications to issue direct orders to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, which has its own mandate and is an independent institution.

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[English]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF B.C. MINISTER OF FORESTRY

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of Hon. Members the presence in the gallery of the Hon. David Parker, Minister of Forestry of the Province of British Columbia.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MAJORITY LEADER IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE

**Mr. Speaker:** I also wish to draw to the attention of Hon. Members the presence in the gallery of Senator George Mitchell, Majority Leader in the United States Senate.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## APPLICATION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES POLICY

**Hon. Bill Rompkey (Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence.

The Commissioner of Official Languages stated that the Department of National Defence failed to implement its undertaking to apply the official languages guidelines to all its activities. There are translation delays, and military training in French has proved to be unsatisfactory.