

Questions

3. Is there any definite time limit as to when the loan is to be repaid and, if so, when and, if not, what is the maximum time the interest free loan can remain unpaid?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): 1. As of December 12, 1969, the Canadian Wheat Board records indicate that 97,653 producers took advantage in the current crop year of the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act.

2. 5,443 producers took the maximum advance payment of \$6,000. The Canadian Wheat Board records do not indicate how many producers actually need the advance payment.

3. Under the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act the advance payment is to be repaid within a reasonable period of time after the quotas have been increased to the extent that the producer can deliver sufficient grain from which one-half of the gross value, when deducted, would equal the original advance payment.

VIEWER RATING, "SING ALONG JUBILEE"

Question No. 486—**Mr. Coates:**

1. What is the present viewer rating of the program "Sing Along Jubilee" on the CBC Television Network which replaced "Don Messer's Jubilee"?

2. What was the rating of "Don Messer's Jubilee" at the same time last year?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: 1. On the metro network of eleven CBC-owned TV stations which carry "Singalong Jubilee", usually at 9-9:30 p.m. on Fridays, the program currently has an average weekly audience of about 1.14 million viewers. "Singalong Jubilee" is not carried by any of the CBC affiliated stations which make up the full CBC network.

2. At this same time last year, in that same part of the country now served by these eleven stations, "Don Messer", seen normally at 8:30-9:00 p.m. on Fridays, had virtually the same size of audience, an average 1.13 million viewers weekly. On the full network of over 40 CBC and affiliated stations which carried "Don Messer" throughout the country, the program's total weekly audience, at this time last season, averaged about 2.71 million viewers.

CABLE TELEVISION, CALGARY, EDMONTON,
REGINA, SASKATOON

Question No. 495—**Mr. Southam:**

Is it the intention of the government to make available to the cities of Calgary, Edmonton, Regina

[Mr. Robinson.]

and Saskatoon, microwave transmission for cable television purposes and, if so, how soon can this service be expected?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission as follows: In a fully-documented decision (CRTC No. 69-397) issued on December 3, 1969, the Canadian Radio-Television Commission stated: "The Commission will not licence broadcasting receiving undertakings (CATV) based on the use of microwave or other technical systems, for the wholesale importation of programs from distant U.S. stations and thereby the enlargement of the Canadian audience and market areas of U.S. networks or stations."

[English]

INDIAN-ESKIMO RADIO NETWORK

Question No. 499—**Mr. Howard (Skeena):**

1. Is the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation giving favourable consideration to the request of the Indian-Eskimo Association that a radio network be established to serve the Indians, Eskimos and Metis?

2. What assistance is being provided by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission in assisting the native peoples in the above project?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): 1. I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that the Corporation has not had an opportunity to study the details of this request which was presented recently to the Canadian Radio-Television Commission. However, the CBC would be prepared to consider the request as part of its continuing review of overall CBC coverage and programming development.

2. I am informed by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission that on November 10, 1969, the Canadian Radio-Television Commission received a delegation from the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada, The Canadian Metis Society, The Indian Eskimo Association of Canada and representatives of the Alberta Native Communications Society. A brief was presented which has been studied. Spokesmen for the Commission advised the delegation to concentrate their efforts on producing programmes for Indians, Eskimos and Metis and in securing fuller distribution through existing facilities, rather than become involved in setting up separate facilities.

The CRTC is engaged in studies with the Department of Communications and the CBC