

Questions

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): I am informed by the Chief Electoral Officer and the Canadian National Railways as follows: 1. C.N.R., \$16,144.61; C.P.R., \$6,011.96.

2. \$1,919,560,709.

EXEMPTIONS FROM POSTAGE

Question No. 1,652—**Mr. Cyr:**

Is it government policy to require the Post Office Department to cover its costs and, if so, does the government intend to amend Section 17 of the Post Office Act so that the Governor General, the House of Commons, the Senate and departments of government are no longer exempt from postage?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications): In so far as the Post Office Department is concerned: Ultimately, it is the intention to place the Post Office Department on a balanced budget. While there are no immediate plans for amending Section 17

of the Post Office Act, the value of the free postage privileges afforded under this section is regarded as postal revenue in the Department's annual statement of revenues and expenditures as shown in the Postmaster General's Report.

TRANSFER OF UTILITY COMPANIES TAXES

Question No. 1,653—**Mr. Fortin:**

Since 1947, what amount was paid each year by the federal government to each of the provinces in connection with the transfer of the income tax of public utility companies (electricity, gas and steam) and in this regard have the provinces requested the inclusion of telephone companies?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): The amount paid by year and province is shown in the attached table. The provinces have not requested the inclusion of telephone companies under the Public Utilities Income Tax Transfer Act.