

*Order Paper Questions*

## RENOVATIONS AT COMBAT ARMS TRAINING CENTRE

Question No. 539—**Mr. Howie:**

Are renovations contemplated or under way at the new Combat Arms Training Centre at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown and, if so (a) on what date will they be completed (b) at what estimated cost?

**Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence):** Yes. (a) Subject to Treasury Board approval, the construction completion date is estimated to be late 1987. (b) Preliminary cost estimate is \$49M.

\* \* \*

[English]

## STARRED QUESTION

**Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call starred question No. 702?

[Text]

\*CBC—REPORTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Question No. 702—**Mr. Hopkins:**

1. Did the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation assign additional equipment and personnel to be available for special reporting of events anticipated to occur on or about February 22, 1984, in Ottawa and, if so, (a) for what reason (b) at what cost (c) in making its decision, did the Corporation consult any person in a position to give advice as to the possibility of the anticipated events taking place and, if so, whom (d) who authorized the assignment?

2. Will the Corporation consider making available to its news services an amount equal to that mentioned in part 1?

[English]

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

1. (a) Those responsible for CBC television News and Current Affairs on both the English and French Networks made special arrangements; including, where necessary, the assignment of additional equipment and personnel, in order to be prepared in the event of a major story such as the resignation of the Prime Minister.
- (b) With regard to the costs involved, it has not been customary for Parliament to require the Corporation to provide such details of its internal management and administration as specific program costs. The background to this custom is explained in detail in the reply to question No. 2530, tabled November 6, 1975.
- (c) Yes, several sources were consulted, and, as well, patterns and scheduling of public events and appearances were analyzed. Editorial sources are confidential.
- (d) The executive producers of the programs involved.
2. Coverage of the events was handled from existing program budgets and, in the case of the major news specials, from network contingency funds.

**Mr. Evans:** Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

**Mr. Speaker:** The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

\* \* \*

## POINT OF ORDER

MR. DEANS—BEAUCHESNE'S FOURTH AND FIFTH EDITIONS

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I rise with some trepidation, but I rise nevertheless to ask you to consider a matter that I think is of vital importance for the orderly conduct of the House of Commons.

I draw to your attention, Sir, the Fifth Edition of Beauchesne. In the Preface we find the following:

Twenty years have now lapsed since Arthur Beauchesne published his Fourth Edition. With the extensive amendments to the Standing Orders of the House of Commons in 1968, the procedural advice offered by his book soon became outdated. In this regard, we decided to update and revise Beauchesne's work.

You are aware, Sir, as I am that the Fifth Edition of Beauchesne was written in 1978, which would now make it some six years old. That means it is 26 years since the Fourth Edition of Beauchesne's was written. It was written to reflect both the Standing Orders and the practices of the time preceding 26 years ago.

In the Fifth Edition of Beauchesne, written some 20 years later, changes were made. It has been the practice in this House, at least since 1980, to refer, when making rulings or when providing background for rulings, to the Fifth Edition of Beauchesne the reason being that the Fifth Edition dealt with until now, and continues to deal with, the most up to date Standing Orders and procedures.

I find it passing strange that on this occasion we should make use of an edition of Beauchesne which is clearly out of date and which has fallen into disuse I would ask, Mr. Speaker, without questioning the motive or without in any way questioning the right of the Speaker to make rulings, that the Speaker review the proceedings which brought about the reference to the Fourth Edition of Beauchesne and note the difference in interpretation contained in the Fourth Edition from that contained in the Fifth Edition. In addition, I ask that you recognize that under normal practice in the House of Commons reference has been only to the Fifth Edition, except in cases where there was no clear indication in the Fifth Edition of the matter which was in dispute before the House, and that we get an understanding as to which edition of Beauchesne we are supposed to use for reference purposes.

Concerning the House Leader for the Government and his participation in the proceedings, I would urge upon you to consider that he took more time to make his argument against what we were doing than we took in doing what we were doing.

**Mr. Evans:** Nonsense.