

*Supply—C.B.C.*

**Mr. Low:** Would it not be possible for the minister to obtain a fairly close estimate of what the C.B.C. would charge a commercial firm for the use of the facilities that were used by the producer of this play for the two-hour period?

**Mr. McCann:** We would have to take into consideration how many stations were on the network carrying that program in order to accurately calculate what the costs would be. We have not that information here. However, all these costs are high and I will admit that. Does the hon. member know that it costs \$10,000 to televise the opening of parliament?

**Mr. Low:** I know that.

**Mr. McCann:** When we are answering with reference to costs, we take into consideration every item, even the expenses of the board of governors and what that costs over the years.

**Mr. Low:** It is because I fully realize the cost is high that I wanted to have the minister put on the record a fair estimate, not an exact one but a fair estimate of the total cost of this extravaganza which it has been admitted was a mistake. I think the Canadian people are entitled to know what it costs to have these mistakes made. The best way of getting that idea is to have the minister give us the facts concerning the network costs and all that sort of thing. Certainly I would be justified in saying it would be quite a number of times the \$3,500 out of pocket which the minister gave us, but of course how many times the Canadian people do not know. I think we are entitled to have that information in this committee.

**Mr. Hansell:** I think that is exactly where the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation fall down. You see, they do not have to make a profit like private industry in order to keep out of bankruptcy, so they are not too much concerned about what it costs. It is just not true for the minister to say they cannot figure out what it costs for the network, including all the factors. If private industry were operating a thing like that they could tell you within a very few minutes exactly what it costs for this or that. They would have to know, because they would have to balance their books to see that they did not go into the red.

I read an article a while ago in which it was stated that the Canadian National Railways had calculated exactly how much it costs for coal to stop and start a train, and they had compared that with the costs of other types of fuel. If industry can do that, Mr. Chairman, then surely the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation can do it.

**Mr. McCann:** We keep very accurate cost accounting, Mr. Chairman, and while I have not the costs of this particular performance here I am informed by my officials in front of me that in their estimation the cost would be under \$5,000 for the whole thing; that is all costs considered.

**Mr. Hansell:** Would the minister care to answer this one question? How much was paid to the writer of the script for this broadcast?

**Mr. McCann:** The figure that is given to me is something between \$500 and \$1,000.

**Mr. Low:** That would be for the script as well as the production? As I understand it the writer, Mr. Reeves, did produce the play.

**Mr. McCann:** For the script alone.

**Mr. Low:** Then there were production fees above that, and could the minister give us that figure?

**Mr. McCann:** He was not paid anything extra for production.

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):** I wonder if the minister would like to comment on the labour difficulties which have arisen within the last 10 days in connection with the C.B.C. building in Montreal. In order to refresh his memory on the point may I say that the day cleaning staff are under the aegis of the building service international union, which is an A. F. of L., C.I.O. union affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress. The night workers have not as yet been unionized. They are employed by a private contractor who has a contract with the C.B.C.

It is interesting to note that the day people are paid \$35 for women to start and \$47 for men, whereas my information is that the private contractor on the night shift is paying the women \$22 and the men \$35, which is substantially under the day rates. I am informed also that this contractor requires his employees to sign an agreement that they are not members of this union; that they are satisfied with the wages he is going to pay them, and that they do not want to be represented by a union. This information has been given to me by a reliable source, and if it is correct the minister will know that it is against the federal labour law to require such employees to sign such a document.

I think he will also know, or should be aware, that one of the workers on the night staff—in fact it is a Mrs. Rose Bartel—who has held membership in this union was fired by the contractor because of her union activity. She was subsequently taken back after mediation. I am wondering whether the minister knows anything further of that