

Order Paper Questions

available to the deaf is a matter of economics, as it is currently estimated (in the U.S.) to cost \$2,000 to produce a single hour of captioned television programming. The NFB, the CBC and NH&W are currently putting together a proposal for the Government's consideration to develop a Canadian caption centre from which the CBC and other broadcasters in this country may have captions added to their Canadian programs. In addition to captioned material for the deaf, specially made programs for and by the deaf are currently offered by various cable systems in the country, of which the government wholeheartedly approves and which it urges the cable industry to increase wherever possible.

7. The CBC is proposing to make substantial amounts of French and English captioned television network programming available once a Canadian caption centre has been established, in addition to the interpretation (or "sign" language) provided on such broadcasts as the House of Commons coverage. Beyond that, it is not presently possible to project over the next five years specific amounts of programming that may be offered by private broadcasters. At separate licence renewal hearings last year of both the CBC and CTV networks, before which the deaf intervened, the CRTC urged the broadcasters to provide captioning at the earliest opportunity, but the CRTC recognized the economics involved.

8. The Telidon system will be available both off-air and via cable simultaneously. In the meantime, some cable companies, on their own initiative, have begun to provide American captioned programming which is now being delivered by three U.S. networks off-air in an "open" format (i.e., only the cable head end need be equipped with a decoder; the viewer does not require one at home) in border areas on converter channels.

9. Many discussions at various levels have taken place involving officials of this department, the CBC, NH&W, NFB and the cable industry, as well as with organizations of/for the hearing-impaired over the last two or three years. The response to these discussions to date has been limited by three factors:

- (a) the simple fact that until only a few short months ago the technology was not in place, even in the United States, after some nine years of discussion there;
- (b) the high cost of producing captioned programming; and
- (c) the fact that the government has no authority to compel the broadcasters to provide such programming.

Nevertheless, positive progress is being made, and I am expecting to receive from officials at the NFB, in the near future, a proposal which they are currently collaborating on with the Department of National Health and Welfare. A final note is that an information paper prepared within my department on "Television and the Hearing-Impaired" has been released in the last few months, and is available on request to the public. This document is intended to provide basic information on this matter to all interested parties.

FOREIGN CLAIMS FUND

Question No. 1,496—Mr. MacKay:

1. Did the government contribute to the Foreign Claims Fund or its operations and, if so, in what amount and on what dates?
2. Did any foreign governments contribute to the Foreign Claims Fund or its operations and, if so (a) which governments and what was the amount and the date of receipt of such contributions in each case (b) have funds been sought from other governments and, if so, which ones?
3. (a) On what dates did disbursements to claimants begin in regard to the above governments and on what dates were they completed (b) what was the total disbursements to claimants, by government (c) what were the costs of administering the fund in regard to staff, accommodation, travel and the like?
4. At the end of each fiscal year since 1975, what was the balance on hand?
5. Are payments currently being made in respect to claims against the fund in regard to Algeria and Czechoslovakia?
6. Are negotiations currently under way or planned, with reference to the Foreign Claims Commission, in regard to Cuba, Yugoslavia, the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union?

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of External Affairs and Finance as follows: 1. The Government of Canada has made the following contributions to the Foreign Claims Fund in respect of expenses of the Foreign Claims Commission:

\$ 1,000	May 1967
30,000	January 1971
40,000	March 1972
20,000	March 1974
36,000	March 1975
31,000	March 1976
47,000	March 1977
55,000	January 1978
36,000	December 1979
39,000	March 1980
\$335,000	

2. (a) The following amounts have been received by the Foreign Claims Fund in accordance with agreements concluded between Canada and five foreign governments:

Government	Amount	Date
Bulgaria	\$ 40,000	August 1966
Hungary	1,100,000*	August 1970—August 1974
Romania	1,400,000	July 1972—October 1974
Poland	1,225,000	June 1972—June 1978
Czechoslovakia	3,250,000	November 1973—November 1979

* In addition amounts totalling \$239,912.27 were transferred to the fund under the Treaty of Peace with Hungary in respect of Hungarian assets formerly vested in the custodian.

- (b) Funds have not been sought from other governments as voluntary contributions to the fund, however, it is expected that funds received in future from other governments as a result of agreements in respect of claims will be deposited in the fund.