

Order Paper Questions

6. In the three years prior to June, 1981, no board employee received normal salary and expenses while attending a school or university.

TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD EQUIPMENT

Question No. 3,067—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Is the Department of Communications aware that telephone operators keep interrupting incoming long-distance telephone calls by Members of Parliament to their offices at periodic intervals, that members are often disconnected and that the excuse offered by the operators is that the equipment is so outdated that they are instructed to listen on the line to determine whether it is still in use because automatic disconnecting does not occur?

2. Does the government intend to take measures to update the system and, if so (a) what measures (b) on what date will this be done?

3. Have there been discussions with Bell Canada on the subject and (a) if so, what are all the details (b) if not, for what reason?

4. Does the government consider such interruptions an invasion of privacy?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): In so far as the Department of Communications is concerned, the reply to the above question is as follows:

1. Yes, the Department of Communications is aware that the type of equipment presently in use at the government switchboard does not provide automatic disconnect. Accordingly operating procedures have been established to test the line under certain conditions to confirm if the call has been terminated. The cord-type switchboard operations and the present central office equipment are the principle factors causing sporadic disconnects.

2. Yes, the Government Telecommunications Agency has taken measures to update the system with the introduction of a system based on new technology by mid-1983. The existing switchboard will be totally replaced with modern equipment which will eliminate the above-mentioned problem.

3. Yes, a joint GTA/Bell Canada task group was established in October, 1980, to plan and implement a system to replace the existing networks with new, state-of-the-art technology which will provide for improved service, new system features and increased reliability. The objective is to convert to a new digital multiplex system by mid-1983.

4. When Parliament in 1974 enacted Part IV 1 of the Criminal Code on invasion of privacy, it recognized the need to exempt from the purview of the law interruptions caused by operator tests performed out of operational necessity. Such interruptions are not therefore considered an invasion of privacy.

ACQUISITION OF SHARES BY AIR CANADA

Question No. 3,105—**Mr. Clarke:**

1. During the period 1970-80 did Air Canada acquire shares or other ownership interest in any other corporation, limited liability company or unincorporated company and, if so, what was the (a) name of the corporation, limited liability company or unincorporated company and any subsidiaries thereof (b) percentage of equity acquired (c) cost of acquisition (d) book value of the acquisition?

2. Does Air Canada have a plan to change the present portion of ownership in any of these enterprises and, if so, what is the plan?

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): The management of Air Canada advises as follows:

I.	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Name of Co., (subsidiary)	Year of investment	Percentage equity acquired	Cost of acquisition	Book value at acquisition
Airtransit Canada	1973	100	\$ 1,000	Cost
Airline Maintenance Buildings Limited	1978	100	\$138,083	Cost
Matac Cargo Limited	1978	50	\$180,658	Cost
Touram Inc. (Touram Group Services Inc.)	1978	100	\$387,832	Cost
Nordair Limited (Treasure Tours Canada Limited) (Treasure Tours International Limited) (Nordair Ontario Inc.) (Sundair Limited) (Survair Limited)	1979	86.46	\$24.1m	\$19.1m
Guinness Peat Aviation 1980 Limited (Air Tara Limited)	1980	29.33	\$ 8.9m	\$ 1.3m

A listing of these companies is provided below:

In addition Air Canada holds a nominal interest in various North American, Caribbean and European companies or organizations that were created to furnish various airline aeronautical, telecommunication, operational and technical services as required by the aviation community servicing North American, Caribbean and European points.

Name	Equity
Aeronautical Radio Inc.	1 share
Air Cargo Facilities Inc.	2.5 %
Airlines Clearing House Inc.	1 share
Airline Tariff Publishing Company	6.69 %
International Aeradio Limited	4.1 %
International Aeradio (Caribbean) Limited	1.0 %
Société Internationale de Télécommunications Aéronautiques	.42 %