

Order Paper Questions

public be made more aware of the general problem of pornography.

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[English]

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. 4,566, 4,573, 4,575, 4,630 and 4,634.

[Text]

CBC—COVERAGE OF LIBERAL PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION

Question No. 4,566—**Mr. Siddon:**

Did the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation provide closed circuit television service or equipment for such service at the Liberal Party National Convention in Ottawa on November 5 to 7, 1982 and, if so (a) what amount was the Corporation paid to provide the service (b) what was the total cost to the Corporation?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: No.

MR. PIERRE O'NEIL

Question No. 4,573—**Mr. Bosley:**

Is Mr. Pierre O'Neil presently the Director of Information Services at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and was he a former press secretary to the Prime Minister?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: Yes, Mr. Pierre O'Neil, a former press secretary to Prime Minister Trudeau, is at present Director of Information Services for the French Services Division of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

CBC—ACCESS TO AIR TIME BY PRIME MINISTER

Question No. 4,575—**Mr. Bosley:**

1. Did the President of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation accede to an unprecedented instruction by the Prime Minister's Office to grant the Prime Minister three 15-minute free-time appearances on CBC/Radio Canada networks and, if so, did the President (a) consult (b) advise (i) the Vice-President and General Manager, English Services Division of the CBC (ii) the Vice-President and General Manager, French Services Division of the CBC (iii) Messrs. Pierre DesRoches, Arthur Boughner, Gordon Bruce, Guy Coderre, Marcel Deschamps, Guy Gougeon and Jean-Louis Arcand (iv) the Minister responsible for the CBC?

2. How many (a) weeks (b) days (c) hours (d) minutes elapsed between the receipt by the President of the instructions from the Prime Minister's Office and the President's acquiescence in that instruction?

3. During the period between the receipt of the Prime Minister's instruction and the acquiescence, which (a) officials of the CBC (b) other individuals were consulted by or on behalf of the President?

4. During the period between receipt of the Prime Minister's instruction and the acquiescence, did the President inform himself (a) directly (b) indirectly of all relevant circumstances respecting each request for access to the CBC by

Prime Minister (i) Bennett (ii) King (iii) St. Laurent (iv) Diefenbaker (v) Pearson (vi) Trudeau (vii) Clark?

5. On what precise occasions were requests for free access to the networks of CBC and/or Radio Canada made by Prime Minister (a) Bennett (b) King (c) St. Laurent (d) Diefenbaker (e) Pearson (f) Trudeau (g) Clark and, in each case (i) what was the response and what were the reasons for that response (ii) by which officer or office in the CBC was the decision taken?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows:

1. The CBC policy, copies of which have been supplied to all major federal parties states "... the Prime Minister of Canada has occasional access to air time to raise issues of exceptional national importance". Under the same policy, any request for such access must be made at least 24 hours before broadcast and must specify the subject matter. The recent request by the Prime Minister met these two requirements. Additionally, the CBC had to decide if such requests had been made only occasionally and if the subject was of exceptional national importance. The President of the CBC, after consultations in the normal manner with senior officers of the Corporation, was satisfied on both counts and advised the relevant senior officers of the CBC decision.

The President at no time consulted the Minister responsible for the CBC about the Prime Minister's request or the CBC's decision regarding the request.

2. The CBC's decision to accept the Prime Minister's request was made on the same day, following consultation by the President, in the usual manner, with senior officers of the Corporation.

3. Between receipt of the request from the office of the Prime Minister and the CBC decision to grant access to its facilities, consultation took place between the President and senior officers of the Corporation. No other individuals were consulted by or on behalf of the President.

4. It should be noted that the present policy which was agreed to by all political parties has been in place only since 1978. In addition, details of requests for Prime Ministerial access were readily available for only the ten previous years. The President informed himself directly of the relevant circumstances respecting these requests.

5. The length of time covered by the question is 50 years (since the establishment of the CRBC in 1932), and files and records have not been maintained in a fashion that would allow the accurate retrieval of such data prior to late 1973. However, since November, 1973 there have been six requests for Prime Ministerial access. In all cases, the requests were granted by the CBC President under provisions of the policy existing at the time. The dates and subject matter of all such broadcasts by the Prime Minister are: November 22, 1973—energy crisis, October 13, 1975—announcement of anti-inflationary measures, December 18, 1975—the economy, June 23, 1976—air traffic controllers strike, August 1, 1978—remarks on Bonn Economic Summit, October 19, 20, and 21, 1982—the economy.