

Privilege—Mr. Crosbie

experience and, over the years, an excellent service to the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members will understand that their efforts are in no way qualified, reduced or diminished in their endeavour to serve the House at the present time. However, in the past, particularly recognizing that it has been a tradition of the House that speeches ought perhaps to be assisted by some notes but ought not to be given from a prepared text, it has always been a well accepted and respected practice of the House that speeches are given extemporaneously—or most of them.

Certainly during the question period when pressure is at its greatest in terms of time and tension involved in questions and answers, and when exchanges are of a nature a little more dynamic than the exchanges which take place in regular debates, there is great strain, not only on members who occupy the floor, because in the excitement of the moment the language a member uses expresses his ideas but does not necessarily translate grammatically when it is reduced to print, and it has always been an accepted practice of the House that when the editors of *Hansard* or the reporters prepare their reports, members have looked at them and reporters have said from time to time, "When this is reduced to print it just does not read intelligibly; it may have sounded all right, but it does not read well; do I have the sense of what was said?" That has always been done, and it has been supervised by the editors under the best principles and practices of the House in an effort to do a faithful service to the recording and, at the same time, to be faithful to the sense which was intended.

At the same time, however, this also puts a great strain on the reporters and the editors of *Hansard* because, after all, they are servants of the House of Commons, and when they are consulted by a member they are being consulted by someone to whom they owe a duty of service. They find it difficult to take a position and to tell the member emphatically that he has gone too far in his grammatical clean-up of the work. That is a very difficult role for reporters or editors to take. When that has happened, which, thankfully, I think has been rarely, hon. members have invariably done what the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre has done, and that is to indicate that he made a change, and that if he did more than what is allowed by the practices, he accepts responsibility, as was done on the earlier occasion mentioned. That has always been done.

That is almost the whole story, and we could go on from there, but I think we must take into account the recent introduction of electronic recording equipment and the introduction of radio and television recording which is being used quite happily and being resorted to increasingly. It is being used more than even the most optimistic estimates given at the time we were planning and installing the equipment.

However, an examination of the record through these electronic recording devices is being resorted to by more and more Canadians all the time. Therefore an additional strain is being

[Mr. Speaker.]

put on the reporting staff, who have enjoyed this editorial licence in the past. They now find themselves under the constraint of matching their record exactly with the language used on radio and television. This is a recent experience for us, and it is not an easy one for the reporters. We are adjusting to it, but when these instances take place it certainly is helpful to have them brought to our attention.

I am confident that we can go forward. Recognizing the constraints which are placed on the shorthand reporters and the additional burden of the electronic media, if we all continue to operate as we have, in the best interests of the House and in good faith, I hope the problem will not occur too often. If it does, the hon. member for St. John's West can certainly raise the point again.

● (1522)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

CANADA PENSION PLAN

TABLING OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2) I am pleased to table in the House a report of the advisory committee of the Canada Pension Plan entitled *Review of the Objectives of the CPP*, in both official languages, of course, a report which will greatly interest hon. members.

* * *

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 240, 264, 415 and 631.

I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

"SHOPPING FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION"

Question No. 240—**Mr. Epp:**

1. What was the cost to the government for the book *Shopping for Food and Nutrition*?
2. Who designed the book and at what cost?
3. (a) How many copies will be distributed and at what cost per book (b) who will receive the book?

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): In so far as Agriculture Canada is concerned: 1. \$39,158.