

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, I think I would have to agree with you that President Kennedy's speech is being recorded under rather ideal circumstances, with very little background noise. However, the increase in fidelity would apply regardless of the fact that there might even have been pandemonium in the house. I use that word because it very aptly expresses a condition which existed at one stage in the Ontario legislative assembly.

I had the privilege of listening to a magnetic tape of that particular session during which, in a period of five minutes, there were about 30 interjections from hon. members, and that sort of thing. However I was impressed with the clarity and fidelity of the rapid exchange that took place at that particular time.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. RINFRET: Do you believe that three recording machines would take care of both the English and the French.

Mr. ERVIN: No, sir. I think you should have six, if you introduce this, because occasionally a tape will contain part French and part English. Therefore the French debate reporters must have their own set-up, so that when French is spoken they will be able to use their own facilities.

The CHAIRMAN: You feel that the English debates should have two recorders and one stand-by?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: And that the French debates should have two recorders with one stand-by?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, would there be in addition a master tape which could be used, if anything happened?

Mr. ERVIN: I suggest there should be, and that this master tape perhaps might be installed in the same room as the sound equipment. This has been recommended already by your Cossor attendants who are looking after the sound amplification system. I have consulted with them on a number of occasions, and they not only support the idea of tape recording but also the suggestion of having a monitor master tape going on at all times.

Mr. PAUL: I think members of the committee would be interested to know what would be the operating costs of these machines.

Mr. ERVIN: I made an estimate of the cost for the English debates reporters. You could install this for \$10,000.

Mr. PAUL: What about the cost of the installation?

Mr. ERVIN: That would be for English only. Most of the expensive part of the installation is already in, such as the microphones and the amplification equipment. That is by far the most expensive part of it. That is why the province of Quebec did not go into it now, I suggest, because they would have had first of all to put in the costly microphones and a sound amplification system. So the remainder would just be an attachment to the system which you already have of sound recording apparatus for English debates only, and it could be installed for \$10,000.

If you wished to have a continuing monitor, that would be extra. And the French debates equipment would be extra too, of course.

As far as maintenance cost goes, there would be no additional maintenance. You now have a sufficient number of electronic engineers to ensure that this system can be run. As far as the operation of the tape recorders is concerned, this would be done by the present debates reporting staff.