

Routine Proceedings

that the Government of Canada state categorically that we will not permit our fresh water to be dammed and diverted into the U.S. and state very clearly to the United States authorities that Canadian rivers are not for sale.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, Question No. 194 will be answered today.

[Text]

Question No. 194—Mr. Saint-Julien:

Did *Radio-Canada* employees travel to Paris in November 1991 to attend the *Sommet de la Francophonie* and, if so, (a) how many employees went and who were they, (b) how much did lodging cost for each employee, (c) how much did air travel cost for each employee and what class did they travel on (First, Business, Economy), (d) how much did car rentals cost, (e) how much did food cost, (f) what was the cost in overtime, (g) what was the total cost of the event paid by *Radio-Canada*?

Hon. Henry Perrin Beatty (Minister of Communications): This matter has been brought to the attention of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). We are informed as follows:

CBC *Société Radio-Canada* covered the *Sommet de la Francophonie* in its entirety between November 16 and 23, 1991. Coverage of the *Sommet* included specials, radio and TV news reports, analyses and interviews with experts on current affairs programs. Furthermore, the material accumulated during the coverage was used to feed public affairs programs on television and radio.

(a) The French radio network used six persons for all its programming (news and news specials, current and public affairs) namely:

The main host (anchorman) for special programs and journalist/presenter for major radio newscasts, a coordinator to look after sound material and report needs, a producer, a reporter in Ottawa, a parliamentary reporter from Quebec City and, finally, the host of *Les Actualités*.

The French television network used 20 persons for specials and information programs. They were:

From Montreal: the host of *Téléjournal*, two producers, a production assistant, a journalist, a researcher, a technical director and a camera operator; from the London office: a producer, a correspondent, a camera operator, a sound person and an editor; from the national Ottawa office: a journalist, a camera operator, a sound operator and an editor; from Quebec City: a journalist; from Winnipeg: a producer and a technician.

(b) Parliament has not, as a matter of custom since the corporations's creation in 1936, required CBC to supply, in answering Parliamentary questions, certain details of its internal management and administration. Parliament has had two reasons for following this custom: first, the independence of the CBC as a Crown corporation, established for the purpose of producing and broadcasting, independently of political or commercial interference, programs for a national program service; and secondly, the competitive nature of many of CBC's activities.

The appropriateness of the CBC providing certain categories of information has been considered on many occasions by various parliamentary committees and when the CBC has suggested that such information should not be made a matter of public record, its views have been accepted by them. The names of employees and their functions in relation to specific programs, their salaries or expenses, the costs of individual programs, or business arrangements are examples of details which it has not been customary to require the CBC to supply. It is open to Parliament and its appropriate committees to discuss the policies and the CBC have followed in this regard.

(c) All these CBC/*Société Radio-Canada* employees travelled economy class, with the exception of two employees who travelled business class to Paris and returned economy class. Their departures, scheduled originally for November 13 and 15, respectively, were delayed until Saturday, November 16, because of the special program on the funeral of Cardinal Léger.

For travel costs, see response in (b) above.