

going to transcribe—that is for sure. If you have a reporter who stays, let us say, half an hour or an hour in the house so as to check on those few words which may be missing here and there, it will mean that there will be blanks in the girl's transcript and the transcript will have to wait for those words to be completed in the proper way.

Mr. ERVIN: You misunderstood me. May I interrupt you here because you are starting from a false premise. I said that the girl who sits in the house goes back and types what she has heard happen in the house. Therefore, the interjections which she writes on her pad are related to that particular portion of the debate, which she then goes back and transcribes, much the same way as your reporter goes back and dictates to the girl.

Mr. FRENETTE: Would she have to be a stenographer herself?

Mr. ERVIN: The girl in the house has to be a stenographer. In other words, the parliamentary transcriber is a shorthand reporter with somewhat less skill in terms of words per minute than the debates reporter might be now. They are in much more plentiful supply.

Mr. FRENETTE: Would she receive the salary of the reporter?

Mr. ERVIN: I do not set the salaries, but I would suggest—and I did suggest—that in relation to the reporter's salary of \$7,800, she would perhaps make \$6,000.

Mr. FRENETTE: There is just one more thing I would like to add. We dictate on to the dictating machines every day, and we do that very carefully, dictating to the best of our ability, and yet there is a lot which the girls miss. I just do not see how those machines could be clearer than that all the time, when it is not even said clearly by the members. This point has to be considered in a very serious way because when we had that trial of which I was talking a few moments ago, we had that trouble. The reporters had to come back and fill in blanks in so many places that it is difficult to imagine.

Mr. ERVIN: I have the belts for the two weeks' trial period. The Sergeant-at-Arms has them and we could satisfy any curiosity you may have with respect to the fidelity of the reporting. This was done under very crude circumstances, you may remember. I had just a couple of dictating machines installed very quickly.

Mr. AIKEN: I think you will admit that if there was a changeover period it perhaps would be a difficult one. How long do you think it would take until a new system was operating with, say, no bugs in it?

Mr. ERVIN: Let us imagine a hypothetical situation where one reporter leaves in three months time. Immediately that happens I would hope you would have had trained two parliamentary transcribers in order that we could promote one of the reporters to assistant editor, leaving two vacancies. Now, you would have five reporters and two parliamentary transcribers in place of the seven reporters. This would give you enough experience, with what I propose, to allow you to determine whether, in fact, this is being done with equal skill and dispatch.

I would suggest that there would be a great deal of value in having tape recording in the house, whether or not you used it in accordance with my recommendations, as a backup and means of helping the editor. So, jumping into it by buying \$10,000 worth of equipment is not going to be a serious problem even if you do not follow through to the extent I have suggested.

Mr. AIKEN: I have one other question which has been raised in this connection which relates to power failures.