

Oral Questions

nation for such an omission than that of the CBC, when it said it was because there was no mobile equipment available in New Brunswick? What equipment is necessary in order to say: "The province of New Brunswick"?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the hon. member's question. The hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster has been very vigorous in making similar presentations.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: Romeo, Romeo, wherefor art thou?

Mr. Roberts: Of course, my hon. colleague sitting beside me has been involved as well.

Mr. Paproski: Dionne does not care, Roméo LeBlanc does not care.

Mr. Roberts: I should like to respond to these representations, Mr. Speaker, by telling the hon. member that I have communicated with the CBC and it indicated that in the planning of the program it was essential, because of the over-all demands on the system and the equipment, that events combining in one centre the appearance of a number of performers representative of various provinces be telecast. Such an event was available in the form of the Summerside lobster festival concert, which assured representation by artists from each of the maritime provinces, including the Jeunes Chanteurs d'Acadie from Moncton.

I should like to indicate to the hon. member, if any slight was taken to what happened, it was inadvertent since the producer for the entire program, Jack McAndrews, is a native New Brunswicker who is very conscious of the importance of New Brunswick in the celebration. He has apologized publicly for any slight which may have been taken, and I would do the same.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker,—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Secretary of State. I read the apology of the man which he mentioned, Jack McAndrews, who purports to be a native New Brunswicker. Nevertheless, he said that it was the lack of mobile equipment in New Brunswick. I should like to know why there is not equipment in New Brunswick, and what equipment is necessary to say: "The province of New Brunswick"? It can be said quicker than Pierre Elliott Trudeau or the Hon. John Roberts—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Jones.]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF OVERSTATEMENT OF SUBSIDIES**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. On June 16 the minister acknowledged that an error was made in the calculation of the revenue of Canadian National Railways as a result of an overstatement of certain subsidies which were received from the Canadian Transport Commission under the provisions of the Railway Act. The minister undertook to provide a more detailed explanation to the House or to give a statement. I am wondering if he is in a position to expand upon his answer of June 16, or whether he is prepared to table such information as to what the amounts were, the timeframe in which these subsidies were overstated and the precise amounts?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to do that. The amounts which were overpaid related to the years 1974 and 1975, in the order of under \$2 million in the first year and the balance of approximately \$17 million in the second year. There was no impact upon the 1976 year, nor upon the business of the railway for 1977. The adjustments had already been made by the time I reported to the House the last time, as I have indicated. The appropriate adjustments will be made to the Canadian National accounts for the years in question.

● (1450)

Mr. Mazankowski: Am I to take it then that the minister is saying that the deficit for the years prior to 1976 will in fact be greater by the amounts that the minister has pointed out?

Mr. Lang: That is correct. In effect the deficit for 1974-75 will be larger by those amounts. The result is that CNR will be debited for those amounts in terms of its branch line subsidy program payments, but of course will be credited with identical amounts in terms of the additional payment by the Treasury of the deficit. The balanced financial position is therefore the same, but obviously the actual book deficits are larger for those two years.

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MULTICULTURALISM**METHOD OF ARRIVING AT PAYMENTS FOR THIRD LANGUAGE TRAINING**

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Multiculturalism. In his speech to the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism in Vancouver two weeks ago, and in response to the council's recommendations, the minister announced some new programs regarding supplementary third language schools, such as the rate of \$4 per hour for teachers up to a maximum of 50 hours a year, and, as well, for such teachers taking courses in personal development, \$15 a day is to be allowed to cover