

CBC—NEWS SPECIAL ON PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CHINA

Question No. 2,987—**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

1. On what date was the decision made to prepare an hour-long CBC News Special on the visit of the Prime Minister to China?
2. At any stage in the discussion of the proposal to prepare a News Special, was there communication between CBC and the Office of the Prime Minister and, if so, what was the nature of each such communication?
3. What are the (a) costs of production (b) other related costs to CBC of this News Special?
4. If this News Special was sponsored on the national network, what would be the cost to the sponsor?

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Prime Minister's Office as follows: 1. Early in September it was decided that a TV news special covering the Prime Minister's visit to China was warranted, in addition to regular news coverage. On October 4 the decision was made to schedule a one-hour program for telecast on October 19.

2. Both CBC television networks requested the Prime Minister before his departure for China to grant them interviews for special programs to be broadcast on his return. These interviews were given in the usual way when the Prime Minister had concluded his discussions with the government of the People's Republic of China.

3. It has not been customary to require the Corporation to disclose such details of its operations as costs related to individual programs.

4. As a matter of policy, the CBC does not accept sponsorship of its news specials. Therefore, no monetary value is placed on such coverage that would enable the Corporation to arrive at a realistic figure.

DUPLICATION OF DND PRESS RELEASES

Question No. 3,016—**Mr. Reynolds:**

1. Were eight individually stamped letters, each containing the identical DND Press Release, sent to the City Editor of the *Vancouver Sun* and, if so, for what reason?
2. Were similar situations repeated with newspapers across the country?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): 1. Due to the mechanical failure of one addressograph machine several envelopes were identically addressed. This problem was of short duration and has been corrected.

2. No reports have been received by the Department of National Defence of similar multiple addressing to newspapers other than the *Vancouver Sun*.

CBC SERIES "SUNDAY", "WEEKEND", AND "UP CANADA"

Question No. 3,020—**Mr. Stackhouse:**

1. How many members of the production staff of CBC program series, "Sunday", were on the staff of the series, "Weekend", and have been appointed to the staff of the new series "Up Canada"?
2. What was the estimated viewing audience of "Sunday", and of "Weekend"?

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3. What was the production budget of "Sunday" and of "Weekend"?
4. What is the production budget of the new series "Up Canada"?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: 1. One.

2. During 1967, the year "Sunday" was scheduled, it had a mid-season average weekly audience of some 2,253,000 viewers. Corresponding mid-season audiences for "Weekend" were as follows: 1970, 2,279,000; 1971, 1,652,000; 1972, 1,452,000; 1973, 1,562,000.

3 and 4. It has not been customary to require the CBC to disclose financial details of its operations such as individual program budgets.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—OFFICE IN FORFAR, ONTARIO

Question No. 3,024—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Is the Post Office Department willing to reopen a post office in Forfar, Ontario and (a) if so, on what date (b) if not, for what reason?
2. Is the Department aware that there are two small rural industries in Forfar that require more adequate postal service than they are now obtaining as rural route box holders and is the Department willing to provide this service?

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): 1. No. The criteria for the establishment of a post office has not been met.

2. Existing service provides daily delivery via a rural route. The requirements of these postal users is being reviewed.

CBC—"THE TOMMY BANKS SHOW"

Question No. 3,036—**Mr. Paproski:**

1. Was a well-established, well received series featuring one of Canada's best and most knowledgeable entertainers "The Tommy Banks Show" dropped from CBC TV network and, if so, for what reason?
2. How much advance notice was given prior to cancellation of contract?
3. How many other 100 per cent Canadian content programs of such calibre does CBC TV have?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: 1. The Tommy Banks Show has not been dropped from the network but it is planned to adjust the schedule at the end of December and resume telecasts of this program during the summer. The CBC feels the program is well done, and has tried different scheduling times and both half-hour and one hour formats in the two years it has been on the air in an attempt to improve its share of the audience as well as audience enjoyment among those who watch the program. However, the show has not been able to draw the strong audience that is desirable especially during the winter months.

2. Tommy Banks was advised in October that the programs remaining to be shown after December would be