

CBC—MR. LIONEL MARTIN

Question No. 561—Mr. Cossitt:

1. (a) What is the complete employment history with the CBC of Mr. Lionel Martin and is he presently stationed in Cuba (b) what were his qualifications that led to him being considered suitable for employment with the CBC?

2. Did Mr. Martin, on Sunday, April 13, 1980, take part in the program "Sunday Morning" on CBC radio and, if so, did he present views corresponding with those of Premier Fidel CASTro of Cuba and, if so, in such a case, what steps does the government intend to take?

3. Is it government policy to allow the management of the news to be governed by the political views of those working in CBC radio or television?

Mr. Jack Burghardt (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows:

1. Lionel Martin is not a CBC employee. He is a freelance journalist living in Cuba who reports for CBC from time to time.

2. He did take part in "Sunday Morning" on April 13, 1980, in a segment about Cuban refugees. He reported conditions at the Peruvian Embassy and the Cuban government's actions and statements in relation to the refugees.

3. The CBC was established as a Crown corporation for the purpose of producing and broadcasting, independently of political or commercial influence, programs for a national broadcasting service. Successive Governments have not sought to direct the CBC in the discharge of its responsibilities under the Broadcasting Act.

Question No. 775—Mr. Cossitt:

Was Mr. Lionel Martin, when broadcasting from Havana, representing the CBC, and did he praise the CASTro regime for digging a latrine across the road for fugitives in the Peruvian Embassy grounds and not shooting these people when they dared to use such a latrine and, if so, does the CBC and the Government consider this balanced news broadcasting?

Mr. Jack Burghardt (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: As a freelance broadcaster, Lionel Martin is not a representative of the CBC. In a report broadcast on April 8, Mr. Martin described the conditions inside the Peruvian Embassy grounds and then stated that the Cubans had "built a row of outhouse-type toilets outside the fence of the embassy" and refugees "could go to the toilet and return without being molested". Mr. Martin was reporting facts and there was no praise spoken or implied of the Cuban action.

Question No. 776—Mr. Cossitt:

Is Mr. Lionel Martin an American who served as an advisor to Prime Minister CASTro and was he a correspondent for a Communist newspaper either before or after he was used by the CBC and, specifically, what are the names and job designations of all CBC personnel authorizing the use of his broadcasts?

Mr. Jack Burghardt (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: Freelance reporters are chosen for use by the CBC on the basis of their previous work as

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reporters. The Corporation, in using Mr. Martin's services as a freelancer, does not have knowledge of his full career history.

The names of CBC staff members involved in individual program projects are among those details of internal management and administration which Parliament has not, as a matter of custom, required the CBC to provide. The background to this custom was explained in detail in the reply to question No. 2,530, May 22, 1975.

Question No. 777—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Was Mr. Lionel Martin broadcasting for the CBC from Havana when he made the statement, that the thousands who jammed the Peruvian Embassy grounds in Havana are criminals, thieves, prostitutes and particularly "delinquents or anti-social elements" and, if so, how did he investigate the background of these 10,000 people in a matter of a few hours in order to reach such conclusions?

2. Is it CBC policy to require its reporting staff to authenticate news statements before they are made and, if so, in what way does this apply to Mr. Martin?

Mr. Jack Burghardt (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows:

1. Examination of tapes of the contributions by Lionel Martin has failed to disclose the characterizations of refugees in the Peruvian Embassy with the exception of describing some of them as "delinquent". In a report broadcast on April 20, Mr. Martin describes the refugees as "the disaffected, the alienated, the ideological dissidents and even a good number of delinquents". In the light of subsequent general knowledge, these would seem to have been accurate journalistic assessments.

2. Yes. CBC expects those reporting for its news service to authenticate their statements, and this policy applied to Mr. Martin.

Question No. 1,057—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Has Mr. Lionel Martin been broadcasting for the CBC from Havana, Cuba, recently and, if so, is the CBC or the government aware that Mr. Martin was employed on or about 1961 by the Ministry of Education in the Cuban Government of Fidel CASTro?

2. To the knowledge of the government or the CBC, was Mr. Martin for some time the Cuban correspondent for the American newspaper *The Guardian* and has this paper been clearly labelled by many as a Communist publication?

Mr. Jack Burghardt (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows:

1 and 2. As of the date of the question, the CBC had not used a broadcast by Lionel Martin since April, 1980. The Corporation is aware of Mr. Martin's professional experience as a freelance broadcaster but has no knowledge of his employment in other capacities.

CANADA COUNCIL ART BANK

Question No. 1,248—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Did Lise Cohen of the Canada Council Art Bank state that the estimated cost of the items constructed of mostly steel and aluminum placed in Rockcliffe Park by the Canada Council cost "somewhat less" than the \$100,000 mentioned