

Order Paper Questions

\$9,955; 1973: \$5,313; 1974: \$6,674; 1975: \$9,925; 1976: \$10,682; 1977: \$4,480; 1978: \$5,777.

CBC—MULTICULTURALISM

Question No. 1,621—**Mr. Mitges:**

What is the policy of the CBC with respect to (a) multicultural programming (b) broadcasting in languages other than English or French?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: (a), (b) The CBC's policy on multicultural and multilingual broadcasting, dated September, 1973, reads as follows: "Canada comprises on the one hand two large linguistic and cultural communities, one of British origin and the other French, which give rise to the bilingual character of the country at the official level, and on the other hand a native population of Indian and Eskimo origin, plus first and second-generation Canadians and recent immigrants from many lands. While the presence of such diverse groups gives a multicultural character to the country, it also generates tensions and creates problems of integration, adaptation and understanding between the different communities. During the sixties when these problems became acute, the Royal Commission on B & B was assigned the task of examining the question and recommending solutions. In its report the commission put forward a series of measures designed to preserve and extend the presence of the French language and culture in many aspects of Canadian life. Volume IV of the report also examined the contribution to the Canadian mosaic of groups who are neither British nor French in origin and urged that steps be taken to preserve their heritage. In response to the recommendations contained in volume IV, the government announced in the fall of 1971 a policy of multiculturalism within a bilingual framework and stressed the importance of the ethnic groups and the quality of their contribution to the social and cultural life of the country. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, one of whose priorities is to contribute to the development of national unity, shares this general concern and recognizes the need to strengthen the ties between the various regions and between the different linguistic and cultural communities in those regions. By virtue of the policies arising from the directives in the Broadcasting Act and by reason of the ethnic diversity of its audience, the CBC has long practised a policy of cultural pluralism in its programming. It intends to continue to affirm and reflect in its programs the multicultural riches and multi-racial characteristics of Canadian society in keeping with the corporation's obligation to "contribute to the development of national unity and provide for a continuing expression of Canadian identity". Schedule planners and program staff are expected to demonstrate continuing awareness of and sensitivity to this aspect of the CBC role. The corporation believes that recognition of the ethnic fact in its programs, by regular and frequent appearances by members of ethnic groups, by the inclusion of subjects in which they are keenly interested, by the systematic examination of prejudice, negative attitudes and even manifestations of hostility towards them, by an honest appreciation of the cultural values they bring to society and by

[Mr. Roberts.]

an explanation of their contributions to Canadian life, will reduce the feeling of alienation among these groups. However, the CBC will not engage in multilingual broadcasting on existing stations and networks, because in so doing it would be departing from the express priorities laid down in the Broadcasting Act to provide complete services in both official languages. The CBC makes an exception only for the original inhabitants of the country, the Indians and Eskimos, to whom the northern service broadcasts in several languages and dialects."

NATIONAL MUSEUMS—KOOTENAY WEST

Question No. 1,680—**Mr. Brisco:**

What is the best estimate of the amount spent by the National Museums Corporation in the constituency of Kootenay West from July 22, 1977 to date?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): In so far as the National Museums are concerned: National Museums expended approximately \$24,000 in the constituency of Kootenay West from July 22, 1977, to date.

AGRICULTURE—TAX WRITE-OFFS

Question No. 1,718—**Mr. Brisco:**

Are the same tax write-offs allowed for greenhouse agricultural projects, such as the growing of tomatoes, as are allowed for field grown products outside of a greenhouse environment?

Mr. Ed Lumley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Different types of expenses are incurred in different types of farming businesses but, generally speaking, there is no distinction made between the tax treatment of write-offs and expenses incurred in growing products in a greenhouse and the tax treatment of write-offs and expenses incurred in growing products in the field.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

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POINTS OF ORDER

MR. FRIESEN—DELAY IN ANSWERING QUESTION NO. 1,306

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, again I would refer the parliamentary secretary to question No. 1,306 which I submitted in February. I have asked on two different occasions if he could expedite the answering of this question and the sub-questions under No. 1,306. I cannot imagine why he would hesitate to have them answered, but I urge him since, presumably, this is the last week that the House will be sitting, the he provide an answer for me this week.