

rule later this afternoon before six o'clock, of course, has nothing to do with that.

Hon. Members have discussed at length the question of privilege. I hope they do understand, without implying that the Chair is compromised in any way, that if arguments are made over a period of over two hours, nearly three hours, obviously the Chair has to reflect upon those arguments and it does take some time.

However, I can tell Hon. Members that, having sat through all of those arguments, I have heard them, but I hope Hon. Members realize that before ruling the Chair does try to look at the blues to see whether all of the impressions the Chair has gathered from the arguments which the Chair has heard are in fact corroborated by what I can see in writing. Therefore I hope Hon. Members will give me the time to look at those arguments.

I repeat, I will try to rule as quickly as possible, as was my desire, before six o'clock, and I will give notice to the Party House Leaders of the time at which I intend to make my ruling.

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● (1530)

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 3,502 and 3,543.

[Text]

CANADIAN MEDIA CORPORATION

Question No. 3,502—**Mr. Beatty:**

1. What is the total cost to the taxpayer of Canadian Media Corporation's services as an agency of record?

2. On what date did the Corporation start to perform services for the Government?

3. Since the Corporation first started performing services, which agencies or departments had other advertising agencies reserve time and space for them and, in each case (a) which agency performed the function (b) what amount was paid either directly or indirectly for the services?

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Advertising Management Group and the Department of Supply and Services as follows:

1. From October 1, 1980 to and including November 30, 1981, the total cost as an agency of record is \$1,780,471.

2. October 1, 1980.

3. The only government agency which had other advertising agencies reserve time and space was the Canadian Government Office of Tourism. This was necessary because the Canadian Government Office of Tourism requires the services of foreign country agencies. (a) This activity is co-ordinated by the Richmond Advertising Agency of Toronto. (b) In 1982-83, the

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expenditure budgeted for foreign advertising was \$2,027,000, with Richmond Advertising receiving \$150,000 for co-ordination services.

Question No. 3,543—**Mr. Beatty:**

1. Are there guidelines that determine whether Canadian Media Corporation reserves media space or time for the Government and, if so, what are they?

2. Which organizations are exempt from having to use CMC's services?

3. What is the Government's estimate of any savings to date resulting from the employment of CMC?

4. Does the Government have confidence in CMC's ability to perform its duties competently and in a non-partisan fashion?

5. Does CMC serve as agency of record for the Chief Electoral Officer?

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Department of Supply and Services and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer as follows:

1. Yes. In accordance with Treasury Board Policy on the Management of Government Advertising (Chapter 485, Treasury Board Administrative Policy Manual), the agency of record reserves media space and time for the Government. DSS is currently maintaining CMC, Canadian Media Corporation under contract as the agency of record.

2. CMC's services are used by departments and agencies listed in Schedules A and B of the Financial Administration Act and branches designated as departments for purposes of the Financial Administration Act. All other Government organizations are exempt.

3. After fees have been deducted from gross savings, the net savings to the Government amount to \$1,221,000 from October 1, 1980 to December 31, 1981.

4. Yes.

5. No, CMC has never served as agency of record for the Chief Electoral Officer.

[English]

Mr. Smith: I would ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[English]

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Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I believe that Your Honour will have received a motion under Standing Order 30 from me this morning. Under the circumstances, I would request that that matter be disregarded at this time.