

*B.C. Telephone Dispute*

been a rather outstanding one. I hope the hon. member will continue to have confidence in the path we are following in attempting to settle this very serious dispute.

I have not talked directly with officials of the telephone company. A message has just been placed on my desk indicating a telephone call from the chairman of the board of B.C. Tel, Mr. Gordon MacFarlane. At this moment in time, I have not talked directly with him. I did not think it was my role to do that, but rather to follow the course of action that I have followed. I hope upon reflection the hon. member will find that this is a fruitful course for us all.

**Mr. Huntington:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Madam Speaker:** Because the hon. member was not given notice of the statement, which is not required of course, but which is a courtesy usually given to the House, I will recognize him.

**Mr. Huntington:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, I appreciate that very much. I seek this opportunity to clarify an impression left by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Regan) in his remarks when replying to my colleague for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro). He mentioned that ownership of B.C. Tel is American.

**Mr. Regan:** Not totally.

**Mr. Huntington:** That is correct. That is the point I wanted to make. It is probably American controlled. There is a great deal of American investment in it. Many people in British Columbia feel it is the tail end of the whole communications system, that all the discarded equipment ends up in the west. They believe we are dealing in obsolete equipment while other parts of North America have modern communications equipment.

In his answer to the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich, was the minister implying that the American interests, which perhaps have control of B.C. Tel, are interfering with the management-labour relationship? Is he implying that instruction is coming from a foreign board of directors to the management of B.C. Tel that it not get on with the business of settling this dispute, because in the past that has been one of the problems in British Columbia? We have been the laboratory for labour-management disputes where the unions are controlled from the U.S. as well as the management. If a settlement comes about, it has a spillover effect on the industry and unions, not only in Canada but in the United States.

In his answer, is the minister telling us that the American board of directors is giving instruction to the management of B.C. Tel, which has very capable management, Canadian trained and educated? In most cases, they are all Canadians. Are instructions being issued to obstruct progress and a settlement in this? If so, that is a very serious issue which must be addressed here.

**Mr. Regan:** Madam Speaker, I am not telling the hon. member any such thing. If he reviews my words, he will find

that is not the case. I have said there is some area of concern in the province; that since the ultimate control of the company rests in the United States, the people who have the ultimate responsibility for the company may be in the position of not having the same level of sensitivity to labour relations as they are practised in this country as have people here. As to what the relationship may be between the parent company and the Canadian management, what level of responsibility is exercised in Canada, how much latitude management here have, whether there is any communication and what the nature of that communication is, I have no knowledge whatsoever. If the hon. member reviews my words, he will find that is essentially what I have said on the matter. I believe he will also find on his return to the province that the views I have outlined are the views and concerns of businessmen in British Columbia.

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● (1550)

**QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER**

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 4, 1,651, 1,747, 1,759 and 1,766.

[Text]

RAILWAY EXPRESS SERVICES OPERATED OUT OF BROCKVILLE, ONT.

Question No. 4—**Mr. Cossitt:**

What was the amount of business, in each of the past three years, received by the Canadian National Railways and/or Canadian Pacific Railways for express services operated out of Brockville, Ontario?

**Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** The Canadian Transport Commission advises as follows:

	Canadian National Railways		
	1977	1978	1979
Shipments forwarded	80,184	98,283	87,034
Revenue-related to forwarded shipments	\$1,206,400	\$1,270,000	\$1,206,400
Shipments received	67,149	65,414	72,380

Transportation companies generally do not record revenue(s) related to shipments received. These figures, therefore, are not available.

Information concerning express services for the Canadian Pacific Railways is not available.