

- (d) Typing from recorded media can be performed at comparable rates of speed to that now being dictated from shorthand notes. More editing time (up to 20 minutes per take as compared to 9 minutes per take) might be required however. This would permit assistant editors to listen to the recording while editing.
- (e) The test results, when considered in the light of the test conditions (untrained staff, single sound track, plastic belt versus magnetic tape, position of typists in gallery, etc.) were most encouraging. The improved performance that may be expected from a properly designed installation, with adequate selection and training of staff would provide a comfortable margin of safety during peak loads.
- (f) *Hansard* printers copy could be produced from recorded media with less staff and without any lessening of quality or any change in the printing schedule.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

65. Any change in the present system of reporting House of Commons debates should take into consideration weaknesses in the present system which have given rise to:

- (a) Dissatisfaction on the part of reporters as expressed in submissions for higher salaries and additional staff during peak periods.
- (b) Recruiting difficulties which tend to place the Speaker and the Clerk in the position of bidding against other employers for the services of a dwindling supply of capable shorthand reporters.
- (c) Concern regarding the hazards of a procedure which is wholly dependent upon a continuing supply of highly skilled staff.

66. While there may be some validity in the proposal that increased staff and higher salaries would relieve recruiting difficulties and ensure adequate facilities during peak load periods, such action would be difficult to justify in the light of present workload and working conditions. Benefits would be largely transitory since salary raises would, almost certainly, precipitate increases in other jurisdictions. Adjustments in other related areas (e.g., editors, other branch heads, etc.) may be necessary if the present salary ratios were upset.

67. These problems have been experienced in other assemblies in varying degrees for some years and attempts to find solutions have, almost invariably, led to the adoption of some form of recording apparatus.

68. Recording systems have been developed to a stage where superior results are often attained at less cost. Some of the benefits being achieved may be summarized as follows:

- (a) The dependency upon shorthand reporters is lessened and may, if desired, be eliminated.
- (b) Flexibility in relation to fluctuating workloads is possible since less skilled personnel are required.
- (c) An actual voice record of proceedings is available to editors who must otherwise depend solely on the ability and judgement of the reporter for accuracy and proper shades of meaning.
- (d) An indexed file of recordings of proceedings is available to the Speaker or Clerk for checking purposes and to members who may wish to hear their own speeches.
- (e) Tape recording is less costly than shorthand reporting.