

radio, on which there were about six channels, so that we could have as many simultaneous translations as there were channels, at least half a dozen of them. On that occasion we heard English, French, German, Russian and some other languages—Indian at one time. As I have said, the system worked perfectly without any wiring. Nothing was hanging from the ceilings, there was nothing under the carpets, there was just a small transistor radio, about the size of the palm of my hand.

I read Your Honour's remarks with a certain degree of disappointment, because I thought, of course, that we were considering a system something like that. The cost of such a system must have been very small, because in Japan I bought a transistor radio of the same type for \$22.

In this chamber we would require about one hundred sets to equip every desk, and if each cost \$100 the total outlay would be \$10,000, or if they were \$50 each, it would cost only \$5,000 to purchase all the transistor sets we would need.

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** Will the honourable senator permit a question? Were you able to speak through them or were they only for listening?

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** We spoke from the podium, the rostrum. That is where the speeches were made.

Now, I do not know whether it is proposed that we install a duplicate of the amplification system that we now have. We have already installed here a system whereby each senator speaks into a microphone. There was something of that nature in the Japanese house, where the voice was carried up to the gallery and there repeated in the language in which it was spoken and translated into various other languages.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford):** I do not think it would be a very good idea for us to have to speak into a microphone.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** But we do now.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford):** No.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** Well, what is this thing that is right in front of us on each of our

desks? That is a microphone, and it carries our voice to the control panel in the gallery.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford):** But I would not be in favour of going to a podium to speak.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** We do not need to do that here, because we already have a microphone and an earphone on every one of our desks. A simultaneous translation system is another matter entirely. We have all that is required right now for the amplification of our remarks, for carrying of our remarks to our fellow senators. It is an excellent system and I use it frequently. I have good hearing but when someone at a distance is speaking and I want to get every word I use the earphone. So far as amplification is concerned, I could ask for nothing better than what we already have. But we have not got a simultaneous translation system, and my suggestion is that, before we install more wiring and all that sort of thing, we investigate what they did in Japan on this occasion and that the Japanese system be at least studied by our committee. I am simply making the suggestion. There may be angles about it that I do not understand or do not know of, but I would like to call it to the attention of the house before we proceed further.

**Hon. Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Speaker and honourable senators, it occurs to me that the detail of the suggestion on the proposed simultaneous system might be made the subject of a report by the Chairman of the Internal Economy Committee, so that we might have a full appreciation of what is involved in the suggestion. I would hope that if any alteration has to be made it will be made during a period when the house is not in session.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford):** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** That is all right, Mr. Speaker. May I adopt the suggestion of my friend the honourable senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert), and ask that you, sir, or the committee, make a report on this subject?

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.